Agile thinking for a changing world
The world that surrounds the original Arts building of 1843 – where early generations of McGill students attended courses in classics, logic, mathematics, history, and law – is today transformed nearly beyond recognition. And the challenges that await Arts graduates are more complex than ever before.

Resource scarcity and climate change are destabilizing political systems around the world. Globalization and evolving technologies are changing our relationship to information, language, and even our own identities.

As the fourth industrial revolution transforms the world, many of today’s jobs will soon be obsolete.
What will it take to meet these challenges, and to capitalize on the new opportunities that are emerging in tandem?
Students with the energy to seize opportunities and forge their own way.

Researchers with the creativity to see past boundaries, and collaborate with colleagues in science, engineering, health sciences and other fields.
Thinkers who can bring nuance to questions such as how we can ethically engage with artificial intelligence and disruptive tech, and how we can balance prosperity with equality.

Graduates with the intellectual agility and diversity of experience to not only navigate rapid changes, but help drive them.
Although nearly everything else about McGill and its Faculty of Arts has changed over the last two centuries, one thing that has remained constant is our commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge, and providing students with a far-reaching education that prepares them to lead in building a better world.

The Faculty is now home to 9,000 students from over 100 countries. And our alumni include Kyoto, Pulitzer, Grammy and Academy Award winners, prime ministers, entrepreneurs, writers and leaders in many other fields.

What gives McGill’s Faculty of Arts a distinctive edge as we seek to solve pressing global challenges and prepare the leaders of the future?

### The breadth and depth of our expertise

More than 300 professors teaching across 15 departments and eight Institutes and Schools. From Anthropology to Economics, Linguistics to Philosophy, Religious Studies to Social Work, and a host of other disciplines, the Faculty is home to a diverse cadre of scholars at the very top of their games. This gives us the strength to excel across fields, and has helped the Faculty attract rising stars in research – and significant grant funding in the social sciences and humanities, year after year.

### A commitment to interdisciplinarity

The most creative and relevant new knowledge often emerges at the intersection of fields and disciplines. That’s why the Faculty has long been a pioneer in promoting interdisciplinary research and teaching, with 22 interdisciplinary programs that reflect both traditional strengths and emerging areas of inquiry, from our Bachelor of Arts and Science to Social Entrepreneurship studies.

### A focus on the questions that matter

The humanities and social science disciplines that constitute the Faculty of Arts share a common endeavour: to understand the human condition in order to improve it. A creative and contextually rich approach to complex problems is our stock in trade, giving us the perspective to help address some of the most critical issues of our time.

### Local connections and global reach

Existing in one of the world’s great cultural and artistic cities, and connected to universities, governments, public organizations and industry partners around the world, the Faculty’s doors are open to the myriad possibilities beyond our campus.

### An international network of alumni leaders

More than 70,000 Arts alumni excel as business innovators, leaders of government, cultural icons, and academic and thought leaders in nearly every field of endeavour – and all over the world. Arts alumni support the Faculty in countless ways: as mentors to our students, as connectors who help graduates succeed, and as donors whose contributions have helped elevate us to new heights.

### Our students

Thinkers and doers, students in the Faculty of Arts are among the best in Canada and the world. Engaged, creative, contemplative, entrepreneurial: Arts students are driven to excel, and they want to make a difference on a global scale. McGill Arts students thrive where academic rigour and the opportunity to dream collide.
This is our vision

Building on our strengths, the Faculty of Arts has a bold vision for delivering on our promise of an outstanding education and helping to shape a more inclusive, prosperous and humane future. This vision is rooted in a clear-eyed view of where we have distinctive capacity, and where we can have the greatest impact – and how we can create opportunities that open doors for our students, enhancing their time at the Faculty with unparalleled chances to connect with their peers, faculty, and issues that matter.

Our goal is to strengthen our capacity to address the challenges of the future.
Our vision is organized around four key pillars:

**Addressing Global Challenges**
How can we understand technological transformations, including the complex impacts of artificial intelligence? How might we use data science to improve the ways we evaluate and deliver services to vulnerable communities? How should we look at diversity and its challenges, from religious extremism to mass migration and refugee crises? Across disciplinary boundaries, we are focusing our efforts on some of the most critical problems of our day.

**Nurturing Brilliance for the Future**
We will ensure that we provide an outstanding learning environment for our students in and outside the classroom – including enhanced academic advising and support to sustain and expand our thriving Arts Internship Office. We have fostered exceptional student experiences for young people for nearly two centuries, and as we enter our third, we are committed to creating ever more ways for future generations to discover their purpose.

