Fostering the *arts* and *creativity* in the pursuit of knowledge and building stronger communities
ARTS AND CREATIVITY
University of Michigan

Measuring the impact of the arts and creativity isn't an easy task. Quantitative measures do not adequately address the inspirational force of the arts, or the significance of how the creative process can transform a mundane idea into a powerful solution to a pressing problem.

Arguably, one way of understanding the breadth and depth of the arts and creative endeavors at the University of Michigan is to document the wide range of activities. MONTAGE has assembled some of the most compelling events of 2009-2010 in a report, "MONTAGE Review: Fostering the arts and creativity in the pursuit of knowledge and building stronger communities -- 2009-2010."

The report was assembled by units across the Ann Arbor campus.

In looking through the report, readers will find one dominate theme: Creativity and the arts are vital to the intellectual and creative lives of those at U-M.

Throughout the report, there are examples of how an idea is transformed into a work of art and ingenuity, from the renovation and expansion of the University of Michigan Museum of Art, to U-M faculty member recording all 270 if Bach’s works, to specific ways U-M is preparing students for fledgling new industries, to the ways U-M is engaging China as a means to cultivate cultural understanding.

The report helps the public to understand the role of creativity in the research and expressive work of U-M faculty. While subjects vary greatly, knowledge-seekers are driven by a common rigorous questioning-and answering process whereby new methods, designs and forms of expression are created.

In the future, MONTAGE REVIEW will include activities at U-M Dearborn and Flint campuses.
I.

CULTURAL IMPACT

The expanded and renovated University of Michigan Art Museum evokes a contemporary town hall for the arts, a place where students, faculty and the public come together in a celebration of community and the arts. More than 300,000 visitors strolled through UMMA in the past year since its reopening.

From the breath-taking outdoor sculpture of Mark di Suvero on the museum lawn to the majestic apse and fluid floor plan, UMMA is redefining the possibilities of a university art museum. The low-cost programming and many public spaces and performing venues is transforming notions of multi-disciplinary collaboration.

Reopened in March, the renovated museum home of Alumni Memorial Hall and a 53,000-square-foot expansion elevate UMMA to among the largest and most innovative of university museums in the country. The new space, called the Maxine and Stuart Frankel and the Frankel Family Wing, is named for the project’s lead benefactors of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

The $41.9-million transformation more than triples the number of works from the collections on view, offers multiple classroom and event spaces, and creates an expansive venue for special exhibitions. Brad Cloepfil’s design creates an open flow from gallery to gallery, transmitting a sense of movement and intimacy, and fostering a place conducive to both discourse and solitude.

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University of Michigan

MONTAGE REVIEW 2009-2010
Throughout the past year, U-M has worked continually to strengthen ties with China. The goal set forth by U-M President Mary Sue Coleman is to “build alliances and to share the lessons of Michigan’s success as a great public research university as a model for Chinese higher education.”

One prominent display of the U-M/China alliance was a series of forums in March sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the University of Michigan exploring how the arts in China illuminate culture, values and traditions. Led by Joseph Sui Ching Lam, director of CI-UM, the initiative brought together directors of Confucius Institutes in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Rather than focusing primarily on language learning, CI-UM concentrates on cultural aspects of the ancient country. The approach is part of U-M’s broader strategy to engage the Asian country.

"We anticipate an emerging desire in China for stronger collaboration on understanding of cultural traditions and development of contemporary artistic and humanistic responses to China’s situation, building on China’s increasingly vibrant arts scene."

-- U-M's China Task Force Report

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PLAY GALLERY at University of Michigan’s School of Art & Design is redefining the possibilities of video art.

PLAY is the online venue for stories, profiles and videos by and about A&D community. Yet in many ways, it’s about the possibilities of the medium.

Earlier this year, PLAY received an Emmy Award as a top program in the arts and entertainment category. The award is from the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

“Our unique paired websites—one primarily for administrative and news purposes, the other (PLAY) for showcasing the creative work of the A&D community—allows us to effectively transmit to the public the dynamic and diverse character of the school and enter successfully into the media culture represented by the Emmys,” said Bryan Rogers, dean of U-M’s School of Art & Design.

