



CHAPTER 5: COMMUNITY

Expand Name Recognition and Visibility

MIAD's Commitment to the Community (5a, 5c)

The college's commitment to the community is, first and foremost, a function of its degree programs through which 90% of graduates find jobs in the first year after graduation. The fact that 75% to 80% of MIAD graduates stay in the region is also not lost on the political, civic and business leaders of the area, who are concerned by what is referred to as the "brain drain." According to analysis by Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY, a publication that has charted higher education trends for more than 40 years, a higher percentage of graduates with bachelor's degrees leave Wisconsin upon graduation than stay here.

MIAD enjoys a close working relationship with regional partners such as A.O. Smith, Fiskars, Masterlock, Shurline-Rubbermaid, Bemis, and Enthermics, as well as local design firms that engage MIAD interns and employ MIAD graduates. In addition, the Visual Resource Design Group provides

professional graphic design work for area non-profit organizations, such as the Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee and the Florentine Opera.

Collaborations have been created with area institutions such as Discovery World, Milwaukee's innovative experiential research and learning facility, and the Milwaukee Art Museum, both located on the shore of Lake Michigan within walking distance of MIAD, as well as the Public Museum and the Milwaukee Public Library. The college held strategic planning sessions at Discovery World in 2008 and 2009, and held three New Student Orientations there. Collaborations have resulted in an increased awareness of the college in the minds of the major leaders of Milwaukee's cultural institutions and have resulted in open access by MIAD's students to their programs and collections. For example, students use the water technology of Discovery World and the ability to draw the species housed in the Public Museum. In summer 2009, Discovery World purchased a MIAD Communication Design student's senior thesis exhibition project for permanent display: Focusing on the environmental consequences of antibiotics in the water supply, this student work drew from class research at Discovery World, exemplifying what MIAD can gain by connecting with the external community.

In March 2009, sixteen Foundations students and their collaborating art and design partners showed their works at an exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum's MAM After Dark program. The exhibition culminated a month-long experimental exchange of ideas between the students and established Milwaukee-based artists and designers. Getting out of the classroom and into the local artist community challenged the freshmen, provided a real-world experience, and gave them the opportunity for an additional audience to view their talent.

Each semester, MIAD liberal studies faculty work closely with librarians at the Milwaukee Public Library to give art history students access to illuminated manuscripts, artists books, and other rare books to supplement their learning. Visits to the library's Rare Book Room connect students directly with primary materials that are discussed in class and introduce collections that may help define the content of studio work in the future. Similarly, collaborations between the Special

Collections Librarian at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Golda Meir Library and faculty of the hybrid Humanities/Fine Arts elective, "Everyday Prophets," have given letterpress and book arts students access to original works in the UWM Special Collections. In addition, the Special Collections Librarian participates in critiques of student work, has exhibited MIAD student work at UWM, and has purchased several finished student pieces to add to the library collection.

MIAD has had a long-standing commitment to arts education. In 2008, MIAD's President was asked to serve on the Milwaukee Public Schools Arts Education Board Advisory Committee with the charge to revitalize and expand arts education for Milwaukee's children and develop broader community support.

The Milwaukee Public Schools Design Project is another community education activity supported by MIAD faculty. Funded through a Title II ESEA grant, the project is a partnership between MIAD, six schools within the Milwaukee Public School District (MPS), and Marquette University. Over two years the MPS Design Project works with interdisciplinary teams of teachers to meet state design/media and technology education standards, expand their use of technology, and build cross-disciplinary teaching communities within their schools. The program provides teachers with opportunities to collaborate and support one another in the school environment while offering innovative and effective learning experiences to their students. Many participant schools access MIAD's Future Designers program with multi-day projects for 6th to 12th grade students in logo design, poster design, documentary video, and more.

