To: Bilin Tsai
From: Jean R. Perrault (SFA/UCT Chair)
RE: UCT-Mid May Report
Date: May 8, 2013

**SFA Unit Change Team** (*chair*)
- Kenneth Bloom (Tweed Museum of Art)
- Lori Melton (Glensheen)
- Wanda Pearcy (Art & Design)
- Elias Mokole (Music)
- Rebecca Katz Harwood (Theatre)
- Jean R. Perrault (Music)*

**Number of meetings** during the 2012-2013 academic year Two (2)
Tuesday September 18th at 8:00 a.m (SFA Conference Room)
Friday, March 29th at 4:45pm (SpHc 119)
(Many items were decided/resolved via emails and through Google Doc)

**2012-2013 SFA-UCT priority as established in our spring 2012 report**
First two weekends events for SFA
- The School of Fine Arts will present Kevin Kling and Simone Perrin on September 14th. This show will feature several stories around the topic of living with disability.

An African Art/Music Festival (April 2-6, 2013)
- Pianist Daryl Hollister to perform works by composers of African descent
- Catalyst Quartet (from the Sphinx Organization) to perform
- Storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston to perform with UMD Symphony Orchestra and give workshops on storytelling
- All performers will be available to interact all of the SFA Units to artists to submit visual artwork on the subject African Art/Music/Culture and have it hung in the lobby of the Weber Hall
- UMD Percussion Ensemble with guest artist(s)
- Other possibilities to explore
  - Chloe Arnold (Tap dancer)
  - Diane Monroe (Jazz violinist) exploring Jazz and Spirituals
  - Saint Louis African Chorus (Saint Louis, MO)
  - Dance Troupe Makandal (from NYC)
  - Master Drummer Sowah Mensah (from Minnesota)

Redesign UMD seminar from 1 to 3 credits to meet SFA and/or diversity credit for arts collaboration, creation and diversity.

**Plan winter 2014**
- Collaboration between Dance and Music
- Involvement with Norshor Theatre
- Using the space for an All SFA event
- Yearlong Project versus Short
- A Yearly/Biennially Festival of Cultures from around the world with participation of all SFA units
A new series of multifaceted informal talks about what it perspectives and related issues will play a key role in changing the Culture and Climate on this campus.

**What were we able to accomplish during 2012-2013?**

**Events during Bulldog Welcome Week.**
- The September 14th concert in Weber Hall around the topic of living with disability.
- **African Music Festival** (April 2-6, 2013). This was a scaled back version of the original plan.
  - Mezzo Soprano Chantal Lavigne performed Music from African Ritual Services
  - Catalyst String Quartet (A Sphinx Organization) performing works of composers from African descent
  - Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir performing in the traditional gospel genre
  - Sowah Mensah (from Ghana) playing traditional African percussion and performing with UMD percussion ensemble, Harbor City High School, Macalester African Percussion Group, Sing! A Women’s Chorus, with opening performance by Nettleton Elementary School “World Beat Drummers”
  - Dr. Joshua Russell (piano) performing with UMD Symphony Orchestra. Music of composers from African descent.
- **Additional related activities**
  - Master class with Chantal Lavigne and UMD voice students
  - “Lunch Discussion” with Chantal Lavigne on issues of race, roots and challenges
  - Teaser performance by Catalyst String quartet for all music students in Weber Hall, followed by Q&A
  - Master class with members of Catalyst Quartet for UMD string students
  - Workshop and master class by Sowah Mensah with members of UMD Percussion Ensemble, Harbor City High School, Sing! A Women’s Chorus.
  - Master class by Dr. Joshua Russell with UMD piano students
- The Tweed Museum regularly programs artists and artworks that reflect diversity

**Still on the docket**
- Redesign of UMD seminar - From 1 credit to 3 credits, integrate disciplines that would teach how to go college but also meet SFA and/or diversity credit for arts collaboration, creation and diversity.
- Commitment to diversity as reflected in University policy can become reflected in museum collection policies.
- Long-term planning for programming an all SFA Event (Time and venue TBD)
- With enough prior notice the Tweed Museum can target more specific diversity projects to complement SFA programming.
- The collaboration between members of the Music faculty and members of the Dance faculty for the Department of Theatre Dance Concert in February 2014 is going forward. The Dance Concert will be featuring all live music, and participating musicians will be drawn from the local community, UMD faculty and students, and two guest artists from outside our region.

**What do we think was the most beneficial?**
- Funding from various UMD groups and offices made the African Music Festival (with all of its attached activities) and the Kevin Kling show a possibility.
- The Festival (purposely) catered to a large swath of audience. People in the community were able to pick and choose the genre(s) or performer they wanted to hear.
- Support from the SFA marketing staff was very beneficial in promoting the Festival.
• Audiences were thrilled with the quality of the performances (surveys collected after each event).
• Posters and word of mouth proved to be an effective tool to publicize the events.

Challenges
• Finding available meeting times for SFA-UCT to meet!!
• Recruiting and retaining faculty and students of color.
• Hiring a “Producer”. Faculty do not have time to pull off the additional responsibilities while teaching a full load.
• Sustainability being able to market events so that they eventually pay for themselves.
• Challenges of convincing and coordinating all departmental units.
• Participation of all SFA collegiate units. Communicating all aspects of projects with various departments proved to be more challenging. Faculty feel the crunch of time and are unwilling to take more class time. For those willing, they need more lead time to prepare and participate.
• Apathy of large portion of the faculty and student body. Unless it is a required activity, students tended not to participate.