

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Program Closure: Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management



RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management in the Graduate School.

RESOLUTION:

“Be it resolved that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees approve the closure of the Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management in The Graduate School.”

BACKGROUND:

The Arts Leadership and Cultural Management (ALCM) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program has been closed to new admissions since March 2023. Established initially as Arts Administration in 2011 situated within Dramatic Arts, this interdisciplinary degree had been slated to become an independent school-level program in the School of Fine Arts (SFA). When the Director decided to leave UConn early in 2023, however, the entire future of the program became uncertain. Given increasingly challenging resource and recruitment issues with the program, and the broader UConn budget environment, Interim Dean Frogley, in consultation with The Graduate School and current students, decided to suspend admissions, appoint an Interim Director, and institute a teach-out plan for the remaining students, leaving a final decision on the long-term future of the degree until the appointment of a new permanent Dean.

After her arrival at UConn in 2024, incoming Dean Fitzgerald reviewed the program and concluded that, despite the program’s many strengths, SFA did not have the resources to provide the ALCM MFA with adequate ongoing support, and that it should therefore close permanently, once all remaining students had completed their studies. Now that this has been accomplished, SFA wishes to formalize the closure process. This decision was fully supported by the outgoing Interim Director of the program, all Department Heads in SFA, and other leadership within the school.

Students were last admitted into the program in February 2023. There are no current students in the program, therefore no teach-out plan is required. The program will be removed from the Connecticut Office of Higher Education inventory of academic programs after the current academic year.