

Arts and Contemporary Studies Program Advisory Council (PAC)

2026 to 2029

I am pleased to announce the new Arts and Contemporary Studies Program Advisory Council (PAC) at Toronto Metropolitan University, with members appointed for a three-year term from 1 June 2026 to 30 May 2029. Bringing together accomplished alumni and professionals from across sectors, the Council offers a range of perspectives and diverse methodologies that reflect the interdisciplinary scope of ACS.

PAC members will provide occasional advice on program development and professional pathways, helping to strengthen connections between academic study and contemporary practice, while supporting our students and expanding the program’s external partnerships.

Irene Gammel, ACS Interim Director



Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio
Community Educator and Cultural Programmer

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio is a community educator and cultural programmer whose work focuses on settlement support, family engagement, and building connections between educators and Filipino communities. With experience in community-engaged education and advisory roles, she brings a strong commitment to inclusive programming and cross-sector collaboration. Her perspective supports the Arts and Contemporary Studies program’s efforts to strengthen community partnerships and connect academic inquiry with lived experience.



Cynthia Lickers Sage
Executive Director, Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance

Cynthia Lickers Sage leads the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance and brings extensive experience across Indigenous arts, policy, and advocacy, including work with the Ontario Arts Council. Her perspective supports ACS in deepening its engagement with Indigenous arts, strengthening relationships with communities, and shaping more responsible approaches to cultural practice and leadership.



Josh Ricco
Arts and Contemporary Studies Alumnus; Arts Advocate

Josh Ricci is an Arts and Contemporary Studies alumnus whose work bridges arts advocacy, youth engagement, and philanthropy. Through leadership with the Toronto Arts Foundation and Pathways to Education, and his advocacy within the 2SLGBTQ+ community, he brings a focus on access, community partnership, and student pathways beyond the classroom. His perspective supports ACS in strengthening connections between creative practice, civic engagement, and career development.



Chen Shen
Co Chief Curator, Art and Culture, Royal Ontario Museum

Dr Chen Shen is Co Chief Curator at the Royal Ontario Museum, specializing in Asian art and material culture. His work in curatorial practice and public engagement brings a global and cross cultural lens to ACS. Through his collaboration with student interns, he helps connect academic study with museum practice and supports the program’s engagement with collections, interpretation, and cultural careers.



Olivia Trojko
Associate, Financial Services, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

Olivia Trojko is an Associate in the Financial Services group at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, where she works on legal and regulatory matters shaping contemporary professional practice. An alumna of the Arts and Contemporary Studies program at Toronto Metropolitan University, she remains actively engaged with the ACS community. She brings a perspective grounded in law, governance, and financial systems, supporting the program’s efforts to connect interdisciplinary study with professional and regulatory contexts.



Angela Wallace
Founder, Angela Wallace Impact Agency (AWIA)

Angela Wallace is an entrepreneur and founder of Angela Wallace Impact Agency (AWIA). A graduate of the Arts and Contemporary Studies program at Toronto Metropolitan University, she remains actively engaged with the ACS community and brings a strong commitment to mentorship and alumni relations. Recognized as a 2024 Trailblazer Award recipient, she contributes valuable perspectives on entrepreneurship, innovation, and external partnerships, supporting the program’s efforts to connect academic learning with professional practice.

“The impact of ACS on my career has been undeniable, and I’m looking forward to the opportunity of making it even better for generations to come.”
Josh Ricci, ACS Alumnus

“I would be glad to offer my perspective on curatorial practice, research, and public engagement in support of the Arts and Contemporary Studies program and its future directions.”
Chen Shen, Deputy Director, Royal Ontario Museum

“I would love to help on the PAC.”
Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio Community Educator and Cultural Programmer