

Memorandum

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TO: Board of Governors
FROM: Lisa Shapiro, Dean of Arts
SUBJECT: Overview of the Faculty of Arts
DATE: December 14, 2023
DOCUMENT #: GD23-33

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME An overview of activities, initiatives and developments of the Faculty of Arts is provided to the Board of Governors for information.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE Presentations feature regularly on-Board agendas in order to keep Board members apprised of the University's academic and campus activities.

The following presentation has been prepared by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and provides an overview of the following elements of the Faculty: its history, including select notable alumni; what unifies the Faculty along with basic facts; undergraduate programs and enrolment and key initiatives to Improve the Arts Undergraduate Experience; graduate programs and initiatives; research strengths and emerging research themes that cut across the Faculty.

ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES Presentations of University Faculties apprise the Board of the University's academic priorities.

COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY Faculty presentations are a regular feature on Board agendas.

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/ EXTERNAL REGULATIONS There are no external legislation requirements applicable.

RISK FACTORS There are no risk factors applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	N/A
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	N/A
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	N/A
APPENDICES	Appendix A: McGill University Faculty of Arts – Understanding Context, Articulating Values, Shaping Decision Making

McGill University Faculty of Arts

Understanding Context, Articulating Values, Shaping Decision Making

L. Shapiro, Dean of Arts
Presentation to the Board of Governors
December 2023

McGill Faculty of Arts: History

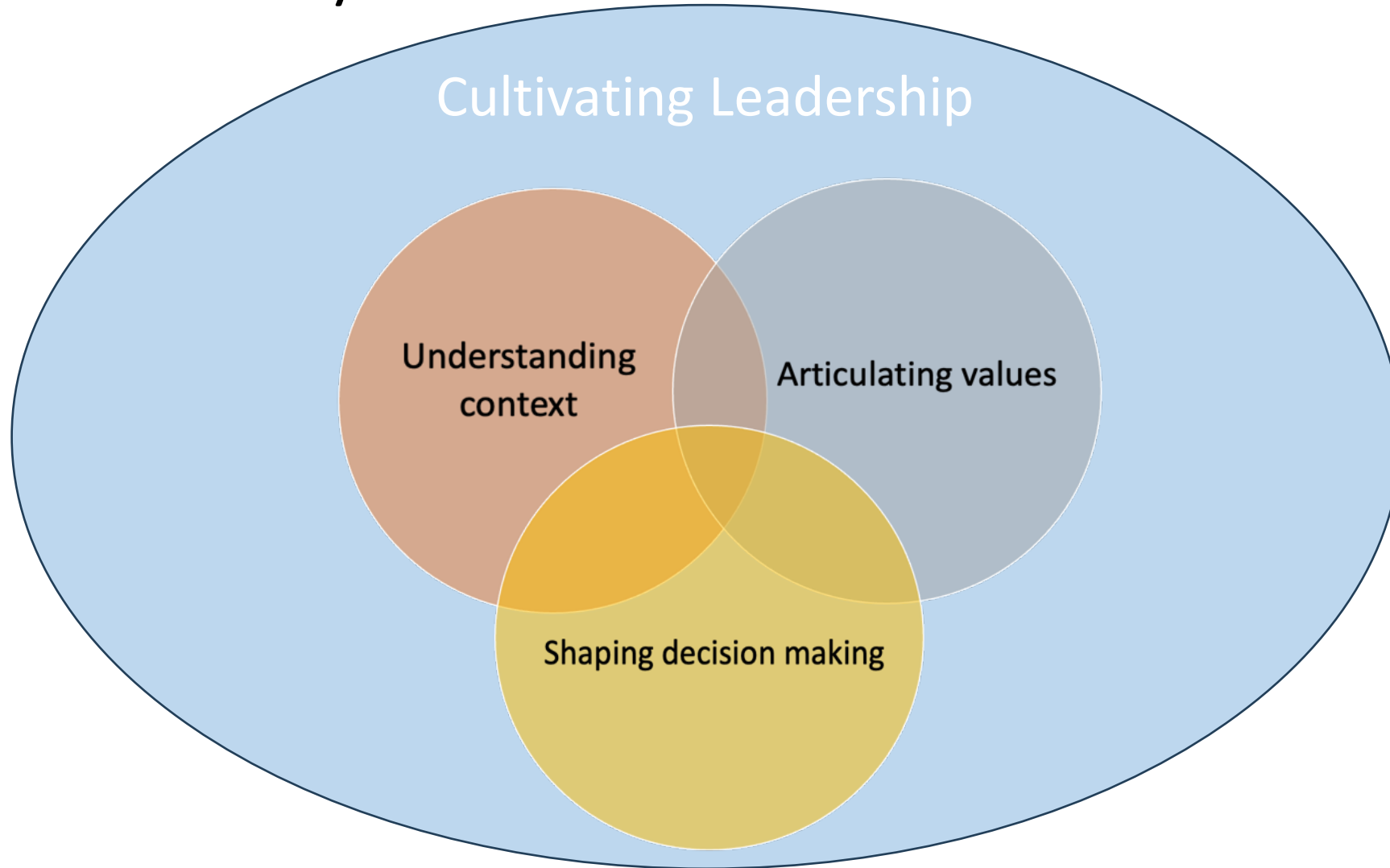
Some notable Faculty of Arts Alumni

Timeline

- **1843:** The Faculty of Arts literally opened its doors and welcomed its first students. There were two degree streams: Classics and Mathematics, Logic, and Ethics (Today over 100 degree programs)
- **1884:** First women admitted to McGill. By 1889, women were a third of the total enrolment. (Today over 60% of Arts students are women)
- **1902:** First MA by thesis awarded.
- **1906:** First PhD program established.
