



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati 

**SUBJECT:** CUNY Medgar Evers College: Regents authorization to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree and Master Plan Amendment to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Media and the Performing Arts

**DATE:** July 6, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York (CUNY) Medgar Evers College to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree and approve a master plan amendment to authorize the College to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Media and the Performing Arts?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

The question will come before the full Board at its July 2017 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Procedural History**

A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first bachelor's level program in the discipline area of the Fine Arts at Medgar Evers College. Regents authorization is also required to authorize the College to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree.

## **Background Information**

The proposed program will help CUNY Medgar Evers College further its mission, which is “to develop and maintain high quality, professional, career oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of a liberal education.”

The proposed program consists of a liberal arts curriculum with an interdisciplinary approach. The courses contributing to the required core are in the subject areas of Art, Speech, Dance, Mass Communications, Media, and the Performing Arts. Students will have opportunities to collaborate on departmental exhibitions, shows, and a variety of performances. Completion of an internship and a capstone course is required.

It is expected that most students will come from New York City and the greater Tri-State area. In the program’s first year, the projected enrollment is 15 full-time students and 5 part-time students. An enrollment of 60 full-time students and 20 part-time students is expected by the program’s fifth year.

The proposed program will utilize current space in the Bedford Building Art Room and the recital spaces in the Music Area. The College maintains a 475-seat auditorium with adjoining dressing rooms, and will secure a dedicated and fully-equipped dance/theater studio upon approval of the proposed program. In addition, the Edison Jackson Auditorium in the new Science Building is also an appropriate space for performances.

The proposed program will be supported by existing faculty. In addition, the College will hire two assistant professors by fall 2017, and two assistant professors in 2018. The College will also hire a college laboratory technician to manage the technology supporting the proposed program.

Employment projections in the field of the proposed program are predicted to increase as modern technologies in media continue to emerge. According to New York City and State Labor projections, the average salary for graduates with under five years of experience in the areas of Media Arts is \$48,265 to \$125,780; in Theater Arts, it is \$51,830 to \$152,180; in the Performing Arts, it is \$35,680 to \$111,340. The College is developing articulation agreements for students seeking to further their education.

The Department canvassed degree-granting institutions in the New York City region. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact. The Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

## **Related Regents Items**

N/A

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York, Medgar Evers College to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree and approve a master plan amendment to authorize the College to offer a program in Media and Performing Arts leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will transmit it to the Governor with a recommendation for favorable action. Following gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.