In addition, MIAD faculty and staff are actively involved in state and national arts education organizations. In spring 2007, MIAD hosted the 11th Biennial Conference of the national organization Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE). FATE is the 30-year-old professional association of college faculty dedicated to promoting excellence in the development and teaching of art and art history, especially at the first-year level. The conference attracted over 300 attendees, and focused on how art educators and administrators can shift, connect and evolve with the millennial generation and re-think traditional teaching strategies. MIAD faculty served not only as regional coordinators for the

conference, but also chaired several panels and delivered presentations. A MIAD faculty member also served as Vice-President of the organization.

In late October 2009, MIAD hosted the annual WAEA (Wisconsin Art Education Association) Conference, “Creative Exploration & Innovation: Teaching Art & Design in the 21st Century.” At this conference, statewide educators explored teaching methods that address rapidly changing technology and prepare students for the shift to a creative economy. One of MIAD’s Industrial Design faculty served as the keynote speaker for the conference, and six additional faculty and staff participated as presenters.

Community Outreach Programs (5a, 5b, 5d)

MIAD’s Community Outreach programs facilitate mutually beneficial programming and relationships, not only with the Milwaukee Public Schools, but also with regional and national school districts, arts educators, adult learners and local non-profit organizations. Programming has included:

- *Pre-College*
- *Middle School Art Camp*
- *Creative Educator’s Institute*
- *Continuing Education*
- *Future Designers*
- *ASAP (After School Art Program)*

The outreach program has created avenues of access to MIAD for diverse populations. For young students, it has increased awareness of the degree program and possible art and design career paths; for the public, it has highlighted public programming such as gallery exhibitions, and for middle- and high-school students it has created a pipeline to the MIAD degree program. It has also offered unique opportunities for MIAD faculty and students to interact with the community as mentors, teaching assistants and instructors.

Continuing Education and the Creative Educator’s Institute, temporarily on hiatus during the 2008-09 academic year, have been re-organized and re-created. These outreach programs will now be offered under one umbrella, Creative Connections. Launched in Fall 2009, this program will

transform the previous Continuing Education into professional development and personal enrichment programs and events for teachers, artists, designers and professionals in related industries.

Creative Connections is designed around a multifaceted approach to creative growth, enhanced through collaborations with other leading educational and cultural organizations, such as the Milwaukee Art Museum. The range of experiences encompasses the development of basic skill sets in a variety of disciplines (“the Skill Builder”), to innovative programming that fosters interdisciplinary thought and practices reflecting new trends, technologies and challenges (“the Professional Developer”). Creative Connections will serve a broader adult community than its predecessor, ranging from business leaders and entrepreneurs to educators and alumni, by using multiple program formats and addressing a wide spectrum of creative topics.

In fall 2009, “Skill Builder” classes were offered, including Acrylic/Oil Painting, Introduction to Drawing, Studio Lighting for Photography, and Open Figure Drawing. For spring 2010, both “Skill Builder” and “Professional Developer” courses will be offered: Intro to Principles of Graphic Design; Anatomically Correct: Improving Figurative Work I; Photographic Portraiture as Fine Art; Hybrid Practices: Fusing Art and Design; The Structure of Narrative in Print & Artists’ Books, and Photography’s 20/20 Vision: The Humanity of the Moment. The latter two classes are offered in conjunction with the Milwaukee Art Museum, introducing a new educational partnership between the two organizations and building upon a concurrent MAM photography exhibit. Promotional materials on current Creative Connections programs may be found in the **Resource Room, Cpt.5 #1**.

Presidential Engagement with the Community (5b, 5c)

Shortly after his arrival in Milwaukee in July 2007, MIAD’s new President began meeting with individual leaders of major Milwaukee cultural institutions, such as the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Repertory Theater. He discovered that the leaders of the major organizations had been meeting for almost two years in an effort to create a cultural plan for the city. Fortuitously, the chair of the committee on this initiative was aware of the MIAD President’s experience in leading cultural planning processes and invited him to meet with the group. This was followed by the committee’s request for

him to help lead the planning process. Beginning with a core group of eleven leaders, the planning expanded to 75 at a “Creative Summit” sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Committee, (GMC). This prestigious organization gave credibility to the effort and helped catapult the process forward.

