Symposium at OSU to focus on public policy, arts

Talks by Kitty Carlisle Hart, chairwoman of the New York Council on the Arts, and Harold Williams, president and chief executive officer of the J. Paul Getty Trust, will highlight the symposium “Public Policy and the Arts” on Saturday in Weigel Hall at Ohio State University.

The symposium, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is being sponsored by the Ohio State University College of the Arts as part of its 25th anniversary celebration.

The free symposium also is in anticipation of a new master’s degree program in arts policy and administration, proposed jointly with OSU’s School of Public Policy and Management in the College of Business.

After talks by Hart and Williams, Astrid Merget, director of the OSU School of Public Policy and Management and head of the board of the National Academy of Public Administration, will conduct a panel discussion.

Participating will be: Bebe Miller, a dancer/choreographer with a master’s from OSU; Leilani Lattin Duke, director of the Los Angeles-based Getty Center for Education in the Arts (part of the Getty Trust); OSU graduate student Wendi Longstroth Hassan; Wayne Lawson, executive director of the Ohio Arts Council; William T. McDaniels, professor of African-American music and chairman of the department of black studies at OSU; and Sandra Smith, deputy director of the King Arts Complex.

Issues to be addressed include:

- the future role of the arts in the United States; the new policy agenda for the arts and arts education under the Clinton administration; the effectiveness of the current federal arts policy model and consideration of alternative models; and the skills and knowledge required for future policy-makers.
- Hart, an actress and singer, has served on the New York State Council on the Arts for almost 20 years. She received the National Medal of the Arts from President Bush in July 1991.
- Williams served as chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and was a professor and dean of the Graduate School of Management at UCLA.

For more information on the symposium or the master of arts in arts policy and administration degree program, call 292-5171.
Symposium tackles new arts degree proposal

By Jennifer Schnetzer
Lantern arts writer

The arts and business colleges will propose a possible “marriage” at the Arts and Public Policy Symposium Saturday, May 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Weigel Hall.

If approved, there will be a new master’s degree program in arts policy and administration, said Lois Foreman Wernet, chair of the Department of Art Education.

The symposium will address not only the proposed major but also issues of policy agenda for the arts under President Clinton’s administration, the future role of the arts and skills needed for future arts administrators, according to a news release.

Harold Williams, president and chief executive officer of the J. Paul Getty Trust, a multi-billion dollar program for the arts and humanities, and actress/singer Kitty Carlisle will be the keynote speakers for the free symposium.

Panelists will include Astrid Merget, director of the School of Public Policy and Management, the executive director of the Ohio Arts Council, choreographer/dancer Bebe Miller and other distinguished arts administrators.

As for the degree, the proposal has been in writing for the past two years. But Mike Parsons, chair of the Department of Art Education, said the idea has been brewing for a long time. While there are classes that graduate students in art can take from the School of Public Policy, the only degree currently available is in art education.

Karen Bell, associate dean of the College of the Arts, said the major is “in response to student needs and interests” and should be instituted by fall 1994. She said students are already pursuing this area, although they cannot get the degree.

The new degree has been funded in part by OSU alumnus Lawrence R. Barnett and Isabel Bigley Barnett. The endowment from these graduates will provide for visiting professors, an annual graduate student fellowship and an internship program in arts organization.

Mr. Barnett found that playing the violin could help pay his college expenses while he was a student in the 1930’s. Although he fell a quarter shy of graduation due to illness, he completed his degree 53 years later, after a long and distinguished career working for CBS, MCA and other major companies.

Mrs. Barnett was a stage and television actress, appearing in the Broadway musical "Oklahoma" and receiving a Tony award for her performance in "Guys and Dolls."
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COLUMBUS -- A new degree program in the College of the Arts will help fill a need nationwide for art museum directors, and for arts administrators who understand the complex issues that surround public arts education, politics and aesthetics.

