At the University of California San Diego, challenging convention is our most cherished tradition. The Campaign for UC San Diego is a university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort to transform the student experience, our campus, and ultimately the way humanity approaches problems and develops solutions.

Division of Arts and Humanities

The Engine of Creative Innovation

How do we upend convention for the next generation of artists, scholars, and breakers? 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. Newly launched initiatives like the Institute of Arts and Humanities meld disciplines. Armed with foundational knowledge, transferable skills, and enduring experience, our graduates don’t just impact the workforce — they transform it.

Our long-view vision fuels the enduring engine of cross-campus innovation through initiatives like the Institute of Arts and Humanities, as well as the Institute for Practical Ethics and Emerging Technology in the Arts. 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 make sense of the world 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.

3rd in the nation
Time-based media/new media fine arts program; Latin American History ranked 12th best (U.S. News & World Report)

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

23rd in the world
Arts and Humanities jumped up 10 spots this past year (U.S. News & World Report global rankings)

Renowned faculty
Including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony 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.
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 2,500 undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty to make art, to make history, to make waves.

Learn more at campaign.ucsd.edu

Division of Arts and Humanities Priorities

Enhancing the student experience

» 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 Mentoring Program opens doors to relationships that frame new futures.

Enriching our campus community

» A new Arts and Humanities Building will bring together disparate departments in the vibrant “Living-Learning Neighborhood,” creating a physical hub for ideas and ideals to thrive.

» The Institute of Arts and Humanities supports graduate students and faculty as they cultivate research, teaching, and public dialogue in the global arts and humanities.

» 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.

Sparking 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.

» By strengthening technical training and innovation opportunities for artists, the Emerging Technology in the Arts initiative revolutionizes computing and engineering.