Subsequently, a Creative Coalition was formed and an existing community organization, the Cultural Alliance, assumed responsibility for organizational leadership. The GMC continued its financial support and oversight. In spring 2009, a meeting of the Creative Coalition was held to expand participation of the process: 140 leaders from throughout the art, design, cultural, philanthropic and business communities were in attendance.

MIAD’s President continues in a leadership role co-chairing the Coalition’s planning committee. The Creative Coalition is expected to expand to 400 participants by February 2010. The charge is to develop the “creative economy” of the greater Milwaukee region.

As a result of the President’s efforts, MIAD has been engaged in, and instrumental to, Milwaukee’s cultural planning process. The college has generated new initiatives and formed numerous collaborations with Milwaukee organizations and individuals in support of the community.

Reaching Out to Constituencies (5b)

New programs are being created to further reach out to engage “neighbors” with art and design experiences, the arts and MIAD. The primary purpose for these programs is service through education, and the secondary goal is development and fundraising. The college is expanding the role of its leading ambassadors, the trustees, who are hosting arts events in public spaces within the community and dinner parties at the college during major student exhibitions.

In summer/fall 2009, the new Board of Trustees Chair, accompanied by the President, held an individual meeting with each trustee to discuss their personal interests in serving on board committees and their recommendations for improving board functions. In addition, each trustee was asked to assume a leadership role and assume responsibility for one project that could be successfully achieved in the following year.

Each Trustee will also host an event to increase public awareness of the importance of visual arts education and MIAD. For example, “Pop Up” exhibits are being planned to display the work of students, alumni, faculty and professionals in non-gallery spaces, such as unfinished, non-leased space that the owner loans to MIAD in support of the arts. Part of the motivation for the owner will be the free promotion of the chosen space to encourage renting or purchasing. The exhibits will be scheduled in advance, but the location will not be known until a public announcement “pops up,” identifying the location in the city. A trustee will function as the emcee at each opening.

A MIAD traveling exhibit is being created in the same manner as a “pop up” exhibition that will be displayed at prominent locations, such as the University Towers, a new high-end condominium building (\$1-3 million units) on the city’s waterfront. At other public venues, a trustee will also introduce each exhibit to the residents and the community. Trustees will also host dinner parties at MIAD during the year-end Senior Exhibition. Their friends and business acquaintances will attend in individual parties of approximately ten guests and will engage in conversations with faculty and students about their work.

Finally, MIAD hosts numerous events and activities engaging internal audiences with external communities. Examples include: exhibition openings and participation in the Third Ward’s highly successful quarterly Gallery Night & Day; panel discussions and artist lectures focusing on relevant and timely art and design topics that encourage audience participation; interactive tours and workshops; hosting events such as My Vote Performs, Creative Fusion, and an off-campus Alumni exhibition series.

Accurate and Honest Presentation of MIAD to the Public (1e, 4a)

The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design’s public presentation, as created by the Director of Communications, supports the college’s core values and their expression by publicizing the efforts of students, faculty and key leadership, as well as programs run by the college. The college’s ethos is regularly presented through a multifaceted, multi-platform approach comprising traditional media, Web

and Web 2.0, and supplementary dissemination of content through print and electronic materials to key constituencies, such as prospective students, parents and donors.

Widespread media coverage of the college's activities and personalities occurs. Faculty, students, and programs receive coverage in local and regional newspapers, and on radio and television, and are posted on the MIAD web page. The Director of Communications also supports faculty and alumni by assisting with nominations for key awards, and publication of such awards.

