TEACHING & LEARNING | CAMPUS | COMMUNITY | ENROLMENT | FINANCIALS

OCAD UNIVERSITY

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

OCAD UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO OUR 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

In presenting the 2020-21 Annual Report, OCAD University would like to acknowledge the ancestral and traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we work, stand and create.

On July 1, 2020, we welcomed **Ana Serrano** as the University's first Black, Indigenous and Person of Colour (BIPOC) President and Vice-Chancellor. Living within the context of the fluctuating global pandemic, we reimagined the way we worked and delivered education remotely, and prioritized how we connected as a community amid the ongoing isolation everyone experienced, not the least of all our students.

As we adapted to new ways of teaching, learning and studying, faculty and students alike rose to the challenge of co-creating engaging remote experiences that garnered exciting outcomes. We saw creativity flourish among our students, encouraged by faculty members, through their participation in exhibitions at BigArtTO, the DesignTO Festival, our annual graduate exhibition GradEx 106, and through collaborative partnerships with several organizations.

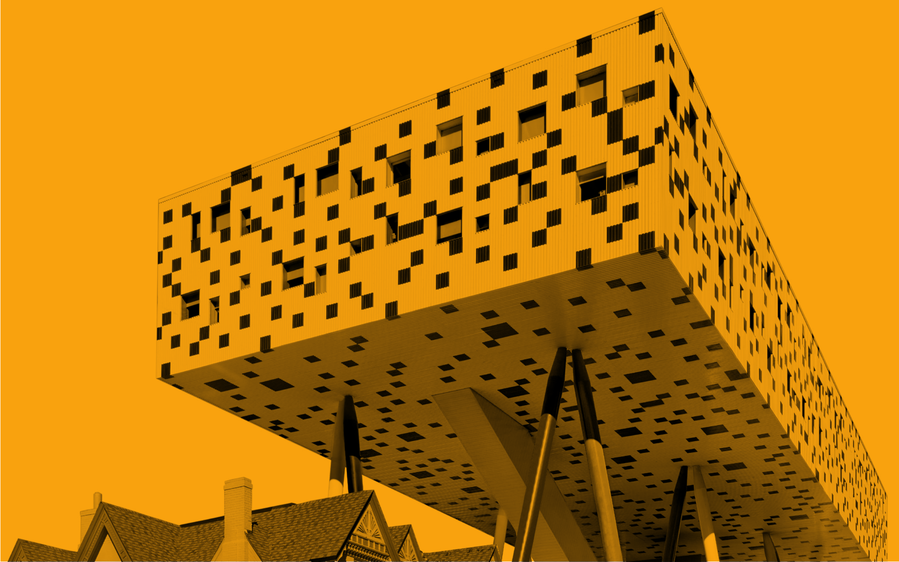
We were officially granted **full degree-granting authority** when amendments to the subsections of the Ontario College of Art & Design Act, 2002, previously passed as part of the Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019 in December 2019, came into full force as of June 17, 2020. These amendments allow OCAD U to confer degrees, including honorary degrees (in addition to certificates and diplomas) in any and all branches of learning in the fields of art and design.

We celebrated the inauguration of the Centre for the Study of Black Canadian Diaspora, which will increase the visibility of, and access to, works of contemporary Black artists, craftspeople, curators and critics in Canada, and help raise awareness of the important role of Black artists in the histories of the visual and media arts in Canada. The centre was established by OCAD U Associate Professor **Dr. Andrea Fatona**, an independent art curator and scholar, who was named Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Canadian Black Diasporic Cultural Production in December 2020.

We welcomed **five new Indigenous faculty members** in the Faculty of Design as part of the ongoing commitment to supporting Indigenous students: Dr. Herman Pi'ikea Clark, Kanaka Maoli/Indigenous Hawaiian; Matthew Hickey, Mohawk from the Six Nations First Nation; Jason Lujan, Chiricahua Apache/ Indigenous Mexican; Sadie Red Wing, Lakota and advocate from the Spirit Lake Nation of Fort Totten, North Dakota; and Julia Rose Sutherland, Mi'kmaq from the Metepenagiag Nation.

The University's Indigenous Education Council approved a recommendation from the Elder Working Group to create a diverse Elder's Counsel to address the need for Indigenous Elders, Knowledge and Faith Keepers to provide guidance to the University. Elder Elizabeth (Liz) Osawamick, an Anishinaabe Midewiwin-kwe community leader and Water Walker/activist, accepted the invitation to be the first of four members on this Elder's Counsel.

On September 30, 2021, the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we held two events to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to reflect upon the impact and intergenerational trauma of the residential school system on Indigenous Peoples, further exacerbated this year by the news of the uncovering of more than 1,000 unmarked graves of Indigenous children at former residential schools. We gathered as a community in Butterfield Park for the reading of all 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which gave people the chance to listen, hear each other's voices and witness one another's commitment to upholding these calls to action. We also held a virtual panel commemorating the 10th anniversary of Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity.



We are thrilled to welcome five Indigenous faculty members to the OCAD U community. These inspiring scholars, artists, designers and educators will strengthen efforts to reshape our University, making it a more inclusive environment for Indigenous students. They will contribute to the important work of integrating Indigenous Knowledge into our institution, and fostering a community that recognizes and respects Indigenous Knowledge, histories, culture and ways of knowing.

