MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Deans and Faculty

FROM: Elizabeth Garrett
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: November 10, 2011

SUBJECT: USC International Artists Program

I am pleased to announce the creation of the USC International Artists, a program that will offer graduate fellowships to promising artists from the broad Pacific Rim, including India and Brazil, for study in USC’s five preeminent arts schools – Architecture, Cinematic Arts, Fine Arts, Music and Theatre. The program is for international students working on terminal graduate degrees in our flagship graduate arts programs. It will build on the university’s signature strength in the arts, enrich USC’s vibrant academic and arts community, and deepen our global connections.

As the influence of the Pacific Rim rises, so has the prominence of Los Angeles as the creative capital of the Pacific Rim. Taking advantage of Los Angeles as a global center for the arts and new media, the USC International Artists will have a unique opportunity to interact and work with artists in Los Angeles while receiving exceptional training and support from USC’s internationally acclaimed faculty and benefitting from the USC Fisher Museum where historic, modern and contemporary art is exhibited. This combination of global metropolis, outstanding faculty, vibrant community and extensive resources will promote the fellows’ growth as artists, filmmakers, actors, directors, musicians, or architects.

USC is uniquely suited to create an International Artists program. As you know, we enroll more international students than any other university in the United States, an attribute mirrored in Los Angeles, which is home to several established international communities from around the world. Together USC’s arts schools enroll well over 5000 graduate and undergraduate students in its degree programs and, including the Fisher Museum, sponsor more than 1,000 recitals, performances, exhibitions, screenings, and lectures each year. In addition, we challenge all of our students to engage in the arts and humanities through curriculum, lectures and events. We are committed to the notion that artistic practice and creativity are crucial to the individual and to our collective future.

The first class of International Artists will enroll in Fall 2013. When fully phased in, the program will support about 15 fellows. Admission decisions will be made by the schools to
insure talent and promise remain the primary criteria. All tuition, fees, housing and living expenses will be paid by the award allowing these fellows to focus on creativity and producing new work. Further, they will have regular and planned opportunities to interact with their peers from the five arts disciplines.

In launching this exciting fellowship opportunity, we are creating a new international artist community in what some call the “global conservatory of Los Angeles” – a community that celebrates global perspectives, artistic exchange and academic values. Beyond the arts schools, the presence of international artists on our campus will enrich the intellectual community that includes the arts and humanities, the natural and social sciences, and the professions. As it develops, the USC International Artists program will form a global network of visionary artists that will continue well beyond their residence at USC.

A brochure describing the program is now in production, an original version of which can be viewed at: https://globalconference2011.usc.edu/files/2011/10/USC_IAF.pdf. Should you have any questions in the interim, feel free to send them to globalartists@usc.edu.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
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