



The Tyler School of Art, a top-ranked school, aspires to be among the world's truly great art and design schools. The strategic plan is the School's agenda to enhance our academic and artistic mission and elevate our stature as a world-class arts institution. This vision, both aspirational and affirmative, reflects the rich history of the School as part of Temple University and in the context of the dynamic and fluid global art world.

VISION

Since its establishment in the 1930s, the Tyler School of Art has been committed to progressive education, offering an environment for the advancement of the fine arts and design, scholarly study in the arts, and individual creativity. Over time, its emphasis on the students' mastery of technique within the framework of a liberal arts curriculum has evolved in response to evolving notions of art-making and the role of art in society. Today, in addition to traditional curricular areas, the departments, programs, and curricula at Tyler incorporate a wide range of studio art, design, art historical, and built environment practices.

Tyler saw growth and unification with the January 2009 move of the fine arts programs to new urban facilities on Temple University's main campus and the 2012 addition of the Architecture Building, bringing Tyler programs together at one site. In 2016, the addition of two departments – Landscape Architecture and Horticulture and Community and Regional Planning – created a new division of Architecture and Environmental Design. Tyler remains centered on Temple's main campus but now includes teaching and research activity at the Ambler campus, including the Ambler Arboretum. Tyler now finds itself ideally positioned to redefine art and design as a practice and study of critical cultural production. As such, art comprises images and objects, ideas and spaces that are both deeply embedded in and profoundly shaped by our shared environment. Promoting cultural production as an aesthetically and socially transformative practice, Tyler today reflects a re-imagining of the role of the art school in the 21st century.

- Rigorous and consistent development of curricular methods and initiatives, including the restructuring of the school's larger pedagogical-departmental structure
- Ongoing research of art's role in relation to its historical context, established and potential constituencies, and future aesthetic-social needs
- Integration and analysis of creative technologies and tools – material and intellectual—that are affective, sensory and perceptual and enable ingenuity and innovation
- Critical and informed expansion of access to and engagement with our disciplines, tools, and methods of artistic and academic labor, encouraging greater exchange and collaboration within and among art's various publics, as well as new possibilities for creative utility and application. This expansion is aesthetic-philosophical as much as pragmatic in the form of recruitment and scholarships.
- Strengthen Tyler's identity as a community of artists, designers, educators and researchers that have a shared vision as a preeminent, inclusive art and design school recognized for its contributions to the intellectual, social, artistic, and cultural vitality of the greater Philadelphia area, nation, and beyond.

CORE VALUES

1 Collaboration

We understand ourselves as a community of makers and thinkers, providing access to and sharing knowledge and skills. We seek to cooperate and lead with responsibility and transparency and to produce aesthetic and intellectual forms of communication that enable exchange.

2 Critical Production

The reciprocal relationship between theory and practice, analysis and inspiration, critical cultural production and inquiry are maintained by active agency. We embrace the complexities of contemporary production and encourage porous learning and experimentation, while demanding an informed and generous wielding of all tools—material, aesthetic, and intellectual.

3 Publicness

We strive to connect in meaningful and creative ways the various audiences and constituencies that make up our school, our university, and our urban and global communities. The histories of relations between academia, all forms of art, and other forms of making are studied, and new relations forged to establish a diversity of perspectives, methods, and mediums.

4 Historicity

It is our task to engage directly with the specific historical circumstances and demands of our disciplines, institution, environment, and culture. The study of history and the creation of objects, environments, and discourses rely on an ever-evolving positioning of the artist, educator, and historian as subjects and objects of history. We are thus concerned both with the continuity and the progressive transcendence of our mediums and methods.

5 Innovation & Usefulness

We seek to provide leadership and excellence through the production of the innovative and the useful. Neither novelty nor fad, innovation is concerned with the collection, activation, and utility of ideas, images, objects, environments, and technologies and their critical functionality. Our research is to be useful to our artistic, intellectual, and physical needs in conscious relation to society.

MISSION

The Tyler School of Art educates, motivates, and inspires individuals who will enter society as artists, architects, art historians, designers, and educators with the highest aspirations for achievement, producing innovative work that is publicly presented and critically considered. Founded upon the ideals of progressive education emphasizing exposure to a variety of experiences before selecting a major, attention to each student's mastery of technique, and the shaping of a personal artistic vision within the framework of a research university, the objective of the Tyler School of Art is to create an engaging and critical environment that:

- Promotes cutting edge curriculum initiatives through a broad spectrum of philosophical and aesthetic approaches
- Through its relationship with Temple University, provides access to students who otherwise would not consider art and design as a career path
- Fosters interdisciplinary insights and collaborations promoting artistic and intellectual freedom, creativity and experimentation in a diverse and heterogeneous environment
- Demonstrates to students, through the faculty's own practice and scholarship, that the study of art and design is process-oriented and research-based
- Interacts with a broad spectrum of local, national, and international artists, scholars, and communities in the exploration of art and its role in society
- Builds upon our outreach to the Temple University community, to the local neighborhoods and to cultural organizations.