— Dr. Caroline Langill

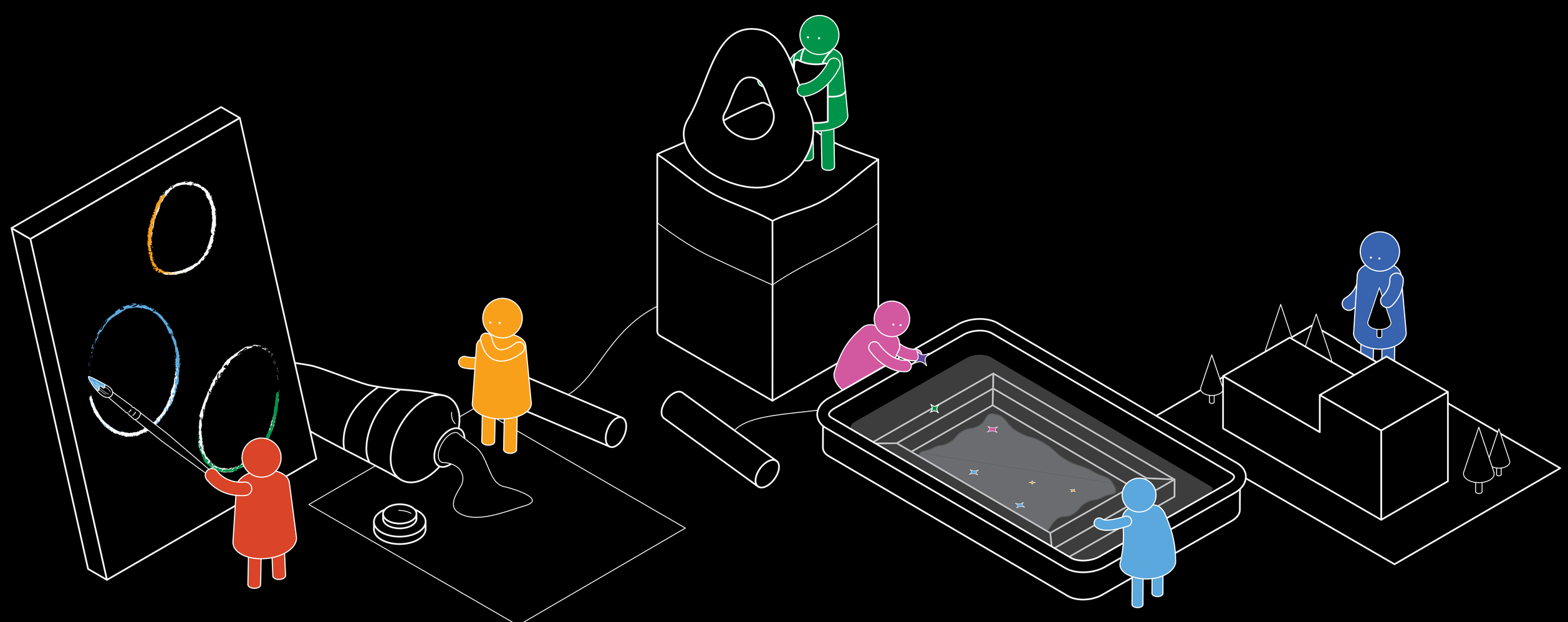
Vice-President, Academic and Provost, OCAD University

SETTING A COURSE FOR OUR FUTURE

During the past year, we carried out a third-party external review of our operations, in response to the identified need to protect our mission of providing students with an inclusive, studio-based education that fosters deep learning and promotes learning engagement. This review resulted in a report with six recommendations, which was presented to OCAD U's Board of Governors in December 2020.

We established the Financial Sustainability Working Group to manage the report's implementation. This working group identified corresponding actions for each recommendation, incorporating ideas suggested by faculty and staff during the review process as well as those currently in place, such as our major curriculum transformation project Flow. These actions are included in our Go Forward Roadmap, which charts the course for our long-term financial health while enhancing the student experience.

Key activities achieved this year include improving our annual budgeting process to ensure alignment and integration with our strategic priorities and multi-year forecast planning process; a reorganization of the Advancement Office to strengthen our fundraising efforts; a review of the Dorothy H. Hoover Library that resulted in a new organizational structure that will lead to a more engaged student experience; and the presentation and approval of a balanced 2021-22 operating budget to the Board of Governors.



REIMAGINING THE WAY WE DELIVER EDUCATION

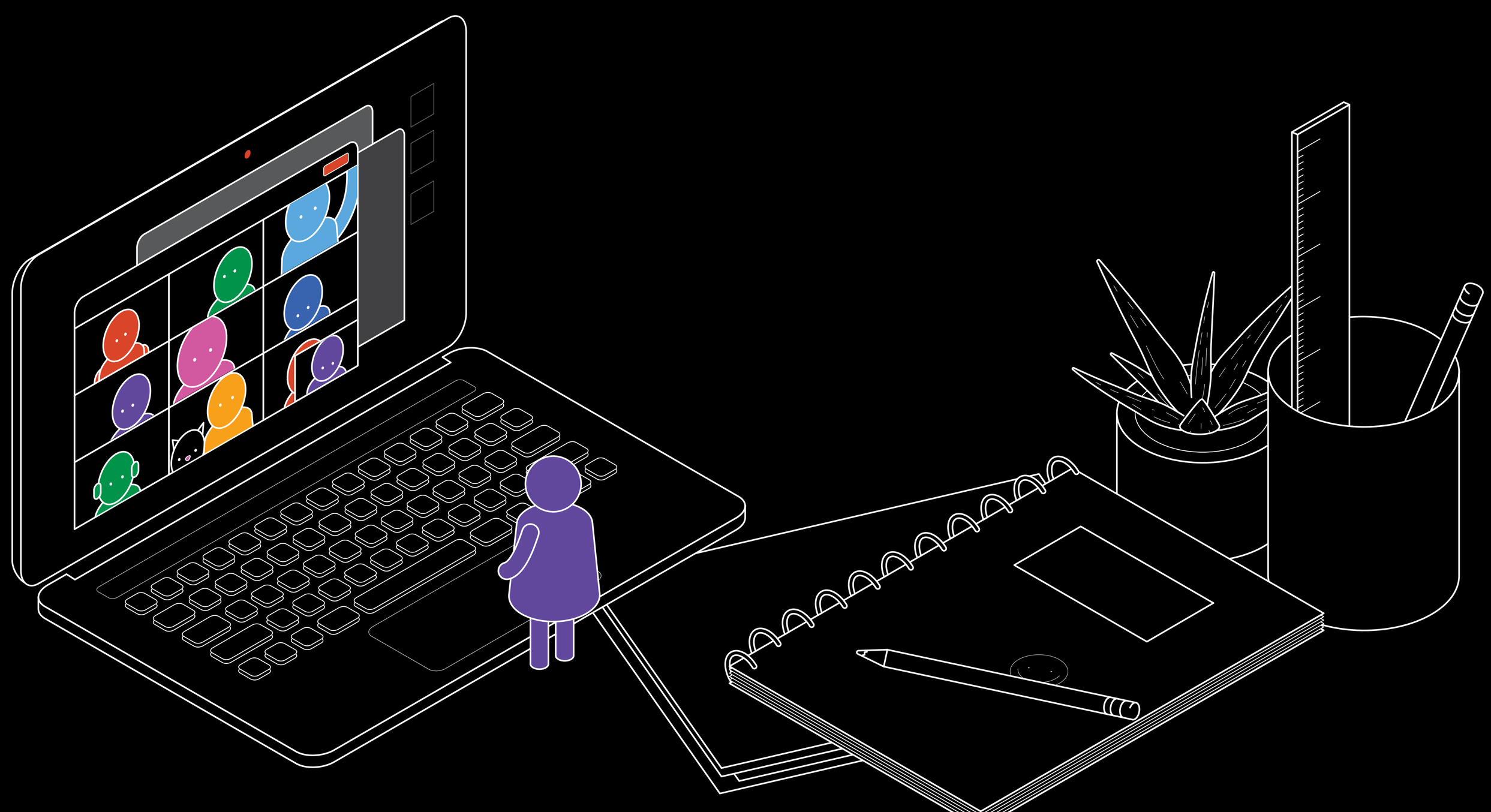
Our community responded to the challenge of transforming our courses from in-person learning to remote delivery for the 2020-21 academic year with creativity, commitment and resilience. To support faculty, we developed the **Hybrid and Online Learning Framework**, Guidelines for Hybrid and Online Course Delivery, and the interactive tool, **Teaching Art and Design Online: A Toolkit for Faculty**.