Thoughtful public presentation demonstrates MIAD's commitment to sharing accurate and honest information with a diverse public. A binder containing copies of items described below and other recent publicity will be found in the **Resource Room – Cpt.5 #2**. Key examples, preceded by the main values they support, include:

VALUES: Quality; Innovation; Diversity; Passion, Commitment & Dedication; Critical Thinking & Creative Problem Solving; Visual, Verbal, Written & Media Literacy

Then new President Neil Hoffman speaks openly in print and on radio of the opportunities presented by his new position, the importance of strategic planning to building trust and collective change, and the innovation and individualism evidenced in the senior exhibition. *[WUWM interview May 8, 2007; link to web in interactive document]*

VALUES: Innovation; Passion, Commitment & Dedication

Television coverage of MIAD's 13-year assistive design project for students with disabilities in Milwaukee Public Schools exemplifies so powerfully the college's commitment to service and the community that news anchors have difficulty remaining unemotional during its viewing. *[WISN TV 3/8/06; have video.]*

VALUES: Diversity; Innovation

"MIAD's 'Designing Women' win major awards" promotes diversity by helping to break down gender stereotypes about women in Industrial Design. *[Printed twice in the Business Journal of Greater Milwaukee: November as individual story; in special section in December 2007; have copy/reprint.]*

VALUES: Diversity; Passion, Commitment & Dedication; Education & Lifelong Learning

Publication of Time-Based Media Professor Jamal Currie's Black Excellence Award in Education by the Milwaukee Times and presentation of the award at a ceremony attended by 700 Milwaukeeans honor "an educator with a deep and selfless commitment to the community." *[The Milwaukee Times, February 15, 2008; have copy.]*

VALUES: Education & Lifelong Learning; Diversity; Innovation

Inclusion of MIAD's Sacred Texts Exhibition in an editorial by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel applauding the arts not only because they "educate, entertain and inspire, but also for their outsized economic impact" culminates the extensive media coverage and strong emotional response garnered by the exhibition across diverse constituencies from artists to teachers, students, bookmakers, clergy and beyond. *[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, editorial, June 14, 2007; have copy.]*

MIAD's "Personal Culture: New Art from Latin Americans" is featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

VALUES: Innovation; Education & Lifelong Learning

MIAD photography students and alumni shoot all portraits in a special feature section in MyMidwest magazine entitled "Milwaukee 20 – leaders, innovators, movers and shakers guiding Milwaukee toward an exciting future." Included as one of the 20 is Neil Hoffman, highlighting MIAD's changed institutional culture and growing enrollment, as well as his leadership role in the city. *[MyMidwest, March/April 2009; have copy; online link.]*

VALUES: Education & Lifelong Learning; Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving; Visual Verbal Written & Media Literacy

In an opinion piece, MIAD's President Neil Hoffman calls for action in support of arts in our city's schools as key to providing awareness of visual language as a basis for communication and understanding, ensuring creative workers meet the challenges of today's global economy and effecting change in Milwaukee through his involvement with the Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee. *[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Crossroads, June 21, 2009; have copy; online link.]*

In addition to media, the following brief examples illustrate further the accurate presentation of MIAD to the public:

- Inclusion of Annual Board Reports and the Self-Study document on the website.
- Publication of alumni, faculty and student accomplishments on the website and in electronic newsletters, collaterals and Web 2 platforms.

Collaborating with Other Institutions (3d, 5c)

MIAD has collaborations with educational and cultural institutions, such as those previously described in the Creative Coalition initiative, as well as exchanges and collaborations with several two-year colleges, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), Marquette University, Concordia University of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE).

One good example of an informal educational collaboration took place with MSOE. Faculty at both institutions assigned identical educational projects to MSOE engineering students and to MIAD Industrial Design students. Students from each school worked in collaborative teams to design a practical device for bicycles that would generate and store electricity for use in third world communities. Combining skills in engineering with the design expertise of ID students provided a rich learning experience that resulted in successful and practical products for the real world.

