

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Sam Fox School Strategic Plan

Core Investments for Success

We will make investments in people, programs, and relationships that will build academic and research excellence, educate leaders, support access and equity, and drive opportunities for achievement across the school's academic units and the Kemper Art Museum.

Progress Fall 2024

New Leadership

Aki Ishida began her tenure as Director of the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design in July. Aki most recently held a leadership position in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. She is a licensed architect and widely admired educator whose work has been built and exhibited nationally and internationally. She is author of "Blurred Transparencies in Contemporary Glass Architecture: Material, Culture, and Technology" (2020). In both her writing and design work, she investigates the temporal and impermanent aspects of architecture, emphasizing the ways buildings continue to change and evolve over the course of their lifespans.



Artist **Tiffany Calvert** has been named chair of the Master in Fine Arts in Visual Art program. She comes to WashU from the University of Louisville. Calvert's painting practice incorporates a wide range of technologies, from fresco, to 3D modeling, to data manipulation. Calvert has exhibited work at the Speed Museum in Louisville, the Susquehanna Art Museum in Pennsylvania, the Cadogan Gallery in London, and many more. Calvert has received numerous grants, including the Great Meadows Foundation and Pollock-Krasner Foundation.



New Faculty Bring Valued Expertise

The Sam Fox School added three additional new faculty this fall, each with an impressive research portfolio. **Michelle Hauk**, MArch/MSAS '15 is an architectural historian specializing in the architecture, technology, and society in twentieth-century Japan. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard before returning to St. Louis. **Bei Hu** is a multi-disciplinary designer, specializing in user experience, 3D design, graphic design, and illustration. She works at the intersection of design, technology, and storytelling. Hu's most recent role was visiting assistant professor at the Kansas City Art Institute. **Megan Irwin** is a graphic designer who centers her studio practice on archival research, material exploration, and typographic experimentation. She works with the interplay of analog and digital methodologies in order to resist the uniformity of digital media and highlight the humanity behind the designed object. Irwin previously taught at East Carolina University and was an adjunct lecturer at WashU.

Investments in Faculty Research Infrastructure

The Sam Fox School's Office for Research and Innovation has continued to grow its footprint under Director Chad Henry. Faculty in the school are developing several joint research proposals with support from the Office:

- Prof. Wyly Brown is collaborating with Prof. HH Kang from Arts & Sciences department of East Asian Languages and Cultures to expand his work with minimally processed bamboo and connect it with long term research in the history of science, technology, and culture. They team is pursuing an interdisciplinary research platform focused on climate change and innovation and, specifically, how we can craft new solutions for a more sustainable tomorrow applying traditional lessons and using traditional materials.
- Prof. Kelley Van Dyck Murphy is working with WashU colleagues in anthropology and architects along the Mississippi to explore the use of locally sourced clay in 3D printed projects with a parallel humanities-focused approach to telling the story of the historical importance of the river through material and culture.
- Prof. Hongxi Yin is working with faculty from the Olin Business School, McKelvey School of Engineering, and Brown School to adapt analytics and sustainable approaches for revitalization of affordable domestic housing stock.



In addition, the Sam Fox School continues to grow the amount of Nagel Deanships funds directed toward faculty seed grant funding and introduced new support for tenure-track faculty, including sabbaticals and course releases.

Building Industry Connections

Sam Fox School administrators participated in the working group co-chaired by Vice Chancellor Anna Gonzalez and Dean Aaron Bobick to reform the university's approach to corporate relations to advance student opportunities, research, engagement, and philanthropy. The Industrial Leadership Team included representatives from other schools, the Center for Career Engagement, and central offices to make recommendations for process and infrastructure changes to better support partnerships and increase communications. Under the leadership of Theresa Menk, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Corporate and Foundation Relations, these recommendations are now being implemented across the university in new systems and additional staffing to help us better support our existing partners and find new opportunities.

Building Support for Recruitment and Admissions

The Sam Fox School added a new Associate Director for Recruitment and Admissions to its staff leadership team. This role supports a holistic and strategic approach to both graduate and undergraduate recruitment that emphasizes data-driven approaches, strategic communications, and personal outreach by staff and faculty. For the incoming Fall 2024 class, the School saw significant improvements in outcomes:

- Undergraduate recruitment met or exceeded target goals for both Art and Architecture.
- Completed graduate architecture applications increased 19% from last year. Domestic applications doubled. Deposits increased 65% over last year (66 vs. 40); the program yielded 70% domestic deposits and strongly diversified international deposits.
- The MFA-VA program had the highest number of completed applications in 5 years, including more domestic applications, as well as the highest number of deposits.
- The MFA-IVC program yielded the highest total enrollment to date.