

August 11, 2021

Dear USC Roski School Students,

I am thrilled to welcome you to campus next week. For those of you who are arriving for the first time, we're excited to meet you and to our upper-level artists and designers, we look forward to seeing you again. The past 16 months have been just too quiet. I miss the commotion and the mess – all part of creativity – and seeing, on a daily basis, the imagination and talent that makes this school one of the best in the U.S. But what I miss the most is seeing you on campus. As a creative community, we thrive when together.

When you return to campus, you'll see several enhancement projects throughout the school. At Watt Hall, we have completed important upgrades to make it a safer and healthier space in which to create that include: better ventilation systems, touchless faucets, and other improvements that address the COVID-19 pandemic. Around campus canopies have popped up, providing covered outdoor venues to reduce densities within our classrooms and that may also be used by students for 'hang-out' spaces. Designation of in-person, hybrid and online Roski courses are listed in the Schedule of Classes. More detail is located [here](#).

The conversion of IFT – now known as the Roski Studios Building – is almost complete. This space, formerly occupied by Roski MFA Art and MA candidates, will now allow our 4th year artists and designers who are pursuing BFA degrees to create in semi-private studios while sharing and collaborating with others in communal spaces on site. This building also includes the 2,000-foot Gayle and Ed Roski Gallery that will now feature undergraduate exhibitions.

This expansion is on top of the recently opened Roski Graduate Building in the LA Arts District that is occupied by all three of the USC Roski graduate programs and includes the Roski Graduate Gallery. With the two galleries mentioned here, added to the Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery in Watt Hall, USC Roski now has three professional-quality galleries. I encourage you to visit the exhibitions at all of these galleries throughout the year to celebrate the incredible talent of USC Roski undergraduate and graduate artists and designers.

USC Roski and USC hosts myriad events, both professional and from the enormous and diverse talent found throughout the university community. Here are some highlights happening in just the first few weeks:

On Campus

- **RAD Picnic**, August 19, 12noon (Harris Hall Courtyard)
Roski faculty and staff are excited to welcome our first-year and second-year students to the campus for the first time with an outdoor picnic to get to know each other and enjoy some creative projects and some music.
- **New Student Convocation**, August 19, 9am (Alumni Park)
USC President Carol L. Folt welcomes all incoming students on behalf of the USC community. Including incoming freshmen, sophomores, transfers and graduate students Details [here](#).



- **SPARK!** 16th Annual Visions and Voices Kickoff, August 19, 8pm (Bovard Auditorium): an art festival with live performances, immersive installations, and interactive experiences. This event is open to incoming students, including freshmen, sophomores, transfers, and graduate students. Details [here](#).
- **Make Mend: DARN**, September 10, 10am: Roski will co-present with USC Visions and Voices a series of hands-on classes that showcase new trends in ‘making and mending.’ The series kicks off with “Make Mend: DARN,” a wabi-sabi workshop that explores fixing what is damaged, broken, or torn, honoring the handmade and creativity. Details [here](#).

Off Campus

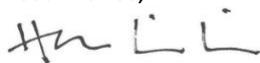
- **Queer Survivance**, August 31, 6pm (ICA LA): We kick off the fall 2021 Roski Talks lecture series with “Queer Survivance” that coincides with the exhibition *Queer Communion: Ron Athey*, curated by Roski professor Amelia Jones, currently on view at the Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles. Details [here](#). Additional Roski Talks announced soon.

And finally, I share some recently added programs at USC Roski: two new interdisciplinary minors; [Visual Narrative Art](#) and [Performance Art](#); as well as the [Performance Art Graduate Certificate](#). These are exciting programs that reflect developing movements in the arts that I encourage you to consider.

As I said, we’re very excited to open up the USC campus to our students but I’m sure you have some questions. For academic information regarding your studies at USC Roski, I encourage you to reach out to your **Academic Advisors** and for additional questions about life at USC, we have **Undergraduate Ambassadors** who are happy to impart their experiences and wisdom. Contact information for the Academic Advisors is [here](#) and visit the Undergraduate Ambassador page [here](#) to connect with your fellow students.

For questions regarding USC commitment to the safety for all students, faculty, and staff on campus, please visit the **USC Informational Website** [here](#), where you will also find a link to USC President Folt’s Fall 2021 Semester Update. And if have additional concerns, please reach out to me – I’m here for you.

Best wishes,



Haven Lin-Kirk

Dean, USC Roski School of Art and Design