Another continuing example of informal institutional collaboration is the ongoing relationship between MIAD's junior industrial design curriculum and Marquette University's senior engineers. For the last four years, faculty at both institutions have provided industrial designers and engineers an opportunity to work together on student-directed projects. This collaboration prepares students for the necessary professional alliances their disciplines will require in the working world. To date, these student-directed projects have occurred in the areas of medical, electrical and mechanical engineering.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS (5C)

Articulation agreements have been established with two-year colleges to facilitate transfer of credits to MIAD. These institutions are: Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) and the College of DuPage (Illinois). Students transferring to MIAD from two-year colleges must complete all MIAD admissions requirements, including an interview and portfolio review. (Articulation Agreements will be found in **Appendix #9.**)

- MATC (Milwaukee Area Technical College). Agreement is in place to allow transfer of MATC credits in Animation, Graphic Design and Visual Communications for MIAD credits in Time-Based Media, Graphic Design and Communication Design.
- WCTC (Waukesha County Technical College). Agreement is in place to allow transfer of WCTC credits in Graphic Design for MIAD credits in Communication Design.

- College of DuPage. Agreement is in place to allow transfer of College of DuPage credits from programs in Advertising, Design, Illustration and Graphic Design for credits in MIAD's Communication Design program.

CROSS-REGISTRATION PROGRAMS (5C)

In 1994-95, MIAD formalized a relationship with Marquette University, a 12,000-student private institution with a 90-acre campus just one mile west of MIAD. Marquette, which does not offer studio arts programming, requested that MIAD provide its students with minor programs in Design, Fine Arts and Art History (Marquette's web site describes this as an opportunity to "take art classes with working professionals"). Through the agreement, MIAD students can take a variety of Liberal Studies electives, as well as complete a Business or Advertising minor. As part of this agreement, MIAD and Marquette students are granted use of the other institution's library; MIAD students are given access to Marquette's health services and can participate in extramural sports. The colleges are in making plans to expand their offerings to give MIAD students access to MU's entrepreneurship minor and mass communication courses.

In the last five years, an average 31 Marquette students attended MIAD classes every semester; during the same period, an average 21 MIAD students per semester registered at Marquette.

MIAD also maintains a formalized cooperative program with Concordia University of Wisconsin. Through this program, Concordia students complete their Liberal Arts core and studio foundation courses at Concordia, and then take six courses in MIAD's Graphic Design, Photography or Illustration programs. In the last five years, an average of 16 Concordia students have taken courses at MIAD every semester.

Involvement with Other Organizations (5c)

MIAD is one of the founding members of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD), which sponsors programs that include staff training, student mobility/exchanges, collaborative student recruitment activities and international programs. Through the National Portfolio

Day Association, MIAD annually hosts Portfolio Day, an opportunity for high school students and their parents to meet with representatives from major accredited art and design colleges. Representatives from MIAD and other colleges are stationed throughout the building to review student artwork, discuss their programs and answer questions about professional careers in art. Because the event is on a Saturday, many members of MIAD faculty and staff volunteer their time and expertise to make the day a success.

In another link with AICAD, this fall MIAD partnered with SNAAP – the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project - an online survey system to collect, track, and disseminate data about the artistic lives and careers of arts college alumni. SNAAP data will allow MIAD to look at the factors that most helped or hindered the career paths of former arts students, whether these alumni have chosen to work as artists or pursue other choices. MIAD will not only receive information about the alumni but also how their experiences as a student and during their years after graduation compare to other AICAD colleges and other art and design programs. The information gathered will help the college understand what we do well, and what needs to be improved.

MIAD also participates in the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), the official organization of Wisconsin's private, non-profit institutions of higher learning. Among the services that this organization provides is the WAICU Benefits Consortium, a collaborative, self-funded healthcare program for students, faculty and staff, developed for and by WAICU members as a solution to rising healthcare costs. MIAD staff members participate in WAICU-sponsored professional development and staff training through biannual academic deans' conferences and workshops for administrators, financial aid directors, admissions personnel, library directors and other staffing areas. In addition, the consortium sponsors scholarships for student leadership and stipends to support scientific scholarship and women's professional scholarship.