- **1923:** School of Social Work founded. [Celebrating 100 years this year.](#)
- **1931:** Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- **1948:** Founding of Faculty of Religious Studies (now School of Religious Studies in Arts). [Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.](#)
- **1973:** Founding of Department of Jewish Studies. [Celebrating 50 years this year.](#)
- **1994:** McGill Institute for the Study of Canada founded. [Celebrating 30 years in 2024.](#)

- Rosemary Wedderburn Brown, BA'55 (Social Work), Canadian politician, first black woman elected to provincial government in B.C.
- Leonard Cohen BA'55 (English), DLitt'92, singer, songwriter, poet and writer
- Dominique Fortier, PhD'03 (DLTC) award winning author
- Adam Gopnik, BA'80 (Art History), DLitt'13, author and columnist for The New Yorker
- Karina Gould, BA'10 (Political Science and Latin American and Caribbean studies), Leader of the Government in the House of Commons
- Jarrett Martineau, BA'06 (English and Canadian Studies), co-founder of RPM Records and CBC Radio host
- John McCall MacBain, BA' 80 (Economics), businessman and philanthropist, current Chancellor
- Heather O' Neill, BA'94 (English), award winning writer
- Ram Padmanabhan, BA'90 (Economics), COO and general counsel of Chicago Bulls (NBA)
- Madeleine Parent, BA'40 (Sociology) social activist, union organizer
- Lawrence Rossy, BA'65, L.L.D'16, founder and chairman emeritus of Dollarama
- Omar Sachedina, BA'04 (Political Science and Philosophy), television journalist and anchor for Bell Media
- Andrea Stairs, BA'96 (Humanistic Studies), Vice-President of international markets and regularity at eBay
- Justin Trudeau, BA'94 (English), Canada's 23rd prime minister
- Moses Znaimer, BA'63 (Philosophy and Politics), co-founder and former head of Citytv

McGill Faculty of Arts: What is Arts?



McGill Faculty of Arts: By the Numbers

13 Departments · **4** Professional Schools · **4** Institutes · **2** Language/Writing Units

Anthropology | Art History and Communication Studies | East Asian Studies | Economics | English | History and Classical Studies | Jewish Studies | Languages, Literatures, and Cultures | Linguistics | Littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création (DLTC) | Philosophy | Political Science | Sociology | School of Information Studies | School of Religious Studies | School of Social Work | Max Bell School of Public Policy

Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies | Institute for the Study of International Development | McGill Institute for the Study of Canada | Institute for Islamic Studies

