



Contact:
Zak Boerger
312.629.6190
zboerger@saic.edu

Long Serving SAIC President Tony Jones Named Chancellor; Search for New President to Begin



SAIC President Tony Jones CBE

October 19 -- As of the summer of 2008, Tony Jones, President of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, will assume the position of Chancellor of the School. Professor Jones will remain in the position of Chancellor through the 2008/09 academic year. An executive search firm has been selected, with the intention of appointing a new President by the summer of 2008.

Tom Pritzker, Chairman of the Art Institute of Chicago, announced Friday that a search committee will be created to work with the executive search firm to fill the position of President. Barry MacLean, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the School of the Art Institute said that, "For over two decades, Tony Jones has served not only as President, but as a 'roving ambassador' for the School of the Art Institute. Tony is a dedicated internationalist, and his stewardship of the School has brought it to truly world-class calibre, with a student body to match. Tony has been President since 1986, and his transition to Chancellor is an ideal way of continuing this stewardship, while allowing the search committee to identify his successor."

Professor Jones is an internationally known arts administrator, broadcaster, writer, and historian of art and design. In addition to twice serving as President of the School of the Art Institute (1986–1992, and 1996–present), he has also served as Director of the Glasgow School of Art (1980–1986), and was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II the Director of the Royal College of Art, London (1992–1997). Professor Jones has published several books and many essays on art and design, curated numerous exhibitions, and has hosted three television series for the BBC, including *Painting the Dragon*, a four-part series on art and artists in Wales. He is a recognized authority on the development of art, design, and architecture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, in particular the work of the architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and Celtic Revival designer Archibald Knox. He is Honorary Director of the Osaka University of the Arts, Honorary Professor of the University of Wales, and was conferred the Austrian Cross for services to European education. He has been awarded two Honorary Doctorates, was made an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects, is the Senior Fellow of the Royal College of Art, London, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. In 2003, Professor Jones was conferred the honor of Commander of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

“More than twenty years after I came to Chicago,” says Professor Jones, “I remain convinced that this city, and this School, are in a class unto themselves. As Chancellor, I have the opportunity to further contribute to the continued success of the School and finish a book close to my heart, a history of this extraordinary institution. Moving to the position of Chancellor also allows my successor to engage the immediate academic and executive responsibilities required of them, and evaluate the School’s strategic planning as we move into the twenty-first century.”

Professor Jones also noted, “the current search for a new Dean of the School will be suspended, to allow my successor to make that appointment.”

Under Professor Jones’ tenure as SAIC President:

SAIC has consistently been co-ranked the top Graduate Fine Arts School in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Sixteen new academic programs have been inaugurated, including the Master of Architecture, Master of Architecture with Emphasis in Interior Architecture, Master of Design in Designed Objects, Master of Science in Historic Preservation, Master of Fine Arts in Writing, and Bachelor of Fine Arts with an Emphasis in Writing, among others.

SAIC has expanded its investment in the cultural and physical space of the city of Chicago, including the invitation by artist Jaume Plensa to help create Millennium Park’s beloved *Crown Fountain*. The 1996 rehabilitation of the historic Chicago building into a student residence was the first conversion in Chicago’s Loop of a commercial property into a residential space; over 700 SAIC students now reside in residence halls in downtown Chicago.

The student body has nearly doubled, and international students now make up nearly 20% of the population.

Over the past several years, the School has consistently posted solid operating results and conducted successful capital and endowment campaigns.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)

A leader in educating artists and designers for 141 years, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago offers undergraduate and graduate programs to nearly 2,800 students from around the world. In addition to the time-honored study of painting, sculpture, printmaking, and design, SAIC's studio programs embrace film and new media, electronic and sound arts, and creative writing. To complement its studio programs, SAIC offers academic degrees in disciplines from art history to arts administration, visual and critical studies to historic preservation. Located in the heart of Chicago, the School promotes contemporary discourse about art and design through venues such as the Gene Siskel Film Center, Video Data Bank, Betty Rymer Gallery, Gallery 2, the Division of Continuing Studies, and in conjunction with the Poetry Center.

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