

Sabbatical Leave Proposal Cynthia Minet, MFA
Professor of Studio Art, Moorpark College

Proposal Date: October 31, 2025

Proposed Leave Time: One Semester: Spring 2027

Previous Sabbatical Leaves:

Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Seniority of Service: August 2001-present

Overview of Sabbatical Proposal:

This project will focus on professional research to create a searchable data base on art transfer programs in California. The art department does not have a master document with data on the success rates of our students who transfer to art programs at 4-year institutions and private art colleges. Nor do we have a comprehensive list of our art alumni. I intend to create two searchable Excel spreadsheets with the following: the success rates of our alumni, where they transferred, what they are doing with their degrees, and by extension, what the best transfer programs are in California. Through visitations to the schools, and surveying of our art alumni, I will be able to confidently advise our current students, based on our data, about the strengths and weaknesses of art programs in our area, and throughout California.

When my students ask me for recommendations of where to study art after Moorpark, I often cannot advise them accurately because my knowledge of the transfer institutions is out of date. During the sabbatical period, I will research and visit the art departments and speak with the department chairs of public transfer institutions and private art schools. I am curious to learn what kind of facilities they have, and what specialized programs and degrees they offer. Although this information is usually listed on the colleges' websites, the quality of their facilities and programs is best understood by in person visits. With the data I collect, I will create a searchable spreadsheet. Additionally, I will also create a survey to poll our art alumni on where they went to school, what they are doing now, and how successful those programs have been in preparing them for their careers. I will work with our Institutional Research team to create both Qualtrics surveys, the searchable databases, and a report on the top transfer schools.

Dean Oleg Bepalov had the following input on the process:

"For searchable databases, it will be an excel sheet where we can show you how to search for students and create filters by university so you can contact them for surveys, gather data, or ask them permission if they'd be open to talking to current Moorpark students. The alumni excel sheet can't be made public to protect student info or shared widely either. It would be shared just with art faculty and anyone critical to the project who is doing outreach to the group. However, reports based on the transfer institutions data like top transfer schools and what % graduated from those universities may be made public."

The final report on the transfer art programs data would thus be accessible to counselors and art faculty at Moorpark and our sister colleges, and will become a valuable resource for our institution. The alumni document will be used internally in the art department. Additionally, Debi Klein in the Moorpark College Foundation expressed interest in a list of alumni to promote art gallery events.

One of the strengths of our art program is the community of creatives that we teach and inspire. However, the art department does not have a comprehensive list of alumni, and the community that we build is often lost on graduation day. The alumni survey will have a consent form for contact information; former students who agree to include their contact information will become a valuable resource for our program, our college, and the Moorpark College Foundation. The alumni survey, and its accompanying data will also become a valuable resource for our new Moorpark College Art Gallery, potentially expanding alumni involvement at art opening receptions and encouraging our former students to remain connected to our school.

Details of the Proposal:

If awarded this sabbatical, I plan to spend the Spring 2027 semester researching the best transfer programs for art students. I will engage in survey creation and distribution, travel to universities and art programs in California, and New York City, analyze the survey results, complete a report on the best art transfer programs

and organize a comprehensive list of art alumni and their testimonials. Kim Watters in the Institutional Research team said that we have data that goes back 20 years, so I propose to gather alumni data that spans the years of 2005-2025.

Steps:

1. Information gathering about art alumni and the 4-year institutions they graduated from:

- As mentioned above, Dean Oleg Bespalov is supportive of my projects, and has said his team in the Office of Institutional Research will assist with the format of the data bases.
- I will gather the alumni details that are already available in the National Student Clearinghouse, as well as emails and cellphone number from their Moorpark College applications.
- I will create a survey for alumni, with input from our art faculty team.
- The survey will contain multiple choice questions asking the participants to identify the specific programs they were part of, and ask them to quantify the strengths of the facilities, the faculty, etc. I am also curious to know what they are currently doing with their degrees. It will have space for brief testimonials.
- I will focus on students who have graduated with the AA in Art, and/or the Studio Art AA-T. Our art program includes studio art, design, photography, and art history.
- The time frame for alumni data is 2005-2025.
- I will analyze the alumni data to quantify the best schools.
- I will make the spreadsheet we create available only to select art faculty, to protect the students' privacy.
- I will create a list of alumni who wish to be contacted and share it with Debi Klein in the Moorpark College Foundation.
- I will create a report on the best art transfer institutions, based on our data, and share it with counselors assigned to the art area, as well as anywhere else it might be requested.

2. Information Gathering about 4-Year Art Programs in California:Travel

To update my knowledge about the programs, I will contact the art department chairs and admissions counselors to schedule visits to the campuses of universities and private art schools in California. I will primarily focus on schools that our alumni have graduated from. I will also expand my research into schools that may not be as familiar.

The schools I intend to visit in Southern California are:

CSUCI, CSUN, CSULB, CSU Fullerton, UCLA, UC Irvine, UCSD, UCSB, Art Center College of Design, Otis College of Art and Design, CalArts, Laguna College of Art and Design, Gnomon, USC.

The schools I intend to visit in Northern California are:

UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, California College of the Arts, Academy of Art University.

The schools I intend to visit in New York City are:

School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute, and Cooper Union.

3. Synthesis, Dissemination, and Followup:

I will enter the data I gather about the schools into the document, for analysis by the team in the Office of Institutional Research. At the conclusion of the sabbatical, I will have created a searchable database on alumni's experiences of art programs that is searchable by select art faculty and select others who are doing outreach at Moorpark and our sister colleges.