We offered a series of workshops, one-to-one consultations and information sessions to support faculty in redesigning their courses and to encourage them to share strategies in addressing barriers to student learning in a remote environment.

Within the new reality of online learning, we recognized the need to create a community space for learning and dialogue and launched the Digital Learning Hub. This cross-institutional, interdisciplinary space continues to provide faculty, students and staff with opportunities to develop, share and engage with diverse digital learning initiatives across the institution – all with the goal of enhancing access and inclusion in art and design education.

A highlight of the year was Dis/Engaged, a two-week distributed virtual symposium held in early 2021, which provided faculty with opportunities to examine approaches to art and design education in an age of disruption. The closing virtual event, Re/Engaged Creative Connection in a Digital Age, reconnected faculty through song, spoken word, art dialogue and reflections.

We also focused efforts on developing proposals that would accelerate accessible and inclusive high-quality online learning in art, design and media education. Our efforts were successful and we received more than **$1.4 million for nine projects** from eCampus Ontario's Virtual Learning Strategy, part of a new $70 million investment by the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Colleges and Universities.



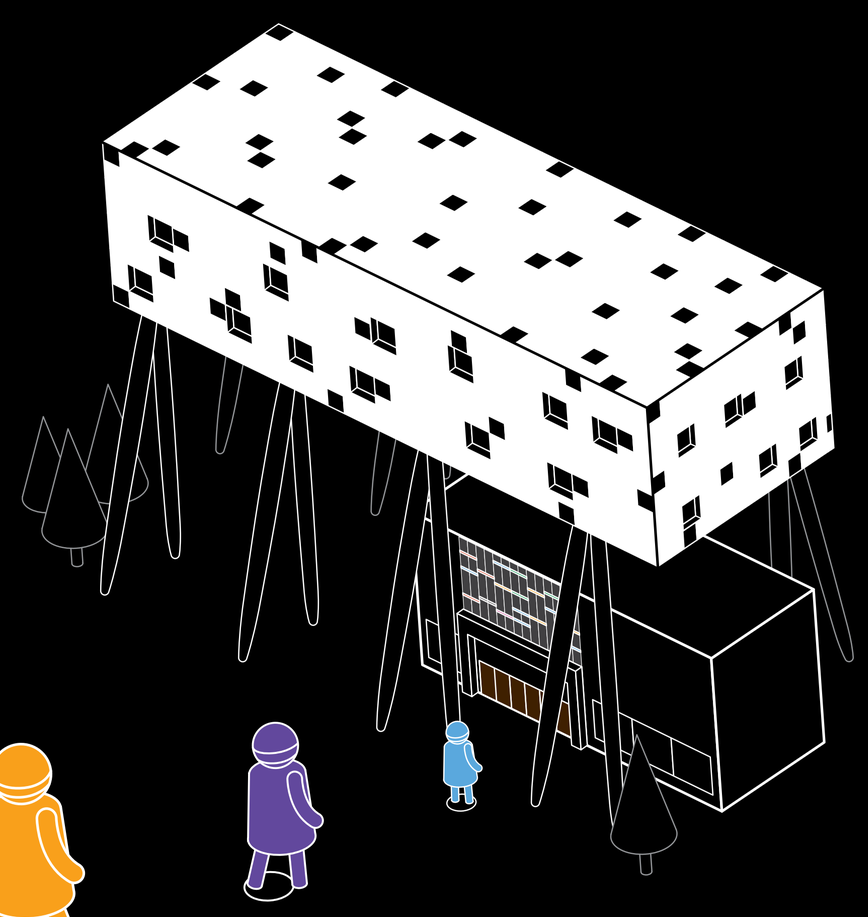
PLANNING FOR A RETURN TO CAMPUS

Our Gradual Opening Strategy for Campus Facilities continued to provide the framework for managing our facilities and operations during the ongoing pandemic while our campus remained closed during the 2020-21 academic year with courses being delivered online. Ensuring the health and safety of members of our community was a top priority for all of this work.

Our Gradual Opening Implementation Team, chaired by Alan Simms, Vice-President of Finance and Administration, continued to manage access requests to allow faculty and staff on campus, and offered a Service Depot and curbside pick-up and drop-off for the Dorothy H. Hoover Library. Additionally, the team created guidance and protocols for safe reopening measures and strategies, such as wearing masks or face coverings, signage, physical distancing, contact tracing, and cleaning protocols.

As we began to look ahead to reopening in the fall of 2021, we organized a Gradual Opening Info Fair in the spring of 2021 to respond to questions from faculty and staff about our safety protocols, including ventilation, contact tracing and reopening plans.