**Shaping Humanities for the 21st Century**
Now more than ever, the Humanities have a vital role to play in addressing the complex problems we face. We will engage our distinctive strengths in the Humanities disciplines to add context and nuance to issues of pluralism and democracy, and themes that define our sense of self, the dynamics of our society, and how we understand and engage with the creative process.

**Supporting Indigenous Success**
We will build on the recommendations of the 2017 McGill Provost’s Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education, and on the Calls to Action of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, by leading in McGill’s efforts to support Indigenous success on our campuses and in local communities.
Addressing global challenges

Social, environmental and technological transformations on an unprecedented scale are affecting nearly every aspect of our lives.

Understanding these transformations and learning how best to live with them is a job for thinkers, scholars and actors from nearly every domain, and the Humanities and Social Sciences are at the very heart of this effort.

The scholars working within the Faculty of Arts are among the most accomplished researchers in their fields, with the capacity to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing our world today and change our lives for the better.

Based on our strengths and existing collaborations, we have identified two core areas where we aim to take leadership in finding new solutions to pressing problems:

- **Technology and data for social good**
- **Diversity in all of its dimensions**

Core to our success in these and many other domains is our flagship Max Bell School of Public Policy, a new and innovative hub that aims to translate our knowledge into real-world solutions, while training a new generation of globally-minded policy experts.

**Technology and data for social good**

The era of massive computational capacity – including big data, artificial intelligence and their impact on humanity – has transformed how we live, work and interact.

The digital revolution can be a force for incredible good, but also creates significant unknowns.

Leveraging Montreal’s position as a global artificial intelligence hub, McGill aims to become a world leader in addressing the social impacts of AI and other disruptive technologies, and in using those same technologies to generate new knowledge and advanced thinking across fields.

To achieve this, we seek funding to create a new **Centre for Social Studies of Technological Transformation**.

**Crossing fields and boundaries, the Centre would have three core areas of focus:**

- Technological disruption of markets, with a particular focus on labour markets, industrial structure, health, and environment
- Cultural change, with expertise from the departments of art history and communication studies, history and classical studies, philosophy, and the humanities more generally
- The role and impact of technology on the use of information in political decision-making and the political process

**Establishing this new centre will require investments to create:**

- New Chairs and Professorships to bring leading expertise in different dimensions of technological change
- Funding for graduate students through fellowships that enhance research capacity and help train a new generation of outstanding young scholars
- Support for partnerships and outreach initiatives, including lectureships, workshops, symposia, global research collaborations and public events
Diversity in all of its dimensions

Diversity drives creative collaboration and offers a window into a world of rich perspectives. Yet diversity also lies at the heart of some of the most urgent problems of our time. Understanding how diverse populations can live together is more critical than ever, and the Faculty of Arts is poised to become a leader in the study of diversity across key axes.

To achieve this, we seek funding to establish a new Centre for the Study of Diversity. The Centre would focus its initial efforts on two high-impact interdisciplinary areas:

› Humanitarian and Refugee Crises: Protecting Populations in the 21st Century
› Religion, Public Policy, and Globalization

In order to establish national and international leadership in understanding and addressing diversity, we are seeking philanthropic investments to create:

› Prestigious endowed Chairs in areas including Diversity Studies, Humanitarian Studies, and Refugee Studies and Forced Migration
› An annual named lecture and conference in Diversity Studies
› Graduate fellowships to attract and support outstanding student researchers in these emerging fields
› A new summer school to form and inform students, professionals, and leaders on key issues and problems in the interaction of religion, politics, and society

Public policy for the real world

The complexity of modern challenges requires that we think about policy differently, that we develop our policy leaders differently, and that our best policy schools be designed differently.

Enter the Max Bell School of Public Policy, which promises to do just that through innovative teaching, applied policy research, effective public outreach, and credible policy engagement. Launched in 2018, the Max Bell School has extraordinary potential to ensure that the fruits of our research are translated into effective policy, and that government, politics and a host of other fields benefit from a new generation of policy leaders.

To meet its full potential, the Max Bell School of Public Policy is seeking support for:

› Fellowships to ensure that a diverse range of students can have access to the School’s programs
› Speakers series, podcasts and video creation, lectures and other programs aimed at bringing the policy conversation to the public
› A national Case Study Competition to encourage policy students from across Canada to engage with important national issues
› Travel, training and international engagement for students and faculty members within the School
Future-ready policy leaders.
Taught by experts with a global perspective.
Made by McGill.