Additionally, I will have created a publicly shared report on the top transfer art programs in California, based on our data. Further, I will have generated a list of art alumni who wish to be contacted. This alumni document could be used as a resource both for fundraising and for potential artist lectures, exhibitions, panel discussions, and portfolio reviews. It could help to reconnect our alumni to our program, and lead to mentorships and internships for our current students.

Timeline: January-May 2027

January-February:

Create alumni survey with input from art faculty

Begin to contact alumni and distribute survey

Travel to New York City and attend the College Art Association Conference (Feb. 3-6)

Visit Cooper Union and School of Visual Arts in New York

March:

Continue to contact alumni and gather data.

Visit schools in Southern California: CSUCI, CSUN, CSULB, CSU Fullerton, UCLA, UC Irvine, UCSD, UCSB, Art Center College of Design, Otis College of Art and Design, CalArts, Laguna College of Art and Design, Gnomon, USC)

April:

Visit schools in Northern California: UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, California College of the Arts, Academy of Art University.

Enter the data and begin analysis.

May:

Create the public report on the best transfer institutions.

Create the list of alumni who wish to be contacted.

Create the searchable data base for use by select faculty, select counselors, and select others doing outreach.

Background on the candidate:

I have been teaching Studio Art at Moorpark since 2001. I teach a range of studio art classes, including Figure Sculpture, 3D Design, Sculpture, and Drawing.

I serve as lead faculty in the drawing discipline, and share responsibility for our program development with the other full-time faculty (Gerry Zucca and Erika Lizée). This year, I am also continuing to serve as the Art and Design Department Co-Chair, with art faculty evaluations as my primary responsibility.

I currently serve on the Student Equity and Achievement committee, and am the art faculty liaison for our program maps. Additionally, this past year I have been reviewing curriculum for the C-ID program of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges. In the past few years, I have served on the Faculty Senate, the Distance Education committee, numerous tenure committees, full-time and adjunct hiring committees, the Campus Environment committee, and the Multicultural Day Committee.

I am particularly proud of my role as a mentor to our students, many of whom are professional artists and designers. Three of my former students are now teaching here at Moorpark in the art history and art department, and two of them are full-time faculty.

In addition to teaching, I maintain a very active artistic practice, exhibiting my work often in museums, galleries, airports, and in public art projects. I am currently preparing new work for a solo exhibition at CMAY gallery in the mid-Wilshire district of Los Angeles, opening in February, 2026.

I have a large sculpture on view for the next two years in the City of Pasadena's Convention Center, and recently installed a new temporary public art sculpture in cast aluminum for the City of Santa Monica and KitePharma, through January 2027.

Here are a couple of photos below of my aluminum public art sculpture in Santa Monica, on view through January 2027, as well as my elephant sculpture at the Pasadena Convention Center which is part of the Rotating Public Art Series IV, through 2026.



Distribution of sabbatical leaves among departments and divisions:

Art and Design Department:

Erika Lizeé	Art	Fall 2024-Spring 2025
Stephen Callis	Photography	Spring 2020

Arts, Media, and Communication Studies Division

Beth McGill	Dance	Fall 2024
Brandon Elliot	Music	Fall 2022
Haleh Risdana	Theatre	Fall 2021

Benefits to the Students:

This sabbatical project is geared towards benefiting our art students, both current and alumni. The alumni document I create will be available to select art faculty as they advise students. Current students will be able to view the public document on the best schools and make informed choices. Current art faculty and counselors will have updated information and insights to share with the students about where to transfer based on their interests. If alumni consent to be contacted, students could potentially contact them. That process could create networking opportunities for current students. For alumni, the benefits are many: the recreation of a community they may have lost, and the potential to become involved with our programs and campus once again. If it is appropriate, they may be instrumental in serving as mentors to our students.

Benefits to the College, and the District:

According to Dean Bespalov, the report I will create through this project "aligns with Julius's goal to have our programs collaborate with their counterparts at CSU/UC. If possible, the survey could be a good conversation topic if you choose to connect with CSU/UC counterparts at some point".

Part of our college's mission is to empower diverse learners to achieve their transfer goals. My research for this sabbatical project will give us data that tracks our alumni students' success in completing their degrees at those transfer institutions, and help us to better serve our current students.

I will make the report of the best schools publicly available to our sister college faculty, counselors, and students, and to administrators at the District level. I am confident that the document will help us all be more effective when we advise our transferring students. The district may find a document that tracks success rates of our students once they have transferred to be useful for other types of metrics as well. This proposal is consistent with the mission of the District as adopted by the Board of Trustees in the following ways: The mission seeks to " fulfill our promise of equitable access to excellent education, and to work in collaboration with community and education partners". My project will specifically track our alumni's success at the 4-year colleges, that are "our education partners". By connecting with our art alumni, I will forge a way to help "drive Ventura County's civic vitality".

Benefits to the candidate:

The benefits to me, the candidate, are many. Through my visiting and research into other art programs and gathering of alumni data, I will learn about what is offered at the 4-year institutions, and update my knowledge. I will be able to advise our current students with more confidence. Through visiting the schools, I will be inspired to visualize what kind of new facilities and programs I may want to initiate at our campus, as well as forging some new relationships by meeting other faculty in person. By connecting with some of my former students, the alumni, I will regain some community, benefitting me as well as them.

We have 4 full-time faculty in the Art Department, and 14 adjunct faculty. My semester-long leave would not adversely affect the offerings of courses for Spring 2027, as adjunct faculty could cover my course load.

Please find my letters of support from Dean Elizabeth David, Dean Oleg Bespalov, and Art and Design Department Chair, Erika Lizée attached.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal,

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Minet, MFA
Studio Art Faculty