

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I NAME

1.01 Name

The name of the organization is Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, hereafter termed “a2ru.”

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

2.01 The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) is a partnership of more than thirty-five institutions committed to transforming research universities to ensure the greatest possible institutional support for arts-integrative research, curricula, programs, and creative practice between the arts, sciences, and other disciplines. It is committed to supporting the growing body of excellent scholarly and creative production most attainable when disciplines are supported to experiment within and across boundaries.

In May 2011, the University of Michigan’s ArtsEngine—a body that drives arts-integrative collaborations among the arts, architecture, and engineering units—convened deans and other academic leaders from top research universities across the country to identify and begin addressing institutional barriers to arts-integrative efforts. From this meeting, the ArtsEngine National Network was formed to advance the emergent arts-integrative movement in higher education. In an effort to research, identify, fund, and solidify this movement, this group of leaders realized that a more robust response was required and, as a result, a2ru was officially founded in December 2012. In the summer of 2019, a2ru was separated from ArtsEngine and became its own organization housed under the Vice Provost of Engaged Learning at the University of Michigan.

a2ru unifies arts-integrative efforts through:

- Insights: Promoting arts-integrative research, curricula, and creative practice in research universities
- Convening and Platforms: Providing venues for presentation, leadership and faculty networking, and dissemination of research and creative scholarship
- Casemaking and Storytelling: Advocating for and promoting arts and design practices as fundamental forms of knowledge production applicable to all disciplines

a2ru challenges institutional barriers to arts-integrative research, curricula, and practice by:

- Conducting and compiling research to inform public conversation and influence relevant policy
- Supporting academic leadership at partner institutions through consultation on the structural and organizational dynamics required to launch and/or sustain innovative arts-integrative efforts, sharing of best practices, and connecting institutions across its national network

ARTICLE III
PARTNERSHIP

3.01 Partnership

Partners represent the leadership of a2ru. Partnership in a2ru is open to all research universities ranked RU/H, RU/VH, or equivalent reflecting the founding purpose of the organization to meet the significant challenge to expand the definition of research and better integrate the arts in these institutions. Partnerships three years in duration and can be renewed. Partnership is granted after completion and receipt of a partnership agreement and the first annual partnership payment. Recognizing the significant contribution of 4-year liberal arts universities and colleges, art and design schools, community colleges and individuals not affiliated with current partners, a2ru offers these additional membership levels. Partnerships and membership commitments are offered annually or for a three-year term. Institutions who commit to three years may have a representative on the Executive Committee.

3.02 Dues

Partnership and membership costs shall be determined by the executive committee. Dues may change upon renewal.

3.03 Partner and Member Non-Renewal

Any partner or member may choose to not continue as a partner or member after one or three-year(s) term in agreement by non-renewal. Non-renewal shall not relieve a partner of the responsibility for unpaid dues.

ARTICLE IV
NONPROFIT STATUS, FISCAL SPONSORSHIP, AND HOST INSTITUTION

4.01 Nonprofit Legal Status

a2ru is not recognized as a nonprofit public benefit tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

4.02 Host Institution

a2ru activities will be headquartered at a host institution. The a2ru host institution will provide substantial resources (including facilities, computing, legal, human resources, and data security support in addition to a vibrant research environment) that are essential to a2ru and its mission. The activities and bylaws of a2ru are subject to the rules and policies of the host institution, and the contracts between partner institutions and the host institution.

4.03 Host Institution Authority

The host institution is authorized by the a2ru executive committee and the host institution's policies to:

1. Execute agreements with partners and affiliates to further the activities of a2ru.
2. Accept donations of money, property, or any other items of value to further the activities of a2ru.
3. Enter into contracts subject to appropriate legal authority.
4. Appoint an executive director.

The host institution is the University of Michigan. The University of Michigan will organize a2ru as a program within a campus budget and administrative unit. a2ru will be operated by an executive director and a professional staff of appropriate size and composition to conduct the work of a2ru. The operating staff will be employees of the University of Michigan.

4.04 Host Institution Selection

The a2ru executive committee may recommend a competitive selection process to seek a new host institution drawn from its partner institutions or incorporation as an independent nonprofit organization by a majority vote of the executive committee and following a systematic, formal review of the management, operation, financial status, and effectiveness of the then current host institution’s provision of resources, infrastructure, staff, and processes to support a2ru. Such review will be presented as a report to the executive committee prior to initiation of a competitive selection process.