We created the Fall Experience Group, chaired by Deanne Fisher, Vice-Provost of Students and International, to lead the planning and reopening of the campus for the fall of 2021. This group designed options for course delivery, including online and in-person with physical distancing in effect; developing a booking system for shops, studios and computer labs; developing guidelines and request process for remote work options for administrative staff; and implementing a vaccine policy and proof of vaccination system for all students, staff, faculty and contractors.



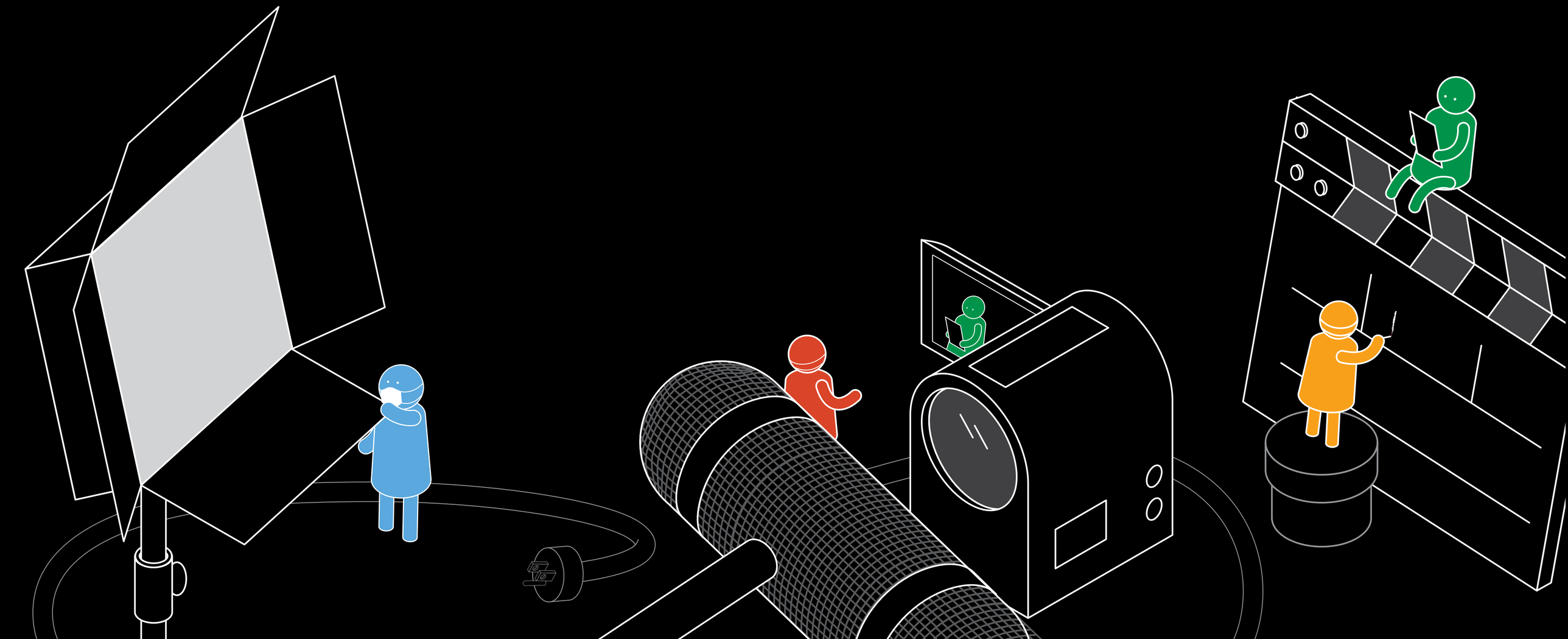
REIMAGINING WAYS TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER

One of our priorities over the past year was to find new ways for faculty, staff and students to connect with one another, and to foster a sense of community and belonging within an online environment. This required us to restructure our signature events – from our Student Orientation Program to the Academic Year Event to Convocation – so that these events would come alive with meaningful connection.

We held our very first virtual gala in November 2020, featuring musical performances, an online auction and a tribute to Dr. Sara Diamond for her 15 years of service as president and vice-chancellor. Our Student Leadership Awards event moved online to celebrate an inspiring group of young people who stepped up to serve their peers and the broader OCAD U community as mentors, volunteers, employees and leaders over the past year.

We transformed GradEx 106 with a new online platform that featured more than 500 works by recent graduates and included a marketplace. We also brought their art to the community through outdoor projections at several locations in the city. We delivered an invigorated Convocation ceremony – the second in two years – to create a sense of community and hosted watch parties to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. We also reconceived Project 31 to showcase the tremendous talent of OCAD U's BIPOC community and to raise funds to support BIPOC students through a silent auction and immersive live auction.

One of the most innovative initiatives of the year was the launch of OCAD U LiVE in October 2020. What began as an effort to create a sense of community during the pandemic has evolved into a 24/7 digital streaming video channel that is the go-to place for students – both as content creators and viewers. Since its inception, **OCAD U LiVE** has produced almost 100 hours of programming with 41 different shows with more than one episode.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT LEADERS

Whether it was amplifying the perspectives of BIPOC students to affect change, representing student concerns on governance bodies, or helping first-year students navigate the extraordinary start to their studies during a pandemic, there was no shortage of accomplishments to celebrate at the **Student Leadership Awards**, held in March 2021.