Centre d'enseignement du français (CEF) | McGill Writing Centre

Key Buildings: Birks Building 3520 University · Dawson Hall 853 Sherbrooke West (Dean of Arts Office and [OASIS](#) share with Dean of Science Office) · Ferrier Building 840 Dr. Penfield · McCall MacBain Arts Building 853 Sherbrooke West · Morrice Hall 3485 McTavish · Peterson Hall 3460 McTavish · Leacock Building 855 Sherbrooke West · Wilson Hall 3506 University Street (In hibernation) · School of Social Work relocated to 550 Sherbrooke West /Other Buildings that house Units in Arts: 1085 Dr. Penfield · McLennan-Redpath Library 3459 McTavish · 3610 McTavish · 3475 Peel · 3487 Peel · 3661 Peel · 550 Sherbrooke West · 680 Sherbrooke West

McGill Faculty of Arts: By the Numbers

Faculty & Staff

317.25 Tenure-Track faculty **71.5** Contract Academic Staff

Tenure stream academics with joint appointments in other Faculties:

Faculty of Medicine: 5 | Faculty of Law: 1 | Faculty of Science: 1

153 Non-academic administrative staff

Advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Faculty of Arts– Representation of Designated Groups among Tenure-Stream Academics – Nov 26, 2023									
Designated Group	Women	Racialized	Black (included in racialized)	Indigenous	Ethnic Minority	Disability	LGBTQ	Response Rate	Total number
2023 Tenure-stream Academics - McGill	37.8%	17.7%	2.1%	1.2%	12.7%	4.1%	5.7%	86.2%	1779
2023 Tenure-stream Academics – Arts	44.5%	17.4%	4.4%	2.5%	12.0%	6.3%	9.8%	89.3%	317

McGill Faculty of Arts: By the Numbers

Undergraduate Programs

- BA (with more than 100 majors and minors across all disciplines) and BA Honours
- BA & Sc
- BSW (Social Work)
- BTh (School of Religious Studies)

Undergraduate Enrolments Fall 2023

BA 7826 + BA&Sc 670 + BSW 162 + BTh 28 = 8686

Domestic: BA 5131 + BA&Sc 415 + BSW 161 + BTh 16 = 5723

from region of prior education

BA/BSW/BTh Non-QC Canadian students: 2608; BA/BSW/BTh QC students: 2523

BA&SC Non-QC Canadian students: 276; BA&SC QC students: 415

International: BA 2695 + BA&Sc 255 + BSW 1 + BTh 12 = 2963

Top 5 countries: USA, France, China, India, UK [for BA&Sc top 5 countries: USA, China, France, Turkey, South Korea]

Arts OASIS: 1 Associate Director, 6 advisors, 8 admin staff

McGill Faculty of Arts: Alignment with Principal's Priorities Locally Anchored and Globally Preeminent

Global Reach: Undergraduate Enrolment by the Region of Prior Education



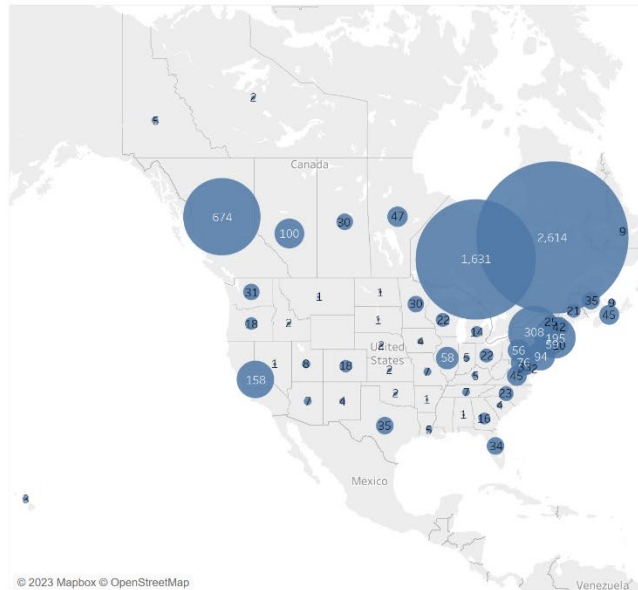
TIP: Use the dropdowns below to filter the data

Degree Type Details	Faculty (of Enrolment)	Status (Domestic vs. Int'l)	Gender	New or returning student	Full-time/Part-Time Status
Bachelors	Multiple values	All	All	All	All

