

From: [University Governance](#)
To: [University Governance](#)
Subject: FW: KU alumni support for the Visual Art Education program
Date: Friday, September 24, 2021 4:33:29 PM

From: Karen Gerety Folk <kgerety@jccc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 10:43 AM
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Cc: Kowalchuk, Liz <kowalchu@ku.edu>
Subject: KU alumni support for the Visual Art Education program

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the Visual Art Education faculty, courses and programming. I was incredibly disappointed to hear it was a potential cut. If there is any hope for reconsideration I hope I can help in some small way with a note of support.

I graduated after defending my thesis with an MA in 2005, summa cum laude, and I have been continuously employed in the field ever since. The VAE program was exactly what I needed to take my BFA in art history (also KU, 2001, summa cum laude) and field experience at the Spencer Museum to a higher level, and I was lucky to be selected as the founding Curator of Education at my museum. The superb scholarship and rigor of the KU art education program uniquely prepared me for this role, at the time there was only a handful of programs specializing in museum education across the nation. I was fortunate to have an essay based on my thesis research published in the first ever textbook for visual art museum education, edited by a former KU faculty member, reviewed by many leaders in the field. I continue to network with art educators across the state and at the national level, and the firm foundation of education I have from KU continues to serve me in my professional endeavors and scholarly development.

Furthermore I am happy to share there have been dozens of community college students we've worked with as education program assistants at the museum here over the years...I would love to continue recommending KU for transfer but I can't do that without the VAE program. Museums and other arts organizations need their graduates too!

Sincerely,

Karen

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