Jennifer Welsh
Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Max Bell School of Public Policy
Canada 150 Research Chair in Global Governance and Security. Director of the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies.
Preparing students who are not just career-ready, but future-ready, requires more than just an outstanding disciplinary education. It requires ensuring that our students are welcomed and supported throughout their time in the Faculty, with advisors and resources to help guide their choices and encourage their success. It requires giving them opportunities for hands-on learning, and encounters with global perspectives.

To achieve this, the Faculty is seeking to enhance two of its flagship student learning and support initiatives, as well as support for graduate students.

**Enhancing Arts student advising**

McGill’s Faculty of Arts is home to some of the most talented students in Canada. In order to help them achieve their goals, we aim to enhance and consolidate all of our student advising services within a new, one-stop Student Advising Centre. The Centre would be a resource for students to meet with advisors with the training and expertise to support their aspirations and a hub for evolving online learning and support tools.

**To create this new Centre, we seek funding for:**

› Creating innovative advising and establishing optimal student-advisor ratios

› Building dedicated resources for study-away opportunities and welcoming international students

› Recruiting student consultants to enhance our programming

› Hiring qualified personnel to enhance web services and promote e-learning

**Building on the success of the Arts Internship Office**

The Arts Internship Office (AIO) is McGill’s flagship hub for high-quality student internship and international experiences. Among its many offerings, the AIO sends more than 250 students to intern in more than 30 countries each year.

**To ensure that the AIO can sustain its current activities, and grow and evolve to meet future needs, we seek funding for:**

› Support for program delivery and the sustainability of programs for the long term

› Expanded programming, workshops and support for students

› A larger suite of Arts Research Internship Awards (ARIAs), which offer students the chance to work hand-in-hand with top McGill researchers during the summer

› A greater number of McGill International Experience Awards, helping reach the goal of $10 million in funding for this flagship university-wide program

**Supporting graduate students**

Graduate students are an integral part of the Faculty of Arts. The Faculty’s commitment is to training the next generation of scholars and researchers, and to encouraging innovative scholarship that provides the insights needed to understand and guide our rapidly changing society. Our goal is to ensure that the Faculty continues to attract and retain the very best from around the world.

**McGill’s Third Century Scholars**

For two centuries, McGill has trained graduate students who have gone on to become pivotal actors in their fields, transforming the academy and society for the better.

We now seek funding for a Third Century Scholars initiative. This will allow us to offer full multi-year master’s and doctoral level fellowships, as well as post-doctoral fellowships, in the Humanities and in the Social Sciences.

**McGill’s Global Scholars**

Research in the field – from collecting survey data, to examining cultural practices, to perusing archival records – is a crucial necessity for many graduate students.

To assist graduate students as they embark on these activities, we seek funding for international graduate field research, through the flagship McGill International Experience Awards.
A curator in the making.
Shaped by opportunities for hands-on learning.

Made by McGill.

Davin Luce
Honours Art History student
Students’ Society of McGill University Curatorial Intern
at the Visual Arts Collection of the McGill Library.
Shaping Humanities for the 21st century

Now more than ever, the Humanities have a vital role to play in addressing the complex problems of our time.

The Humanities are unique in their ability to critically examine the values that drive us; to bring a long-term perspective to processes such as environmental changes and global migrations; and to examine what constitutes our humanity in the face of technologies that blur the lines between machine and person.

The Humanities are also gaining new energy as essential partners with STEM and other disciplines in tackling many of the social, political and environmental challenges that we collectively face.

The Faculty of Arts is home to some of the finest Humanities researchers in the world. To maximize their ability to contribute to the world around us, we are building novel interdisciplinary programs that unite our strengths in new ways, and focus on questions that we are distinctly able to answer.

We are seeking funding to help us create three flagship Humanities initiatives for McGill's third century:

- A new Centre for Pluralism and Democracy
- A hub to understand the creative process
- A world-class Arts and Media Centre

A new Centre for Pluralism and Democracy

The Faculty aims to build a Centre on Pluralism and Democracy to foster multidisciplinary research on a wide range of democratic traditions – and their alternatives – in different regions of the world.

The Centre will bring to bear expertise from the departments of History and Classical Studies, Philosophy, Political Science and the School of Religious Studies, among others, to examine historical precedents for democratic erosion, as well as questions of ethics, pluralism and religion. The result: a powerful new engine for understanding issues that are having a profound effect on nations and global relationships.

