

SPRING 2022 | Jan. 18

CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Cornish Community,

As we approach the end of the semester, I want to take a moment to reflect on the challenges we have faced and the resilience of our community. We have navigated a complex and uncertain landscape, but our commitment to learning and growth remains steadfast. We will continue to work together to overcome these challenges and emerge stronger than ever.

In this way, we will enable individuals who must travel and risk greater exposure to the virus to have time to settle in and quarantine, if necessary, before returning to in-person learning. This decision is based on the most recent data and guidance available from government and public health officials to help us minimize disruptions to our living and learning community. I know that this is not how any of us hoped to begin the spring semester, however, we will continue to make agile and proactive decisions that are in the best interest of the health and safety of our campus community.

With this amended timeline, please note the following important items.

- The College will plan to resume in-person instruction on Monday, January 31st. Please remember that the College is offering courses in multiple modalities this semester (in-person, hybrid, online) which will enable us to provide our community with work and learning spaces with decreased building density. If there is any need to continue online learning after January 31st, studio-based curriculum and practicums/labs will be prioritized for in-person instruction so as to ensure that resource and facilities-dependent courses have access to these tools.
- No in-person group rehearsals/practice will be permitted until after Sunday, January 30th. Operations and the Provost's Office will make a few exceptions only to support Spring performances and productions.

Please remember that the disruptions caused by the pandemic are impacting College employees as a whole. Division heads and managers will continue to have the flexibility outlined in the College's Comprehensive Plan to continue to approve remote work for their staff. With this decision though, only designated employees should work on campus through January 30th (unless otherwise approved). As previously communicated, the campus will remain operational during this time - including housing, library, Multimedia Checkout Center, makerspaces, dining, advising, and student services. Buildings will remain largely open during posted building hours and students and faculty can reserve work/practice spaces via Coursedog during this time for solo use. While some offices will be offering services in-person, others will now be operating remotely through the week of January 24th.

We all must take personal responsibility for helping the College to have a safe spring semester. This includes wearing high-quality masks on campus and in the community, staying home when symptomatic or sick, getting a booster shot if eligible, and monitoring our behaviors as they relate to the pandemic. I look forward to meeting with the Dean of Student Affairs and students on Thursday, January 20th to discuss these spring protocols and the College's ongoing commitment to the delivery of its mission.

Given that Omicron is more transmissible than previous variants, the Administration is exploring testing options for the campus community and additional communication will be forthcoming. I believe that the layered use of testing, wearing of high-quality masks, reduced building density, and properly ventilated spaces will be critical to our efforts this semester.

I know that the pandemic is taking its toll on all of us, but I also know that keeping our campus community safe and the arts community and arts education alive in Seattle is well worth it. I thank you for your commitment to this task and wish you a good first week of the semester.

Sincerely,

Raymond Tymas-Jones, Ph.D.
President
Cornish College of the Arts
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