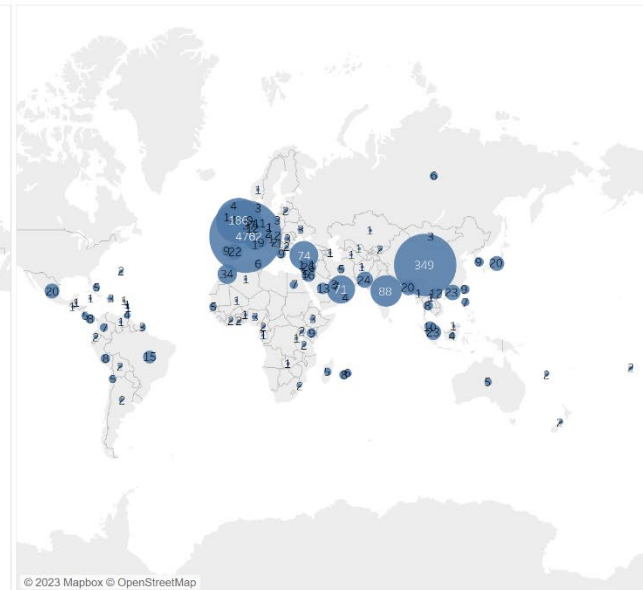
TIP: Hover on the region to see more details

Term (use arrows)
Fall 2023

Canada & US



Rest of the World



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- * Fall term data as at October 15 of respective year.
- * Region is based on the institution associated with a student's school of admission.
- * These statistics are based on a student's primary curriculum.
- * Only students registered in undergraduate programs are shown here.

McGill Faculty of Arts: By the Numbers

Undergrad Programs

Number of courses taught (*Includes: lecture, seminar, field courses; grad and undergrad*)

- **Fall and Winter 2022-23 : 1449**
 - *Including research courses, independent studies, etc.:* **2651**
 - **~ 75** courses taught in Summer

Total course enrolment in Faculty of Arts credit courses (grad, undergrad)

- Fall and Winter 2022-2023: **109,546**.

Proportion of course sections taught by tenured and tenure-track professors and ranked CAS faculty

- 2022-2023: 76% (university average = 66%)

Class Sizes (2022-23) cut across the full range

- 200-612 students: 36 courses
- 100-199 students : 105 courses
- 51-99 students : 284 courses
- About 63% of course sections between 10 and 50 students

McGill Faculty of Arts: By the Numbers

Graduate Programs

Graduate Programs

MA (across all disciplines) | MPP (Max Bell) | MIST (Information Studies) | MSW (Social Work) | STM (School of Religious Studies) | PhD (all disciplines)

Graduate Enrolments Fall 2023

- PhD: 527
- Masters thesis: 286
- Masters non-thesis: 351
- Certificate: 32
- 22.7% of Arts graduate thesis students hold a Tri-Agency or FRQ award.

Postdoctoral Fellows: 55

(average salary \$51,000/year)

McGill Faculty of Arts: Graduate Education Initiatives

- Max Bell School of Public Policy, MPP initiated in 2020
 - Upcoming New Interdisciplinary MAs
 - MA in International Development Studies
 - MA in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies
 - MA in Digital Humanities
 - Ad hoc MA and PhD in Indigenous Language Revitalization
-
- Supporting Graduate Education through the grad student life cycle
 - Preparing non-professional students for multiple career paths: creating internship opportunities for graduate students

Alignment with Principal's Priorities: Positioning McGill as a Locally Anchored and Globally Preeminent University

2023 Research Highlights: Prizes

- Cindy Blackstock (School of Social Work) 2023 [World's Children's Prize](#)
2022 SSHRC Impact Award Gold Medal
- Daniel Weinstock (Philosophy and Law) 2023 Member of the Order of Canada
- Sabine Cadeau (History and Classical Studies): 2023 Raphael Lemkin Prize
- Debra Thompson (Political Science): 2023 CPSA-ACSP Donald Smiley Prize
- Jacob Levy (Political Science): 2023 Adam Smith Templeton Fellow
2022 Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Humane Studies.
- Collin Scott (Anthropology): 2023 Weaver-Tremblay Award in Canadian Anthropology
- Christopher Silver (Jewish Studies): 2023 L.Carl Brown AIMS Book Prize in North African Studies