PEER MENTOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Eunseo Sung
Carmen Yuen

STUDENT GROUP LEADER AWARD

Ya'el Rai-Kastiel, OCAD U Jewish Club

STUDENT EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sydney Cooling-Sturges

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

adé abegunde

INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dehmin Cleland

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Moksha Khanna
Jevonne Peters

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Twenty-two top graduating students and their projects were recognized for their imaginative and inspiring approaches to addressing the world's most pressing issues through art, design and digital media. One graduating student from each of our undergraduate and graduate programs was chosen as a recipient of the **2021 OCAD University Medal** in recognition of their creativity, innovation, mastery of technique and high academic achievement. Their works and projects were showcased at GradEx 106, which was in an online format.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Ada Bierling, *Criticism and Curatorial Practice*
Kristi Chen, Sculpture and Installation
Kinzi Dempsey, Photography
Sydney Gittens, Advertising
Kathryn Greenwood, Drawing and Painting
Hala Al Hadeethi, Environmental Design
Melody Juthamongkol, Material Art and Design
Kyle Miron, Graphic Design
Brian Nguyen, Digital Futures
Jeremy Saya, Integrated Media
Sid Sharp, Illustration
Shabad Singh, Industrial Design
Liankun Sun, Cross-Disciplinary Art: Publications
Helen Tran, Printmaking and Publications
Kathy Wang, Visual and Critical Studies

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Marilyn Adlington, Criticism and Curatorial Practice
Christina Dery, Design for Health
Josie Gray, Inclusive Design
Ireena Haque, Strategic Foresight and Innovation
Victoria Milne, Contemporary Art, Design and New Media Art Histories
Sara Mozafari-Lorestani, Interdisciplinary Art, Media and Design
Arshia Sobhan Sarbandi, Digital Futures

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The **2020-21 Teaching Awards** recognized outstanding faculty, instructors and teaching assistants who employed diverse, inclusive and evidence-informed teaching methods to provide exceptional learning experiences for their students and who demonstrated leadership in action during a very unprecedented year.

PRICE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Simone Jones, Professor, Faculty of Art, and Chair of Senate

NON-TENURED EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Erin Finley, Instructor, Faculty of Art

FACULTY OF ART TEACHING AWARD

Julius Poncelet Manapul, Assistant Professor and Associate Chair, Drawing and Painting

FACULTY OF DESIGN TEACHING AWARD

Teresa Ascencao, Instructor
Kourosh Mahvash, Instructor

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Heather Coffey, Assistant Professor

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Michelle Wyndham-West, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Design, and Graduate Program Director, Design for Health

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES TEACHING AWARD

Willow Dawson

TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

Leslie Corbay

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD WITH DISTINCTION

Iris Elliott

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

Dorian Lynde
Candide Uyanza

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Each year, we recognize two faculty members for their outstanding contributions to research. For 2020-21, **here are the award recipients:**

OCAD UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Simone Jones, Professor, Faculty of Art, and Chair of Senate

OCAD UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY STAGE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Immony Mèn, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Design

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AMONG EMPLOYEES

The **2021 Employee Recognition Awards** recognized the outstanding contributions of employees and we celebrated their achievements at a virtual event.

AWARD FOR EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Christine Crisol, Manager, Research Policy, Research Office

EMPLOYEE EQUITY AWARD

Lindsay Gibb, Collection Development and E-services Librarian, Dorothy H. Hoover Library

Heather Evelyn, Coordinator of the Learning Zone, Dorothy H. Hoover Library

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE TEAM AWARD

Gradual Opening Implementation Team

Connie Arezes-Reis, Director, Human Resources

Leslie Aston Hurst, Executive Assistant, Office of Vice-President, Finance and Administration, and the Vice-Provost, Students and International

Nick Hooper, Director, Facilities and Studio Services

Omita Mansur, Manager, Budget Planning, Institutional Analysis

Karen McCarthy, Senior Manager, Communications and Media, Marketing and Communications

Louis Toromoreno, Director, Safety, Security and Campus Operations

CHRISTINE CROSBIE HEART OF GOLD AWARD

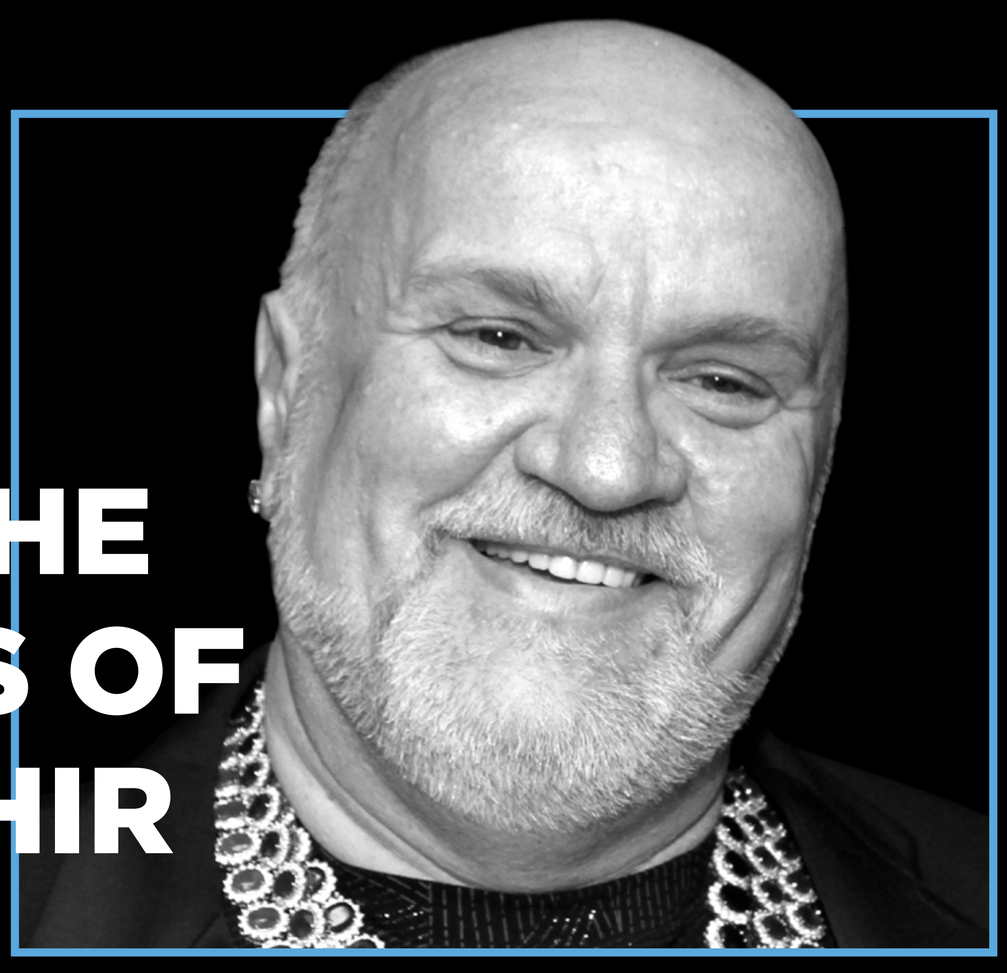
First presented in 2020, this award honours the memory of Christine Crosbie, a valued colleague and member of the Marketing and Communications team, who passed away suddenly in 2019. She was well-known for her generous and collaborative spirit, professionalism, and passion for excellence as Manager of Communications and Media at OCAD U.