ARTICLE V
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

5.01 Executive Committee

The executive committee is the advisory body to a2ru. Executive committee members serve for three-year terms and may stand for re-election into a second term. Additional terms may be served after a year’s recess. The executive committee is led by two co-chairs who serve staggered, two-year terms. The group convenes twice a year in person and at least quarterly in conference calls to discuss a2ru business and advise executive director on a2ru activities and strategic direction, in addition to task-force driven work. a2ru conducts an annual nominating and voting process. Any institution invested in a2ru at the 3-year term partnership levels may nominate an individual to serve on the executive committee. Nominations are received between July 1 and November 1 each year. A quorum of partnership representatives is needed to vote in new committee members. The executive committee is instrumental to advise the Vice Provost of Engaged Learning at the host institution on the hiring and appointment of the executive director. The host institution will appoint a delegate to serve on the executive committee. The delegate may serve a term length commensurate with elected executive committee members (three years). Each conference host partner or member may have one delegate on the executive committee during conference planning and onboarding new conference host representative, of a term of up to two years.

5.02 Executive Director

The executive director is the administrative head of a2ru. S/he supervises staff and coordinates the executive committee administrative body. Selected by the Executive Committee, the Executive Director is an employee of the University of Michigan on a term appointment of five years, renewable on the endorsement of the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee mandates a search for a new Executive Director, or upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office, a Search Committee will be formed by the Co-Chairs. The Executive Committee will advise the Vice Provost of Engaged Learning on appointment of interim Executive Director. The Executive Committee or designated search committee will select a candidate from among the several nominees and will advise the Vice Provost of Engaged Learning on the selection. An offer to the selected candidate will be made by the Vice Provost of Engaged Learning.

5.03 Ad Hoc Committees

The executive director, in consultation with the executive committee, may appoint ad hoc committees and/or task forces on an as-needed basis.

5.04 Compensation

Committee members shall receive no compensation for carrying out committee duties.

ARTICLE VI
Conflict of Interest

6.01 Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest (COI) policy is to protect a2ru’s interests and ensure integrity of the decisions when entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the personal financial interest of one of the members of the executive committee (personal conflicts of interest). This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace, any applicable

state and federal laws or institutional policies governing COI applicable to the host institution or employing institution of the executive committee and is not intended as an exclusive statement of responsibilities. Resolution of any COI will be subject to the policies of the host institution.

6.02 Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or perceived personal COI, the executive director or executive committee must disclose the existence of financial or personal interest and all material facts to the host institution and executive committee. Any COI related to a2ru activities or service on boards or committees described or authorized by these bylaws must be disclosed by the executive director to the employer institution.

6.03 Confirming a Financial Conflict of Interest

After the disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, the interested executive director shall leave the executive committee meeting while the committee discusses the COI. The remaining committee membership shall determine whether a COI requiring management or action exists by majority vote.

ARTICLE VII STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

As a network that serves research universities, the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities is committed to an open, diverse and inclusive learning and working environment that nurtures the growth and development of all. a2ru upholds the belief that an array of values, interests, experiences, and intellectual and cultural viewpoints enrich learning and our network. The promotion of and support for a diverse and inclusive community of mutual respect require the engagement of the entire network.

Mechanisms to ensure due diligence toward full spectrum diversity of the executive committee, staff, and a2ru partnership and membership are the charge of the executive director in consultation with the executive committee. reporting to a2ru, host institution, partnership, and membership will be made in annually.

**ARTICLE VIII APPROVAL
AND AMENDMENTS**

7.01 Approval

These bylaws supersede the September 1, 2018 bylaws. Bylaws are adopted by the executive committee as representatives of the partnerships.

7.02 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the a2ru partnership, with executive committee serving as proxy for partnership at large.

CERTIFICATION

These bylaws were updated by a majority of the a2ru partnership through approval of the executive committee as proxy, containing all changes reflected herein, in November 20, 2020. The executive committee is authorized annually by a consent vote of the partners at the annual conference to represent their interests with the staff and host institution.

November 7, 2020

Maryrose Flanigan, Executive Director

Date

PROCEDURES

SECTION I
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A. Home Office

The office of a2ru is housed on the University of Michigan (U-M), Ann Arbor campus within the same space as ArtsEngine, an interdisciplinary curricular, co-curricular, and research program of U-M. a2ru reports through the vice provost of engaged learning to the provost and president of U-M.

B. Staff Hiring and Oversight

The paid a2ru staff is responsible for the daily operations of the organization. All staff hiring is managed through the U-M system. Staff hiring, supervision, salary range, leave time, and all other personnel matters accord with U- M’s human resources policies. The a2ru executive committee will be consulted in development of job descriptions, circulation of job openings to their own networks, review of applications, and participation in interviews as needed and applicable.