To create this new Centre, we are seeking funding to:

- Create endowed Chairs in core areas including the evolution of democracy; the rise and fall of democratic institutions; ethics; pluralism; and the history and philosophy of religion
- Support new graduate fellowships in these same areas, enhancing research capacity and attracting top young scholars
- Create public outreach initiatives and scholarly symposia and workshops to share knowledge, foster debate, and secure McGill’s place as a recognized hub for new ideas in this domain
A hub to understand the creative process

Creativity is a defining feature of our humanity. It offers us access to emotion and empathy, perspectives on ethics, and helps us imagine narratives for the future. These qualities are particularly essential as we interact with technologies that challenge our sense of what it means to be human. The Faculty of Arts aims to build two novel programs focused on artistic creation:

› Creating a new Institute for Literary Creation/Institut de création littéraire

Led by the Department of French Language and Literature, the Faculty seeks to build a new, multidisciplinary initiative focused on how the creative process interacts with, reacts to and can inform a technology-driven world. The Institute’s work will highlight links between artistic expression and modes of survival in a contemporary global world, and address how knowledge and research related to the creative process can help guide work in artificial intelligence.

› Making McGill home to the Montreal International Poetry Prize

McGill is experiencing a new energy with respect to creative writing. Building on this momentum, the Faculty is assuming responsibility for the prestigious Montreal International Poetry Prize. Typically drawing more than 2,000 entries from 70 countries, the prize is the first global poetry competition. The Prize brings international prestige to McGill, and will expose our students to the finest poets working in English.

To realize these two initiatives, the Faculty seeks funding for:

› An endowed Chair in the Theory of Creative Practice
› Named Professorships in Poetry and Poetics
› Graduate fellowships to support work on the creative process
› Program support to enhance the scope and reach of the Montreal International Poetry Prize

A new Arts and Media Centre

Reimagining the Humanities for the 21st century requires new and innovative spaces to drive progress with cutting-edge media technologies, along with flexible environments to create and collaborate, and to welcome public participation through lectures, exhibits and screenings.

The new Arts and Media Centre would be a jewel in the Faculty's crown: a nexus for students from across our departments, and a dynamic new environment for teaching, events, curated exhibits, lab-based projects, and film series.

This outstanding new facility would include:

› A high-tech screening room for films, video and multimedia
› A space in which to house selected objects from McGill’s Visual Arts Collection
› A fully-equipped Arts Media Lab
› An “Other Stories” maker space
A Faculty of Arts for McGill’s third century.
Made by donors like Lev Bukhman.
Made by McGill.

BA’93
Founder and CEO of Studentcare, Canada’s leading provider of student healthcare at universities and colleges. Arts Internship Office Campaign Co-Chair. Member of the Faculty of Arts Advancement Board.
Supporting Indigenous success

Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and McGill’s Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education, have made it clear: enhancing our support for Indigenous students and faculty members, and building stronger connections with Indigenous communities, must be a top priority.

Our goal is to become Eastern Canada’s flagship academic institution with respect to Indigenous success. To this end, the Faculty of Arts aims to create a new Institute of Indigenous Studies and Community Engagement.

As a hub for interdisciplinary teaching and research, the Institute would ensure a sense of community for Indigenous scholars and students, crucial to Indigenous success. Furthermore, it would play a prominent role in creating innovative synergies between the social sciences and the humanities. This would be done by placing significant emphasis on humanities-based approaches to local Indigenous epistemologies, cultures, artwork, stories, literatures, languages, translation, publishing, film, video, media, and performance in both French and English as well as in Indigenous languages.

To create the Institute, the Faculty requires support for:

› **Endowed Chairs** in Indigenous Studies and research, including Indigenous Archeology, Indigenous Histories, and Contemporary Indigenous Art and Media Studies.

› An expansion of the McGill Initiative for Indigenous Language Revitalization, a collaboration between the Faculties of Arts and Education. Led by a new Chair in Indigenous Languages and Linguistics, the initiative will include networking events and support for cross-disciplinary Master’s students. Courses offered in the minor, major, and honours programs in Indigenous Studies will play a key role in linguistic and cultural revitalization.

› Enhanced support for Indigenous students, including
  - internships, exchanges, entrance scholarships, and awards for undergraduate Indigenous students enrolling or enrolled in an Indigenous Studies program
  - graduate and postdoctoral awards
  - lecture series associated with the endowed Chairs
  - travel awards for faculty and students to conduct in-community teaching and learning
  - travel awards to enable Indigenous educators and knowledge keepers to participate in the Institute’s teaching, events, and outreach activities

› New, named Indigenous Artist-in-Residence and Elder-in-Residence programs

› New and renovated spaces to house the Institute, showcase Indigenous art and artifacts, host lectures and public events, and foster a sense of connection and community
The Faculty of Arts.
Where futures are made.