Division of Arts and Humanities

The Engine of Creative Innovation

How do we upend convention for the next generation of artists, scholars and changemakers? In the Division of Arts and Humanities, we teach nontradition through critical thinking, ethical questioning and creative expression. The division spans six departments: literature, history, philosophy, theatre and dance, visual arts and music. Initiatives like the Institute of Arts and Humanities and the Institute for Practical Ethics meld disciplines. Armed with foundational knowledge, transferable skills and enduring experience, our graduates don't just impact the workforce — they transform our world.

Our forward-looking vision fuels the enduring engine of cross-campus innovation. Through unexpected interdisciplinary partnerships, we spark a deeper understanding of the human experience — its creation, design, interpretation and evaluation — for the greater good. Our collective mission? To help all students learn from the past, engage with the present, and imagine the future.

Widening our impact means investing in opportunities to tear down traditional disciplinary borders. It means tying arts to engineering, pairing ethics with ecology, and connecting social justice with geography. It means unleashing possibilities for students, faculty and staff through scholarships, fellowships and endowments. And it means creating an environment that celebrates experimentation, collaboration and courage — all under one enterprising roof.

7th in the nation
Time-based media/new media; fine arts program ranked 10th best (U.S. News & World Report)

5th in the world
Best MFA program in theatre and dance (Hollywood Reporter)

Renowned faculty
Including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony Award, the Grawemeyer Award and the MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship

The Conrad Prebys Concert Hall
Acoustically one of the finest small concert halls in the world

Continue the nontradition.
Division of Arts and Humanities Priorities

Student Support and Success

» Scholarships, internships and fellowships create access to immersive and experiential opportunities, empowering students to follow their passions.

» Hands-on performance experiences are made possible through the Theatre and Dance Performing Arts Endowment, while the Alumni-lead Mentoring Program opens doors to relationships that frame new futures.

Our Campus and Community

» The new Arts and Humanities Building brings together disparate departments in the vibrant North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood, creating a physical hub for ideas and ideals to thrive.

» The Arts and Community Engagement Initiative aims to place the arts at the center of essential conversation, sparking broader cultural dialogue and civic engagement on our campus and in the community.

» The Division of Arts and Humanities plays an important role in cultivating an inclusive environment for students, artists and scholars, and equity, diversity and inclusion is essential to our mission of providing an education for the common good.

» The Arts and Humanities Diversity Projects and Programming Fund directly supports student-centered and student-driven research that advances the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion in our greater communities.

» Faculty endowed chairs provide sustained resources to recruit and retain academic rock stars.

» Visiting professors and lectures spark opportunities for vibrant intellectual exploration with people who train, perform and present through various departments in the division.

Research and Innovation

» The Institute of Arts and Humanities is a hub for the division’s cross-disciplinary programs and new scholarly opportunities, developing the next generation of innovative humanists and artists.

» Ethicists and social scientists with the Institute for Practical Ethics provide guidance for local scientists and technologists as they seek new and novel solutions to age-old problems.

Help us continue the nontradition.

With your help, UC San Diego will lead a new era of curiosity and collaboration. As the foundation for all other specialties, the Division of Arts and Humanities provides a formative framework for creative and critical thinking.

Together with your philanthropic support of the Campaign for UC San Diego, we can shore up our strengths and propel our 2,300 undergraduates, graduate students and faculty to make art, to make history, to make a difference.

Learn more at campaign.ucsd.edu.