The 2021 recipient was **Alea Drain**, Project Lead for the Customer Service Project Prism, IT Services, whose commitment to the OCAD U community represents the empathy, dedication, and fun-loving approach to teamwork that is represented by the Christine Crosbie Heart of Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF JAIME WATT

As Chair of OCAD U's Board of Governors for four years, **Jaime Watt** provided outstanding leadership at a time of significant transformational change for the institution, including navigating the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and supporting University initiatives to advance equity and diversity and address the under-representation of Black and Indigenous faculty and staff. He also led the successful search for our new president after 15 years with Dr. Sara Diamond at the helm, resulting in the hiring of Ana Serrano, the University's first BIPOC president and vice-chancellor. Watt first joined the Board of Governors as a member in November 2015 for a three-year term, which was renewed for another three-year term in 2018. He was elected Board Chair in 2017 for a total of four consecutive one-year terms. His term ended on November 15, 2021.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. SALAH BACHIR



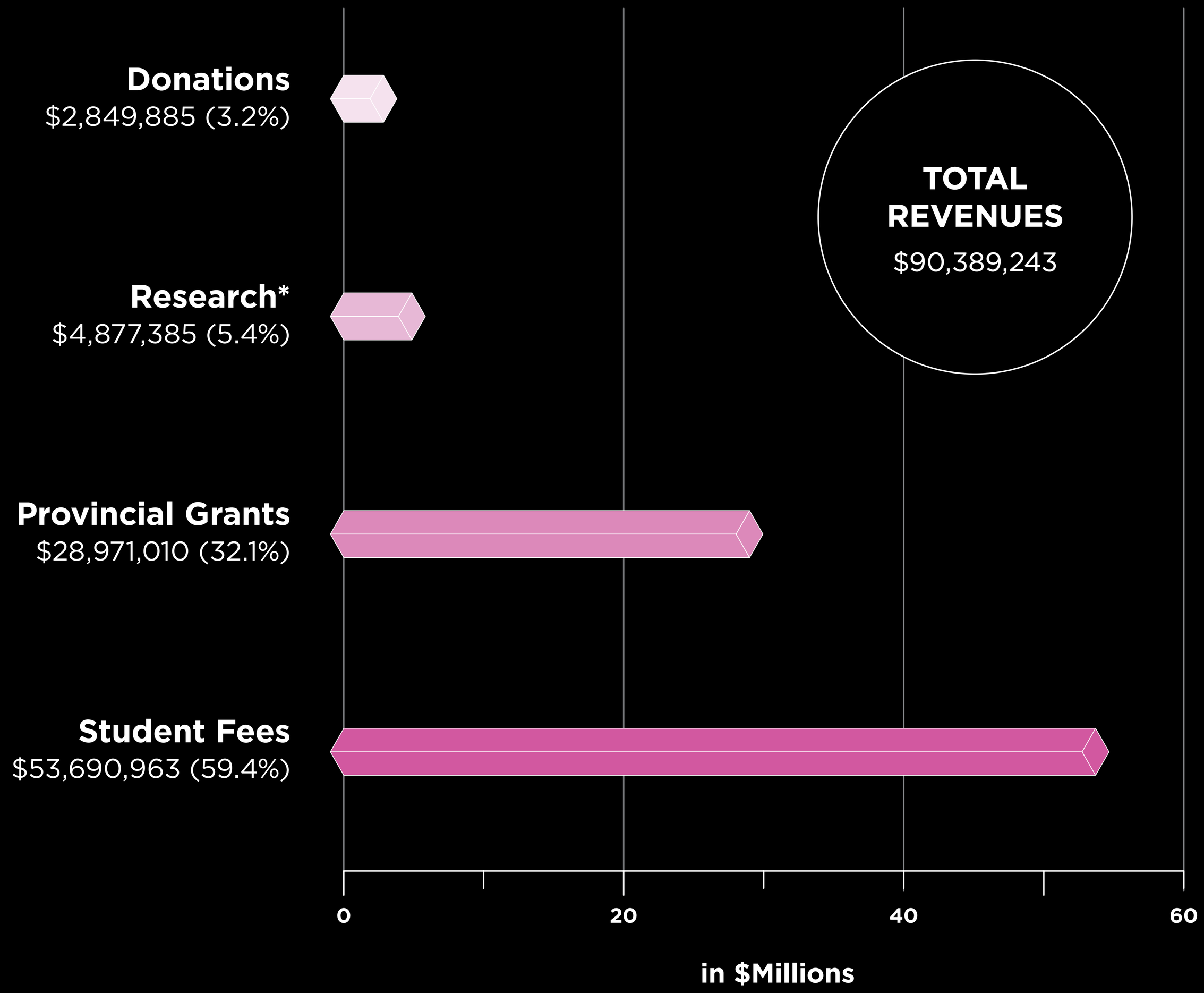
Dr. Salah Bachir, one of Canada's most influential philanthropists and patrons of the arts, served as OCAD U's Chancellor from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2021. During his four-year term, he served as a passionate ambassador for the University and presided over four Convocation ceremonies, conferring degrees to more than 4,000 graduates. He also served as an ex-officio member of the Board of Governors and Senate, and was Chair of the Senate Honorary Degree Committee. The University benefitted greatly from his wealth of experience in the arts and business sectors and guidance over the years, and his tireless commitment and service as Chancellor.

On behalf of the OCAD University community, I would like to extend our enormous appreciation to Jaime Watt for his invaluable insights and deft leadership as Chair of our Board of Governors, and to Dr. Salah Bachir for his tireless commitment and service as our Chancellor. They were both ardent champions of OCAD U, supporting our mission of educating the next-generation of artists, designers and media makers.