The Ohio State University Board of Trustees established the Master of Arts degree in arts policy and administration Friday (5/5). The proposal moves on to the Ohio Board of Regents for final approval. Ohio State expects to implement the degree program in autumn 1995.

The M.A. will be an interdisciplinary program housed in the Department of Arts Education, but supported by the School of Public Policy and Management in the Fisher College of Business. Students will choose electives from business, education, law, music, dance, theater, philosophy, political science, English and the humanities.

"The university already has a significant number of students pursuing a specialization in arts policy and administration within the M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs in arts education and the Master of Public Administration in public policy and management," said Constance Bumgarner Gee, assistant professor of art education and coordinator of the

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program. The Department of Art Education has been developing the program since 1984.

"The focus of the M.A. in arts policy and administration is very different from other programs around the country," Bumgarner Gee said. "The study of arts policy -- its formulation, analysis, interpretation and evaluation -- is primary."

Graduates will be arts policy makers and administrators. They will able to:

- Critically assess the value and impact of legislation and programming.
- Recognize and seek solutions to potential and existing conflicts of policy and practice.
- Understand the concept of comprehensive art education and its relationship to arts policy and public education.
- Participate in federal, state or local policy making.

Also, Ohio State's program emphasizes arts education. "We are convinced the time has long since passed when the general public's education and participation in the arts could be considered apart from, and often external to, government subsidy of the arts," Bumgarner Gee said.

Funding for the new program will come from reallocations within the art education department and the College of the Arts.

Also, the Barnett Endowment funds an annual lecture series and a biennial Arts and Public Policy Symposium. The symposium will be held this year on May 19 and 20, with the theme, "Good Policy, Bad Policy, No Policy: The Arts and Education." A second endowment, the Lawrence and Isabel Barnett Fellowship Fund, provides a scholarship and $9,000 stipend for two years to an arts policy and administration student.

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Contact: Constance Bumgarner Gee, (614) 292-5356
Master's combines art, business

Arts Policy & Administration degree available

By Dagmar Cianelli
Lantern staff writer

There is a new kid on the block in the Master of Arts degree program. As of April 19, a graduate degree in Arts Policy and Administration can be obtained at Ohio State.

"This is an interdepartmental degree offered by the college of the arts, department of art education and the school of public policy," said Catherine Eucker, assistant coordinator of the program.

This program allows students to follow three possible career paths, Eucker said. First, a graduate may decide to work as an administrator for a public arts agency or a not-for-profit performing, visual, and literary arts organization.

A second choice might be to go on for a doctorate and teach in higher education. The third path is to be self-employed and serve as a consultant to a federal, state, or local art service organizations.

Although there are similar programs at other universities, such as the University of Cincinnati, they focus more on the business aspect rather than not-for-profit.

"Ours is a marriage of the two," Eucker said.

In addition, a student must demonstrate a commitment to the arts in order to successfully complete the program, she said.

Funding will come from the college of arts, department of art education and an endowment from the Lawrence and Isabel Barnett Fellowship. The biennial Lawrence and Isabel Barnett Arts and Public Policy Symposium bring together students and nationally known experts in the field of arts policy and administration.

The new degree program was originally proposed by James Hutchens, chair of the art education department.

As a result of this new program, Bryan Knicely, a recent graduate in the program, is now working for BalletMet.

"My ultimate goal was to be an executive director somewhere with an arts organization," Knicely said. "I knew with my undergraduate degree I could get one of those jobs and the masters program at Ohio State was my ticket into an art organization." Knicely earned a bachelor's degree in management and marketing at Otterbein.

When Knicely started the program it was hard for him to make an argument for art education.

Knicely said he learned to realize the value of such a program.

"Because of my varied skills, BalletMet liked the idea of all of the different hats I could wear," Knicely said.

He will be working on special projects and development for BalletMet, which include helping coordinate the Nutcracker Ball and planning special events for the 20th Anniversary celebration for the 1997-1998 season.

"It was definitely worthwhile and I would do it again if I had to," Knicely said.