

**Strategic Research Plan
1999-2002**

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

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Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
Institutional Research Development Plan: 1999-2002

The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design offers focused opportunities for scholarship and higher education related to the visual arts. NSCAD encourages a range of activities that will support and enhance traditional research and other forms of creative scholarship that contribute to the development, testing, and dissemination of knowledge.

NSCAD plays a unique role within the local, regional, and national university communities in that its primary emphasis is on innovative intellectual investigations into visual meaning, expression, and communication. NSCAD awards graduate and undergraduate degrees and pursues research in the fields of art, design, craft, and art education. Through a variety of research activities undertaken by faculty and students, the College makes a significant contribution to Canadian culture.

In 1997, the College adopted the following summary **Statement on research**.

Research in visual arts, craft, design, art history, and art education involves intellectual explorations that help to bridge theory and practice, and that address a wide audience. A broad variety of traditional and innovative research methods result in works of art, scholarly books and articles, exhibition catalogues, or other formats. Such research, whether pure or applied, enhances understandings of the visual realm while offering new cultural meanings, challenges and knowledge.

The mission statement of the College emphasizes the focus on the visual realm:

The strength of the College lies in fostering the closest relationships between both academic and artistic communities. ...Since the study of art as an intellectual discipline must relate to the world and its art, the College is committed to engage its students with this larger world.

Since the inception of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 1968, NSCAD faculty have conducted research within the framework of this mission. The strength of our ongoing research and other practices related to the visual arts, craft, design, and art education support the intellectual life of the university and contributes the wider academic and cultural communities.

Review of 1996-99 Research Plan

The 1996-99 research plan proposed that NSCAD would host two conferences. While the 1996 international conference proved extremely successful (with 100 participants from about 20 nations), it was not possible to fund the second conference. Changes in academic governance at the College, significantly increasing enrolments, and a reduction in available research funding limited research activities during the 1999-98 period. However, the number of applications from faculty remained high, a number of excellent projects received support, and all research funds available to the College were carefully monitored. The outcomes of research activities during this period included the

production of an edited volume of selected papers from the 1996 conference as well as a number of scholarly papers that were separately published in refereed journals.

Initiatives for 1999-2002

Background:

In 1996, in order to strengthen the foundations and support for research activities, the College established a formal Research Committee with representatives from all faculties. The Research Committee works with the Vice-President (Academic) to develop an institutional research plan and to refine policies and procedures that will support innovation and excellence in the university's research activities.

*Through an institution wide consultative process, NSCAD developed a comprehensive statement related to the research activities at the university (1996).

*A process for appointing Honorary Research Associates to the College was established and implemented.

*Mentorship between established and new scholars is being encouraged and facilitated.

*Through an institution wide consultative process, NSCAD developed and approved a comprehensive Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarship (1996).

Goals:

Consistent with NSCAD's mission statement, research promoted under this institutional research plan will continue to focus on **visual meaning, expression, and communication**. In addition to established modes of inquiry, in a period of rapid cultural change, a number of new areas of research potential are emerging. NSCAD will continue to promote research activity across the institution and, under the terms of this plan, will seek to improve the capacity for, and outcomes of research in four areas:

- 1.) Under this plan, NSCAD will encourage and facilitate research by new scholars (including those whose research emphasis and methodology research might be undergoing change) through, as an example, workshops in various aspects of the grant process.
- 2.) Under this plan, NSCAD will encourage collaborative inter-disciplinary work. These cross-disciplinary collaborations may lead to the establishment of new research concentrations or focal points that will support the university's mission statement and mandate.
- 3.) Under this plan, NSCAD will support publication of scholarly papers, conference participation, and other venues for communicating the results of research to appropriate audiences.
- 4.) Under this plan, NSCAD will encourage the involvement and education of graduate students in research activities.

Objectives:

1. To support research activity by new scholars in disciplines related to the visual arts, craft, design, and art education.
2. To stimulate scholarly exchange through cross-disciplinary collaboration.
3. To facilitate the publication and circulation of results to appropriate audiences.
4. To increase the involvement of graduate students in research activities.