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University of Michigan

MONTAGE REVIEW 2009-2010
Containing more than 100,000 artifacts, the Kelsey Museum of Archeology more than doubled its size with its re-opening in November, 2009. The 20,000-square-foot expansion was made possible through a $8.5-million gift from the late Edwin and Mary Meader. The new wing was named in honor of Mary’s grandfather, the William E. Upjohn Exhibit Wing.

Among the artifacts are excavated materials from Egypt, Turkey, and the Near East, providing an extraordinary glimpse of everyday life in the ancient Mediterranean. The collections include artwork, toys, funerary offerings, sculpture, fragments of paintings, pottery and jewelry.

New displays highlight interconnections among cultures and peoples of the ancient Near East, Egypt, and the world of the Greeks, Etruscans, and Romans.

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One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, University Musical Society (UMS) has a legendary reputation for connecting audiences with performing artists around the world, creating uncommon and engaging experiences.

Each season, UMS focuses on dance, music and theatre from regions of the world that has significant representation in southeastern Michigan. The impact has lead to a deeper understanding of cultural customs, rituals and distinctive expressions that offer deep insight into the history and values of various ethnicities. Last season, UMS presented performing arts of the Arab world.

For the 2010-11 season, UMS features 65 performances by 44 different artists/ensembles, ranging from global jazz performers to bluegrass and country music masters, from international theater to celebrated dance, and from already renowned artists to emerging talent.

Other thematic highlights of the season include three versions of the “Four Seasons” (by Vivaldi, Philip Glass, and Astor Piazzolla), a global focus on the Americas, and several events commemorating artistic anniversaries, including the 200th anniversary of Schumann’s birth and the 100th anniversary of Mahler’s death.
At the heart of UMS’s programming are the signature Choral Union Series and Chamber Arts Series, which continue to feature a stellar lineup of classical music concerts.

In the past year, the MLibrary Gallery (www.lib.umich.edu/gallery) in the Hatcher Graduate Library become a popular gathering place to showcase the arts and creative life. Programs include Author’s Forum, UM Press Author’s Series, World War II exhibition series.

Highlights include the appearance of Uwem Akpan (right), author of “Say You’re One of Them,” “United We Stand: U-M During World War II,” and “Ghost Army,” which unveiled the first public exhibit of the top-secret camouflaged army.

The Shapiro Library drew students from various disciplines to the MLibrary Spotlight Series. Topics included media coverage of the presidential election, a career in the visual and performing arts, and astronomy, where Peggy Daub of special collections gave a compelling presentation of the Galileo letter.

From last summer through the end of the 2009-10 academic year, the U-M Department of Dance celebrated the work of seminal choreographer Paul Taylor. Drawing on her international contacts, Dance Department Chair Angela Kane (left) spearheaded a restaging in February of Taylor’s Le Sacre du Pritemps (The Rehearsal). Kane is the official historian of the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and has been instrumental in bringing the renowned dance company to Ann Arbor for the Paul Taylor Summer Intensive, where professional dancers work with students. In addition to teaching, the annual program includes colloquia and lectures.

Few organists could tackle the daunting task of recording the complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach. James Kibbie (right), professor of organ at U-M’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance, spent three years recording all of 270 Bach’s works (approximately 18 hours). Meticulously conceived and performed, the recordings feature seven historically significant instruments matched to various stylistic requirements of the repertoire.

Kibbie’s work is available on Block M Records. For more information, please visit www.blockmrecords.org
U-M’s **Department of Screen Arts and Cultures** provides students with a critical academic background and opportunities to learn filmmaking techniques. With the production assistance from U-M Lecturer **Terri Sarris**, U-M grad **Sultan Sharrief** created “Bilal’s Stand,” which earned high praise at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival.

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The tenth annual outdoor presentation of a Shakespearean play featured a July performance of “Twelfth Night,” produced by the **Residential College** at Nichols Arboretum. The production stretches audiences’ imagination about the possibilities of conventional theatre.

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Late last fall, the U-M **Michigan Mobile Phone Ensemble** concert was among the most watched videos on YouTube. The class taught by **Georg Essl** (right), an electrical engineer and music professor, combines the contemporary electronic sounds with traditional performance. The result is an innovative, off-beat use for mobile phones -- and certainly got many people to rethink the uses of their cell phones.