C. Executive Director

The executive director is a salaried employee and responsible for the running of the organization. S/he serves as a non-voting ex-officio member of the executive committee and is responsible for all employee hiring and supervision. If disciplinary action or termination decisions must be taken, these will proceed in accordance with U-M’s human resources policies. The executive director reports through the vice provost of engaged learning to the provost and president of U-M. The provost maintains the hiring authority, decisions regarding salary and compensation, and authority for dismissal for the executive director.

D. Executive Committee

The executive committee is the advisory body to a2ru, representing the partnership at large. The executive committee is comprised of up to 15 members plus the executive director, as ex-officio. See Section III for term and selection details.

E. Budget

The budget is made up of annual partnership dues along with grants, sponsorships, registrations, sales, and donations. The executive director establishes spending priorities and levels for the a2ru’s annual budget. The executive director is responsible for budget administration and will consult with the executive committee as needed. S/he will make formal budget reports to the executive committee bi-annually and to the provost quarterly.

SECTION II
PARTNERSHIP

A.

Partners and Members

Partners are comprised of RU/H, RU/VH research, or equivalent universities. Members are comprised of art and design schools, 4-year institutions, community colleges, and individuals.

B. Partnership and Membership Benefits

Benefits are determined by the business model structure and have varying levels, determined by the amount of investment in a2ru. They may include:

- Access to a2ru research, reports, and models to help maximize the success of arts-integrative initiatives.
- Participation in a national network of academic leaders committed to shaping the future of innovative scholarship and curricula within higher education.
- Best practice consultation to help adapt a2ru research to specific campus needs.
- Promotion of partner institutions' interdisciplinary research and initiatives.
- Access to annual student summits, including funding opportunities to foster cross-campus collaboration.
- Preferred rates for a2ru conferences and other events.
- Funding for travel to conferences and other events.

B.1. Communications

General partnership communications occur regularly via newsletters. Annual business meetings for a2ru general partnership may occur at the a2ru annual conference. The a2ru website regularly updates partner information and news. Any a2ru partner may, and is encouraged to, contact the a2ru office with questions, updates, and consultative services, as listed in partnership benefits.

C. Dues

Annual partnership and membership is offered for a range of fees per calendar year. Enrollment may be for a one to three-year period and is renewable. Institutions are encouraged to collaborate across units and academic offices to more easily sustain partnership costs. All units within a partner university have access to full a2ru benefits.

SECTION III
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Executive Committee

The executive committee is the advisory body to a2ru. It will have up to 15 members plus the executive director as ex-officio. Executive committee members will serve a two-year term, which is renewable. This committee will elect from within its ranks the following officers: co-chair and treasurer. A representative from the next year's conference sponsoring institution may serve, as well as representative of the host institution.

A.1. Executive Committee Officer Roles

Co-chairs share the responsibility for committee activity with the executive director, including: participation in and oversight of relevant task forces as they develop and realize a2ru initiatives; working with staff to set short- and long-term agendas; and ensuring timely completion and reporting of the committee charge. Each co-chair will assume chair responsibilities in the absence of the other. The treasurer will review all budget reports in consultation with the executive director prior to dissemination to the rest of the committee.

BYLAWS & PROCEDURES

B. Terms

Committee terms are from July 1–June 30 and run for three consecutive years. Terms will become staggered and may be renewed.

C. Selection

Open nominations for committee members will be solicited at the annual conference. The executive committee will canvas the partnership (with the assistance of the staff) for input and will select new committee members by simple majority. Should the committee experience attrition, new members may be added in consultation with the chairs. No elections are needed to replace members between terms. All committee members must be affiliated with an a2ru university whose partnership or membership is current.

SECTION IV

AD HOC COMMITTEES – TASK FORCES/A2RU SPONSORED INITIATIVES

A. Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces

Task forces/a2ru-sponsored initiatives will be developed by the executive committee as needed with the express purpose of meeting the organization’s mission and goals.

B. Membership

Task force membership may represent an a2ru partner or member or may be enlisted from outside of the a2ru network. There may or may not be an a2ru staff on any particular task force. An a2ru staff liaison will be assigned to all working groups and most will be under a standing committee. Task forces will enlist as many members as is appropriate for the task.

SECTION V

UPDATES

A. Updates

This is intended to be a living document. Two-thirds majority vote of the executive committee is required to change these procedures. Any a2ru partner or member may propose a change at any time. Proposed changes must be submitted to the a2ru executive director for network dissemination, discussion, and voting.