— **Ana Serrano**

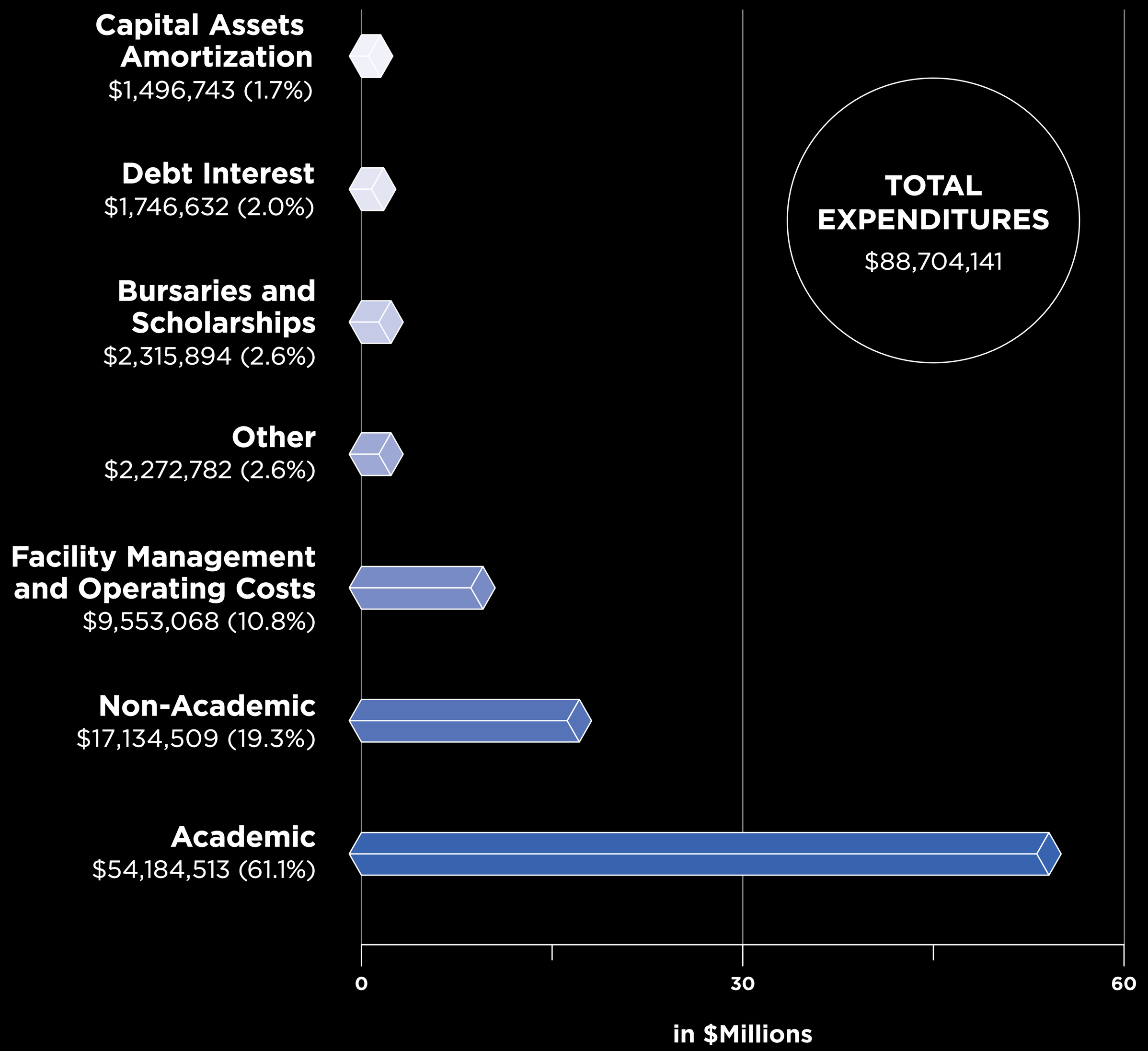
President and Vice-Chancellor, OCAD University

2020-21 Revenues



*Research revenue plus other deferred contributions to research: $7,223,282

2020-21 Expenditures



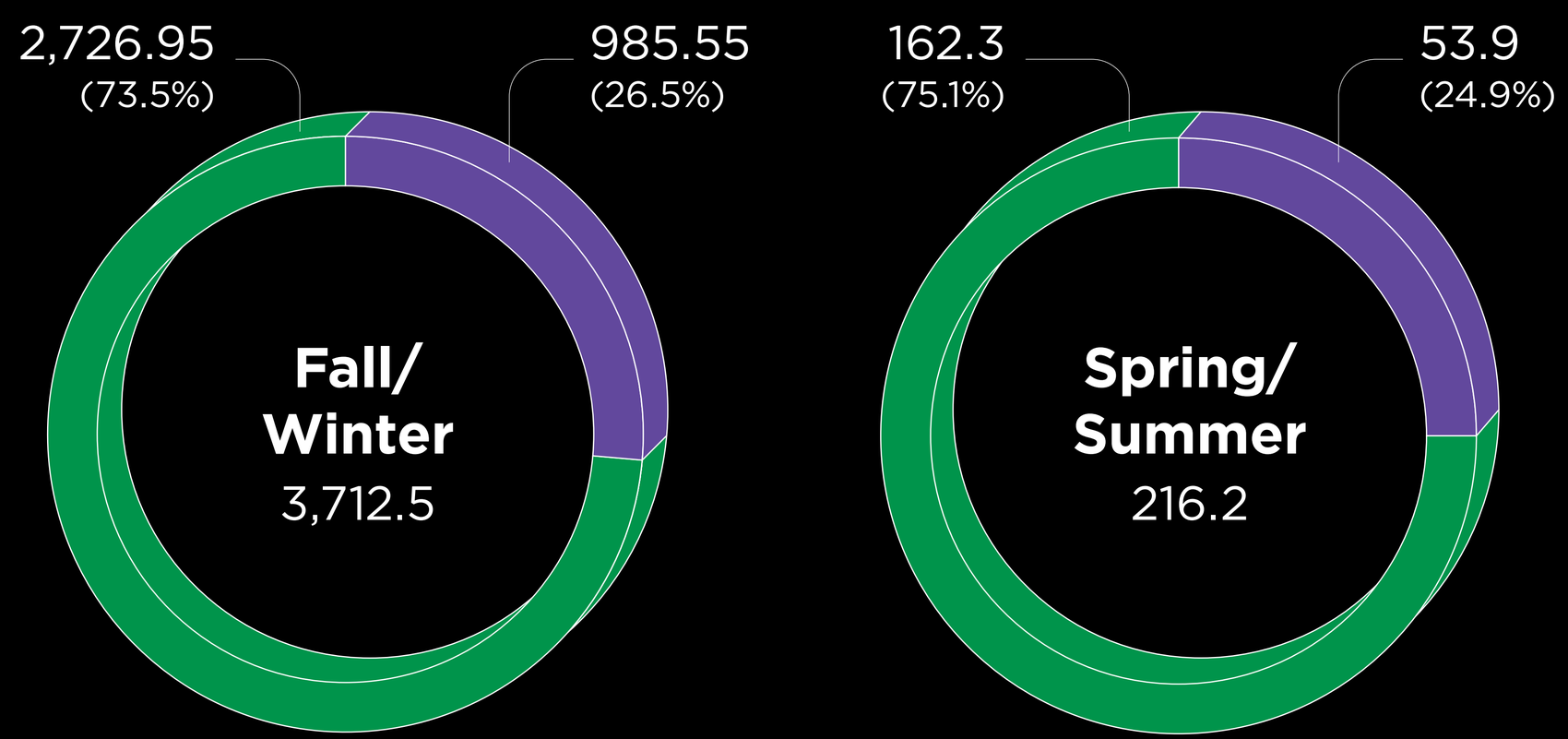
Net revenues over expenditures: $1,685,102