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After decades of gathering materials and hunting down leads for hard-to-find collectibles, **Janice and Daniel Longone**’s long investigative journey has yielded a treasure trove of more than 20,000 items relating to American culinary history, kept at U-M’s **William L. Clements Library**.

The Longones donation in June 2010 transforms the university’s current culinary collection into one of the most extensive scholarly resources on the subject of American food, cooking and rituals. Because cooking is inextricably linked to agriculture, class standing, geographic location, ethnic background and technology, the archive offers a “refreshing and different perspective” on American history, said Janice Longone.

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II.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

The establishment of ArtsEngine (formerly Arts on Earth) offers compelling proof of U-M’s commitment to elevating the role of the arts and creativity. In 2009-10, three initiatives demonstrated the innovative approach to broadening academic curriculum and the academic experience for students. The initiatives included “Arts & Bodies,” Creative Process course, and the launch of a university-wide effort to integrate the arts.

Starting this fall, U-M offers Living Arts, a residential community that brings together students in the arts, architecture and engineering and other disciplines with a distinct focus in developing students’ creativity. The leading-edge program combines a playful environment to encourage openness and experimentation along with informal interaction with a range of subject experts.

Living Arts is the first North Campus living-learning community in U-M’s history -- and the first of its kind in the United States.

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This is fall, Arts at Michigan begins a ground-breaking study to examine how U-M undergraduates’ co-curricular and extra-curricular arts engagement influences their development as students. The comprehensive study is expected to illuminate what until now has been intangible, that is, how involvement and participation in the arts contributes to college and post-college learning.

Arts at Michigan produces a comprehensive “student focused” website and E-Newsletter that presents the wide rage of events and ways students can participate and appreciate the arts at the University of Michigan.

In addition, Arts at Michigan offers $10,000 student mini-grants to support student-initiated arts projects. Last year, 27 projects were awarded. Recipients included Basement Arts, Fortnight
Literary Press, Dance Student Assembly, Human Rights Through Education, Film and Video Student Association, and Salto Dance Company.

Increasing student awareness of the arts on campus is the mission of the Arts Ambassadors program. Residential hall students record their experiences with the arts, and interact with other interested students, attending events together and fostering dialogues on the arts. The result is more and more students are attending exhibits, foreign film showings, and getting together to discuss and participate in the arts.

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University of Michigan’s Library Scholarly Publishing Office (SPO) is transforming the academic publishing.

In the past, the academic publishing model produced scholarly works for increasingly esoteric subjects and a shrinking number of buyers. SPO has designed an affordable and sustainable publishing solution that provide robust online delivery, informative statistics, flexible physical delivery options and a variety of control methods.

SPO provides on-demand printing for limited edition books with its Espresso Book Machine, located inside the Shapiro Undergraduate Library. The machine is available to print books from U-M’s digital catalog, and producing review copies of the U-M Press’ books.

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Integrated Product Development (IPD) is an innovative, cross-disciplinary course aimed to solve real-world problems. The course, spearheaded by U-M’s School of Arts & Design faculty is derived from key partnerships with faculty in engineering, business, architecture, public policy and anthropology.

During the past year, the course was taught by A&D Professor Shaun Jackson and Business Professor Bill Lovejoy. Working in multidisciplinary teams, the course develops appreciation for the precess of customer-oriented innovation, design and manufacturing. The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, BusinessWeek and CNN have reported on the timeliness of the course. And, BusinessWeek named IPD as one of the top design courses in the world.

In addition, A&D Professor John Marshall and Architecture Professor Max Shtein’s “Smart Surfaces” cutting-edge course inspires artists, designers, architects and engineers to collaborate on real-world projects focused on sustainability. U-M academic services calls the timely course one of the most popular on campus.
During the past academic year, U-M offered the first interdisciplinary course on the creative process, entitled UARTS250. The class is taught by faculty from the School of Art & Design, College of Engineering, Alfred A. Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and School of Music, Theatre & Dance. The class is “one of the university’s most intriguing courses,” according to student-run newspaper Michigan Daily.