MIAD Alumni are active serving on boards, volunteering and staffing non-profit organizations such as:

- *Arts@Large, which provides sustainable arts programming for students and teachers in public schools and highlights the essential role that art and music specialists and members of the greater arts community play in creating an inclusive atmosphere of classroom learning.*
- *Milwaukee Artist Resource Network (MARN), a nonprofit art-service organization dedicated to enriching the community by supporting individual literary, performing and visual artists.*
- *Redline Milwaukee, an incubator for emerging artists while simultaneously providing a vibrant gathering place for the community. Their recently-acquired facility offers a unique cultural doorway to the neighborhood via educational programs, the process of printmaking, and exhibitions for the city of Milwaukee's diverse communities.*
- *Artists Working in Education, Inc. (AWE), sponsors professional artists to nurture the imaginations of Milwaukee children by bringing creative visual arts experiences directly to schools, community centers and informal settings such as parks, playgrounds and community events.*
- *Arts Midwest connects people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries.*
- *Logemann Community Center, an organization dedicated to the community, provides a safe and joyful environment for our youth, families, seniors and other adults.*

Faculty members from the studio major programs are actively engaged in professional associations, such as Industrial Designers Society of America and AIGA\the professional association for design, American Institute of Architects, Professional Photographers of America, the Public Art Network, Mid-America Print Council, Milwaukee Artist Resource Network (MARN), and the Creative Coalition, Milwaukee. Liberal Studies faculty are active in the College Art Association, the Society of Architectural Historians, National Council for Teachers of English, Adult Higher Education Alliance, and the American Association of Museums. The President also has a 30-year history of serving on WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) regional accreditation teams, NASAD and most recently, on HLC teams.

MIAD Embraces Service Learning (4c, 4d, 5b, 5d)

This report has discussed how, in its eight years of existence, the college's Service Learning program has become an integral part of the educational experience for all degree students and has

informed their work. Just as importantly, the program has had a significant impact on the community as evidenced by the support of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation which has, over the last eight years, provided generous annual grants for the MIAD service learning program. Through our students the college contributes human resources to over 100 non-profit agencies representing thousands of hours of service. *(Annual Reports of the Service Learning program, including lists of the numerous agencies served by MIAD students will be found: **Resource Room – Cpt.5 #3.**)*

In addition to Service Learning, as stated in Chapter 2, students in the Visual Resources Design Group have provided communication design services for more than 500 Milwaukee-area non-profit organizations since 1992. In recent years these clients have included the American Diabetes Association, Wisconsin Arts Board, Milwaukee Children's Choir, Blind & Visually Impaired Children's Association, Paralyzed Veterans, and the Jefferson County Visitor's Bureau.

For nearly 15 years, Industrial Design juniors, during the spring semester, have partnered with differently-abled students in the Milwaukee Public Schools to design assistive devices that help them in their daily living activities. Similarly, ID students have partnered at the Medical College of Wisconsin to assist in the design of prosthetics and other devices that assist in medical rehabilitation.

Recently, students who enrolled in a Latin American Art course completed research on significant artists and then made presentations at Milwaukee's South Division High School, a school highly populated by first- and second-generation Hispanic Americans. Organizations such as Children's Hospital and the Salvation Army Emergency Lodge have sought the services of our IA+D program. Weekly, the college gets requests to assist with design and/or art and art education projects.

For three years, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009, the college enjoyed the services of two VISTA volunteers as part of the AmeriCorps program. These volunteers served as emissaries for the college and the community by organizing projects that focused on poverty and education. During the first year, the volunteer worked with MIAD Outreach to raise awareness of art and design-related service learning among faculty, staff, and students, and as a secondary liaison between MIAD and the

Milwaukee Public School partners in the Future Designer's Program. The volunteers later initiated a creative series of art-making workshops and after-school programs that connected children in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization with students from MIAD, and organized several projects for Habitat for Humanity that were supported by students, faculty and staff.