Recent Tri-Council and FRQ Grant Success

- 2023 SSHRC Insight Grants: success rate 68% (\$2.53M) (national average 45%)
 - 2022 IG: success rate 56% (\$2.57M) 2021: success rate 44% (\$1.475M)
- 2023 Canada First Research Excellence Fund (2023-2030): \$165,300,000. DNA to RNA: An Inclusive Canadian Approach to Genomic-based RNA Therapeutics (D 2R) (Co-PI: E. Quesnel-Vallée)
- 2023 NSERC Discovery Grant: success rate 100% (\$60.5K) (LING)
 - also successful 2019, 2020, 2021 [Econ]

Rankings

2023 Times Higher Education Subject Rankings

- Arts and Humanities 44th (2nd in Canada) | Social Sciences 42nd globally (3rd in Canada)

2023 QS WUR Subject Rankings

- Arts and Humanities 37th | Social Sciences and Management 43rd

Alignment with Principal's Priorities: Positioning McGill as a Locally Anchored and Globally Preeminent University

Spotlight on Languages

French

- **As an additional language (CEF):** Course enrolment 2022-2023 (not including summer): 3602 (177 course sections)
- **DLTC:** Course enrolment 2022-2023 (not including summer): 995 (83 course sections)
 - Program enrolments: 47 majors and honours ; 168 minors; 32 Masters and Masters qualifying ; 23 PhD

Other Languages Taught

Ancient Languages: Ancient Greek, Latin, Sanskrit

Modern Languages:

- East Asian Languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean
- South Asian Languages: Urdu-Hindi, Tibetan
- Middle-Eastern Languages: Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish
- African Languages: Swahili
- (Other) European Languages: German, Modern Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Yiddish

English as an alternate language (Writing) (MWC)

McGill Faculty of Arts: Improving the Arts Undergraduate Experience

Current challenges to quality of education and administration of students

- Impact of digital culture on student preparation for independent research, writing and communication, understanding, and social skills
- Impact of technologies like ChatGPT on student learning and ownership of thought
- Enrolment and registration pressures in U0 and U1 but also in some programs
- Adequate advising for students in navigating BA programs and the multitrack system
- Clear appreciation of relevance of all Arts disciplines to addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow

Addressing the challenges

- Revitalizing the Foundation Year – Promoting Curiosity, Creating Communities of Inquiry, Building Connections (pilot planned for 2024-25 academic year)
 - Research-focused small seminars
 - Complex Problems courses
 - Writing and Multi-modal Communication
- Office of Arts Education
- Expanding Experiential Learning Opportunities
 - Arts Internships
 - Course-based Community-Engaged Research

McGill Faculty of Arts: Research Opportunities

- New Vic and Max Bell School of Public Policy
- Future Institute of Indigenous Research and Knowledges
- Indigenous Language Revitalization

Some Emerging Themes

- Ethics, Data Science, and Technology
- Democracy and Civic Engagement
- Social Responsibility and Justice
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion | Anti-Racism | Global Indigeneity | Sustainability
- International Politics, Economic Development, Peace and Security
- Human Migration and Cultural Transmission

Research and Cultural Stewardship

Cundill History Prize



Montreal Poetry Prize



McGill Faculty of Arts: Research Highlights

Select Examples

Social Sciences work to understand context, often through data, in a way that shapes decision making.

- [Centre des études interdisciplinaire en études montréalaises](#)
- [Centre on Population Dynamics](#)
- Max Bell School of Public Policy and [Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy](#)
- [Institute for International Development Studies](#)
- [Centre for International Peace and Security Studies](#)
- [Centre for Research on Children and Families \(SSW\)](#)

Humanistic disciplines also understand context, in a way that brings to the fore what we value, and so to shape decision making

- In Anthropology: [CICADA](#)
- In Philosophy: [Jarislowsky Chair in Human Nature and Technology](#)
- [Yan P. Lin Centre](#) brings together an array of research groups on Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds
- Research in history, in art history, in literatures of cultures of wide range of linguistic traditions (anglophone, francophone, and beyond) inform the understanding of contexts in which all kinds of decisions are taken