The aim of the course is to teach students how to recognize, articulate and develop their creative impulses into fully realized creative projects.

Perhaps ArtsEngine’s most ambitious goal is to transform the curriculum in public research universities to establish a central role for the arts. The explicit aim is to show the power of the arts to inspire and shape creativity, foster innovation and deepen multi-cultural understanding.

During 2009-10, extensive discussions were held to chart the transformation. The Arts Integration Initiative sets the course to establish the arts and creativity as a central part of the university’s core identity alongside research and its preeminent place among other higher education institutions in the fields of medicine, law, engineering and humanities.

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Each year, the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) explores themes from multi-disciplinary perspectives. In 2009-2010, LSA presented the “Meaningful Objects,” exploring the educational, cultural and academic purposes of museums in the digital age, a time when curators face challenges of accessibility, interactivity and how to compete for the attention of students and general public.

Past theme semesters include explorations of the cultural significance of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Brown v. Board of Education, Chinese history, energy and the universe. Activities include lectures, concerts, exhibits and community reading programs.

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With the goal of inspiring young, prospective engineers, FIRST Robotics is a nationwide, annual competition aimed at challenging teams of high school students to build the best robot. U-M’s College of Engineering provides a practice arena, and mentors for area high schools each year.

Students were inspired and showed great potential in this year’s competition, held in February.
Each year, the University Musical Society’s Youth Education Program serves nearly 25,000 school-age children, teachers and parents in southeastern Michigan. UMS offers extensive teacher training and curriculum development and an annual “teen production,” and specially designed family performances. The program is made possible through key partnerships with Ann Arbor Public Schools, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program, Neutral Zone and many other area youth and family organizations.

In addition, UMS’s Adult Education and Community Engagement Program explores the arts, artists, cultures and ideas presented during the UMS season. Through educational and social events designed for culturally diverse audiences, UMS presents artists interviews, panel discussions, symposia and workshops to create help students and the general public build vital connections with various cultures.

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Ten faculty members at the Alfred A. Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning were awarded grants to examine how scholars collect research through the act of making. The aim of the work is to dissolve the barrier between research and design, and open new possibilities for creators in design and architecture.

Furthermore, Taubman College established ArcStart, a pre-architecture program designed to introduce students to experience the studio intensity of a bachelor of science degree in architecture. The program hosts 18 students from across Michigan, from July to August. Students are selected based on the strength of their portfolios. This year, students came from Ann Arbor, Detroit, Canton, Grosse Pointe Park, Farmington Hills, Midland, Plymouth, Saline, Southfield, Troy and West Bloomfield.

“When we got here, it was a little of college life, but the program was full throttle. We were learning all the basics of undergraduate coming into Taubman College would learn. It was amazing.”

-- Adonis Robinson, 17, Southfield resident ArcStart participant

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III.
SOCIAL IMPACT

Two decades ago, the University of Michigan Digital Library Program began a comprehensive, strategic approach to allow access to its collections and how it provides services. In 2009-10, there were further compelling signs that U-M continues to be a leader in ushering in the digital revolution, and helping millions of people gain access to vital research sources.

In the past year, U-M Library took major strides to:

- Further digitize the collections and supporting large-scale conversion of materials
- Develop tools and services to support information access
- Enhance capability to share expertise and resources with the broader scholarly community
- Elevate the library’s stature in shaping national and international dialogue on the range of issues inherent in the digital information revolution.

These advancements are keeping with U-M’s commitment to finding innovative ways to gain access to knowledge, and to how new knowledge is made.

The partnership with Google has allowed for the digitization of vast numbers of books in a short amount of time. In addition, the partnership has stirred international scholarly discourse about open access, reexamining copyrights of authors, and publishing mechanics of scholarly works.

Digitization allows for the following:

- For books to be search for key words providing results in seconds
- For one inaccessible books (because of rarity and fragile condition) to be seen outside the building were they are kept
- Print on demand reprints of copies of rare or out-of-print books
HathiTrust, the universal digital library, is a product of MLibrary innovation. The trust is made up of libraries, committed to “knowledge management,” along with preserving and improving accessibility to books.