2020-21 Enrolment

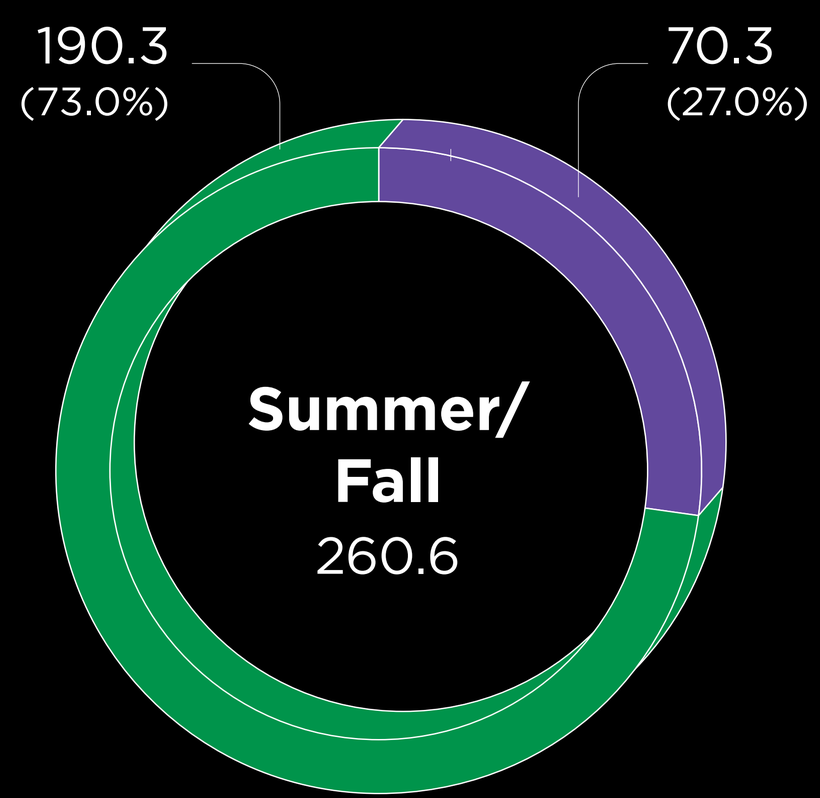
Domestic Students

International Students

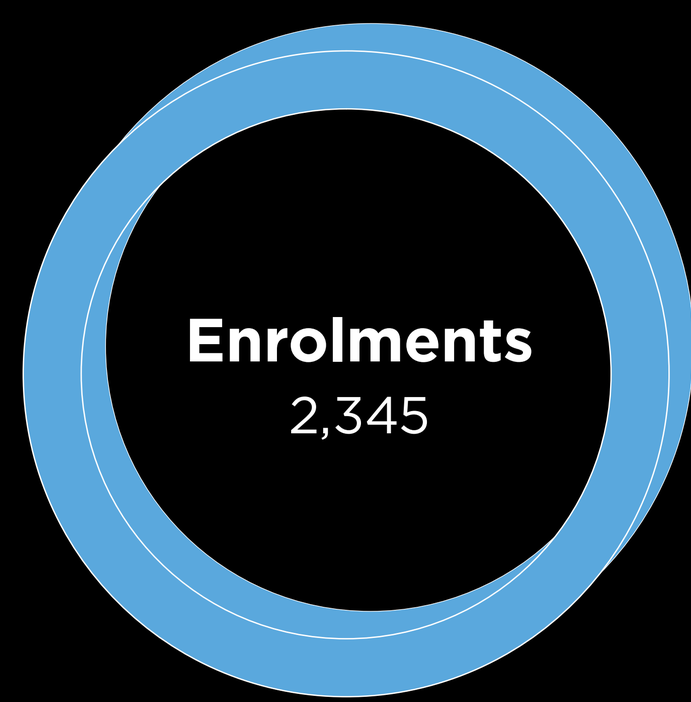
Undergraduate FTEs*



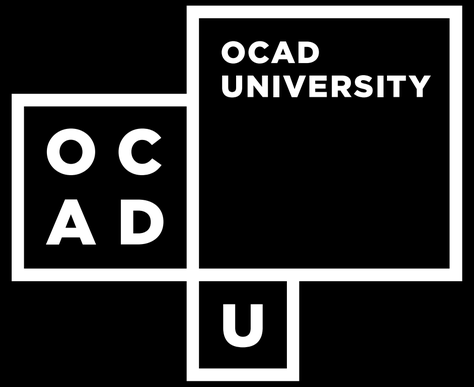
Graduate FTEs*



School of Continuing Studies



*Full-time equivalents



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Financial revenues and expenditures categories have been reclassified for presentation purposes.