Inviting the Public to MIAD (5b, 5d)

MIAD's external constituents participate in the organization's activities and co-curricular programs that are open to the public. MIAD Galleries' extensive exhibition schedule, as described in Chapter Three, invites members of the public, both groups and individuals, to MIAD on an ongoing basis. In association with these exhibits, and with other programming, MIAD also hosts panel discussions and lectures to benefit the public. Below is a sample of past events presented since the last HLC and NASAD visits:

- *Personal Culture: New Art from Latin Americans, artists discussion (Mirta Kupferminc, Santiago Cucullu, and Tatiana Parceró), February 24, 2009.*
- *Media Projects 2008, artist lectures with Bodil Furu (Oslo, Norway, via Skype), Adam Frelin (Albany, NY), and Bethany Springer (Fayetteville, AK), October 22, 2008.*
- *Sacred Texts/Contemporary Forms continued the "Culture in Transition" series inaugurated by MIAD in 2006 to explore the rapidly changing nature of our global culture. It and its three accompanying panel discussions were supported in part by grants from the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Humanities Council. The panels, held at MIAD during the month of February, were:*
 - *Contemporary Book Arts, 2/7/07 – An historical perspective of the exhibit's contemporary books and how and why they were made (Artist Avadenka participated in this panel).*
 - *Sacred Texts, 2/14/07 – Representatives of the exhibition's myriad faith traditions discussed the roles of historical texts and their current use.*
 - *The Digital Future of the Book, 2/21/07 – A discussion of how digital technology is changing the dissemination of information using sacred texts to move toward broader issues.*
- *"Art After Crisis – the Tribute in Light," free artist talk by Julian LaVerdiere, co-creator of the temporary light memorial to the victims of September 11, 2001; sponsored by MIAD's Board of Trustees and Lighthouse Development Corp. August 23, 2006.*
- *Lecture by Frank Lewis, art historian and Director of Exhibitions at the Wriston Art Gallery of Lawrence University, about the Art of Alienated/20th Century Expressionist Prints from the La Vera Pohl Collection exhibition on March 3, 2006.*

- A panel discussion, held in conjunction with the exhibition Liberation, Tradition and Meaning/Women on the Edge of Culture, on Thursday, February 2, 2006, discussed pandemic violence toward women, profiling of Middle Eastern people living in the west and the ravages of war.
- Lecture by William E. Massie (Michigan), Unmapping the Built, part of the Fuzzy Edge Lecture Series, March 30, 2004.
- Lecture by Photojournalist Peter Turnley, September 2, 2003.
- “Artists as Activists” panel discussion, held in conjunction with Three Views of Social Awareness, included Paul Calhoun (Wisconsin) and Barbara Cervenka (Michigan) on February 10, 2000.

The annual Senior Thesis Exhibition Preview and Opening has an estimated attendance of over 6,000, including representatives from local businesses, gallery owners, artists and designers, community leaders, politicians and other arts enthusiasts (note that this number does not include school tours and daytime attendance during regularly scheduled gallery hours.) Artist lectures and panel discussions regularly draw 150-250 participants, with exhibition openings and off-campus alumni exhibitions drawing 600-2,000. MIAD also hosts artist/community-organized events connecting the college to an even broader audience, with these events reaching 200-500. Recent examples of these events are: 9/9/09 Performance Art Showcase, a one-night event that included nine concurrent performances produced by community artists; a public forum and screening of performance art that had been staged at 11 different Milwaukee polling places as part of My Vote Performs; and the kick-off to the Milwaukee Artist Resource Network (MARN) MARNmentors program, a professional development mentor program that pairs local emerging artists with established artists for one year (the MARNmentor exhibition will be held at MIAD in May). MIAD will further engage the public with a new membership program focused on interactive art/design based events that involve attendees from the college’s annual scholarship benefit Creative Fusion, business leaders and others active throughout the year.