The initial infrastructure, management and nurturing of the idea has now grown into a repository with 26 partners providing access to over 5 million books. The profound impact means now scholarly resources can be accessed from around the world.

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With the loss of population in two of the state’s largest cities comes the reality of dealing with a dwindling tax base and reduced federal support. Alfred A. Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning provided valuable research on demographical trends in its Shrinking Cities project. The research examines the difficult choices faces cities with decreasing population, and offers compelling empirical evidence of some tough realities.

And, as proof of its commitment to underserved communities, the college of architecture established StudioDetroit:HS aimed at working with high school students, especially those who might not be exposed to the field of architecture.

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University of Michigan Museum of Art offers tours to the community and schools. Recently, UMMA presented a symposium to teach caregivers of Alzheimer’s and dementia patients how to use art as a form of therapy.

In addition, UMMA works to attract non-art majors to the museum. For instance, the museum collaborates with the Ann Arbor Art Center to demonstrate how art making can enhance a student’s experience in a traditional curriculum.
In March, the **Prison Creative Arts Project** (PCAP) presented the Fifteenth Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners. (Right: Painting from 2010 exhibit.) The show at the **Duderstadt Center Gallery** is the largest exhibition of prisoner art in the country. The exhibition included more than 300 works of art by over 200 artists, shedding light on the talents to be found behind prison walls and encouraging the public to take a second look.

Free and open to the public, the exhibition and surrounding educational events raise awareness and inspire dialogue between the incarcerated and the community at large.

Founded in 1990, PCAP is a pioneering program that provides university courses, a nonprofit organization, and a national network for incarcerated youth and adults in Michigan juvenile facilities and prisons. By giving incarcerated individuals an opportunity to participate in the arts, PCAP enables them to withstand and often overcome the conditions and culture of prison, the policies of an incarcerating state, and the consequences of mass incarceration.

"**PCAP continually opens the doors to the stark reality of our criminal justice system as well as our society’s ability to right the wrongs of that system and provide justice to millions of men, women, and children . . .**"

—Anne Bowles, Policy and Outreach Associate, Institute for Higher Education Policy

Each year, **Detroit Connections** links U-M’s **School of Arts & Design** students with fourth-graders at Detroit public elementary schools. The semester-long visual and performance art projects have proven to enhance students cognitive and creative abilities.

The program along with the School of Arts & Design’s gallery, **Work:Detroit**, are among the most high-profile demonstrations of combining academic study with issues facing urban schools.
University of Michigan Press’ publishing Tobin Sieber’s “Disability Aesthetics” pried open the discourse on how sensibilities of disable people are shaped and should be considered alongside others.

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University of Michigan’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum sponsored a whimsical public art project that brought together local artists, U-M’s School of Art & Design with students from Ann Arbor Public Schools.

The Flamingo Project, which inspired artists and students to paint versions of the long-legged bird, encouraged community participation, and a reimagining of the possibilities of the property.

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Gifts of Art is one of the first and most comprehensive arts-in-healthcare programs nationwide. The program displays art throughout the University of Michigan Health System, evoking a vital connection between the creative spirit inherent in artmaking and the positive attitudes that can foster healing.

In 2010, Elaine Sims (right), director of Gifts of Art, was honored by the Society for the Arts in Healthcare for her work in the program.
In addition to creating an environment filled with creative works, UM Health System’s Cancer Center’s Art Therapy Program provides a therapeutic outlet for patients and their families utilizing art material in a form of expression.

Research has proven that art making has a positive impact on pain management, depression, anxiety and stress reduction. As a complement to the therapy program, the Health System’s Voices Art Gallery offers a space where people living with cancer can share their stories. The artwork in the gallery tells inspiring individual stories to help encourage and educate others who are experiencing cancer.

During National Mental Health Month, the Health Sciences Libraries hosted a 35-piece exhibit by people who utilize Community Mental Health Services. Creative Minds Changing Minds is a program that draws upon the arts as a way to help people break through the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

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IV. ECONOMIC IMPACT

As the state of Michigan faces its most difficult economic challenges since the Great Depression, there is a pressing need to diversity the range of job skills and industries. Touting itself as one of the most friendly states for film production companies, the state of Michigan has risen quickly as one of the favorite locations for independent and high-profile filmmakers. As a result, the state of Michigan is widely viewed as the most cost-effective, resourceful and up-and-coming places to produce films.

The University of Michigan is pursuing several ways to develop the state’s film industry, while educating students for jobs in the fledgling economy. Among the notable accomplishments:

**U-M Film Office and City of Ann Arbor** working together to promote the region as a unique place to shoot films, and for post-production work. Since 2008, nine major films have been shot on campus, and have drawn on local businesses and students.

In 2010, University of Michigan and **Traverse City Film Festival** established an educational partnership. The alliance brings faculty and students to northern Michigan for the week-long international festival. While faculty participate in panel discussions and teaching courses at the festival’s film institute, U-M students gain the exclusive opportunity to premiere two of the top short films that come out of an advanced screenwriting class.

Effectively, the partnership is a symbol of U-M’s commitment to elevate the university and the state as economic opportunities emerge in the expanding film industry.

In July, **U-M, Michigan State University** and **Wayne State University** formed the **Creative Film Alliance**, which brings together faculty and students at the three schools. Sharing and consoli-
In the basement of a downtown Ann Arbor building near Google’s and Ann Arbor Spark’s local offices, U-M student entrepreneurs shared space, equipment and ideas at TechArb, a student business accelerator. The one-time student summer experiment is now supported year-round by the university.

During summer ’09 at TechArb, a local company developed “Do Good,” an iPhone app that sends daily good deeds to do. The New York Times named it the app of the week in July 2009, and it since has been purchased by Tonic, a national media company.

The renovated Digital Fabrication Lab (FABLab) at Alfred A. Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning leverages state-of-the-art industrial technology to perform architectural fabrication research. It is one of the few select academic institutions around the world utilizing robotic automation to perform both subtractive and additive manufacturing processes. These technologies have existed in the aerospace and automotive industries, but have recently been adapted in architectural fabrication.

In 2009, Architect Magazine named Taubman College’s lab as one of the top three digital design and fabrication programs. (www.architectmagazine.com/education/arch-ed-2009.aspx)

Innovatium, run by University of Michigan’s Stephen M. Ross School of Business professors Jeff DeGraff (right) and colleagues Kim Cameron and Bob Quinn, is a think-tank and research lab for innovation. The focus is on growth through the development of innovation practices and leaders, which DeGraff refers to as “creativizers.”
V.

LEADERSHIP

In January, a landmark conference, “American Orchestra Summit,” explored the challenges facing American orchestras. Held at U-M, the conference organized by U-M’s Mark Clague (right) attracted orchestra administrators, scholars, journalists and musicians from around the country. Participants focused primarily on learning how organizational structures and strategies have helped and/or hurt an orchestra’s viability; and, how to further build on the vital relationship between an orchestra and its community.

A month later, Clague brought together an impressive and timely symposium that explored the legacy of Motown. The gathering included former Motown musicians, top music writers and explored the cultural impact of the music company that redefined popular music. Both conferences help to elevate discourse on the significance of perpetuating professional organizations and exploring musical, cultural legacy.

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Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning spearheaded and hosted the Future of Design and Future of Urbanism symposia. Experts in a range of design fields came from around the world to present views on the fast-changing world of design, from communications to digital space to interiors to traditional architecture.

Among the esteemed presenters was Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Dean Monica Ponce de Leon (right) along with speakers from YouTube, National Endowment for the Arts, Goldman Sachs, and Architect Magazine, and universities from around the country, including Princeton, California College of the Arts, Harvard, Illinois Institute of Technology, Ohio State, Art Institute of Chicago, Yale and Kentucky.

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“Alumni as Mentors” is a program overseen by U-M’s School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Each year, U-M alumni return to campus to discuss “real world” career challenges with students. In the past few years, two of U-M’s most celebrated musical theatre grads -- Hunter Foster and Gavin Creel -- have returned to campus to talk about the realities of Broadway. The annual reunion is a way the School of Music, Theatre & Dance is helping students understand the demands of a musical career, and, in some instances, offering practical contacts in the highly competitive field.

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