Graduate Professional Development Checklist

Relax. You’re going to do just fine...
—Travis Masingale
PHOTOGRAPHIC & ELECTRONIC MEDIA ’12
Activate Your Practice

— Getting Started
— Building a Community and Creative Network
— Developing Research and Studio Practice
— Refining Your Career Tools
— Transitioning to Professional Life after MICA
— Continued Education

BUILDING A COMMUNITY AND CREATIVE NETWORK

☐ Visit local galleries and museums and attend exhibitions, performances, festivals using these resources:
  ❏ www.bmoreart.com
  ❏ www.visualbaltimore.com
  ❏ www.citypaper.com

☐ Visit national exhibitions and events: Visit Armory Arts Week in NY, Printed Matter Book Fair in NY, or similar events, biennials, etc.

☐ Research and connect to professional organizations within your field

☐ Get to know the faculty members and other students in your graduate community

☐ Hold open studio visits with peers and across programs

☐ Engage with the broader Baltimore community; volunteer on and off-campus

☐ Activate underutilized spaces and innovative venues in Baltimore for exhibitions, events and workshops in collaboration with peers

☐ Participate or become a member of the Graduate Student Union (student government)

☐ Apply for a solo student exhibition through GradEX (student-run gallery series) and group exhibitions nationally and internationally

☐ Attend or present at Salons (monthly artist showcase)

☐ Apply for funding for a graduate Pop-Up Event, graduate student activity funds

☐ Attend graduate community meetings

☐ Research and apply for summer internships or opportunities in November–March for best results

☐ Join and use the MICA Alumni Facebook/LinkedIn groups for networking with alumni

☐ Join MICA Career Development Facebook group for schedule of career development workshops

GETTING STARTED

☐ Attend Graduate Orientation activities

☐ Familiarize yourself with the Graduate Student Field Guide

☐ Discuss your degree plan, course selections, and sequencing with program director/advisor
  ❏ Plan semesters ahead; research elective courses and sequencing
  ❏ Explore the possibility of a Graduate Teaching Internship
  ❏ Consider taking a course at a nearby institution through the Baltimore Student Exchange Program (BSEP)
  ❏ Consider the Certificate for College Teaching of Art (MFA only)

☐ Establish and use your Mica email account

☐ Create your profile in Micanetwork, a job and opportunity database with Career Development

☐ Become familiar with MICA’s research and technical resources:
  ❏ Graduate Studies
  ❏ Center for Art Education
  ❏ Decker Library
  ❏ Writing Studio
  ❏ Career Development
  ❏ Graduate Research Lab
  ❏ Woodshop

☐ Attend skill based orientations in the Graduate Research Lab and Woodshop to access specialized resources and equipment
DEVELOPING RESEARCH AND STUDIO PRACTICE

- Develop skills within your chosen area of study
- Attend artist/designer/scholar lectures on and off campus
- Utilize the Writing Studio, Decker Library to hone your research and writing skills, especially in critical theory
- Make an appointment with your program’s library specialist to discuss research in support of your courses and studio or design practices, papers, etc.
- Build a bibliography of books, magazines and websites that inspire and inform your work
- Apply for a Graduate Research Development Grant to support your creative practice (see page 94)
- Apply for an Office of Community Engagement Grant to support work in the Baltimore community (see page 94)
- Submit work for the 1st Year Graduate Juried Exhibition
- Attend alumni panel discussions, including Flash Forward
- Develop mentor relationship with someone on campus (student, faculty, staff)
- View student/alumni websites and work in MICA Portfolios to explore possible career paths
- Take advantage of free tech (software/hardware) tutorials at Lynda.com
- Attend a Documenting Your Work program or watch a tutorial online

REFINING YOUR CAREER TOOLS

- Document/photograph/upload your creative work
- Create your profile in MICA Portfolios (www.portfolios.mica.edu)
- Establish effective web or online presence (www.yourname.com)
- Find and apply for opportunities for public speaking and giving presentations:
  - Ignite Baltimore (September & March)
  - College Art Association student panels (February)
  - Society for Photographic Education (February)
  - Art Bytes (February)
  - Critical Studies Symposium (May)
  - Betamore (Ongoing)
- Visit Career Development and schedule an appointment with a Career Counselor
- Refine and update your resume and cover letter
- Keep a file of your best writing samples as your writing portfolio
- Prepare a professional portfolio and artist statement
- Refine presentation, networking and interviewing skills
- Access grant and residency resources
- Identify faculty and staff for references

TRANSITIONING TO PROFESSIONAL LIFE AFTER MICA

- Conduct research on galleries, organizations, companies and prospective employers
- Utilize Micanetwork and other relevant job search engines to search for opportunities and create “job agents” or RSS feeds to automatically send you relevant job postings
- Attend the Internship + Career Fair in spring and interview with organizations recruiting on campus
- Apply for the Fine Art Portfolio Reviews to have your work reviewed by regional galleries
- Research and network with alumni using Facebook/Linkedin
- Talk with faculty, family and friends to make personal and professional connections
- Identify and join professional organizations relevant to your discipline
- Conduct informational interviews and shadow established professionals
- Apply for jobs, graduate school, Fulbright, Open Society Institute, Baker, Sondheim, Rubies, or other grants and residencies in spring semester into summer
- Tailor professional package to specific opportunities
- Research and pursue exhibition/publication/performance opportunities
- Attend spring Fulbright workshops to apply in summer
- Attend spring workshops on taxes and financial preparation, copyright and intellectual property
- Think about your post-MICA financial situation - find out your student loan payment, cost of living, and other financial obligations
- Research costs of setting up a studio or practice, and acquiring necessary equipment
- Research potential cities for relocation

CONTINUED EDUCATION (POST-BACs & BEYOND)

- Research and visit graduate or doctoral programs in your field, if pursuing graduate school
- Contact alumni currently enrolled in or having recently graduated from graduate programs of interest
- Develop an effective graduate essay and application materials and apply in late fall (if applicable)
(YOU+)

Enhance Your Practice

— Entrepreneurship
— Exhibiting
— Writing
— Teaching
— Curating

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LEARN
❖ Take additional business courses from the School of Professional and Continuing Studies (cSPS 250s) www.mica.edu/Programs_of_Study/School_for_Professional_and_Continuing_Studies_Professional_Development.html
❖ Apply for the Master of Professional Studies in the Business of Art and Design (one year online program) www.mica.edu/business
❖ Career Development Workshops on Taxes, Financial Strategies, Marketing, Copyright, Pricing Your Work & Kickstarter www.mica.edu/Academic_Services_and_Libraries/Career_Development/Professional_Development_Program_Calendar.html
❖ Consider enrolling in business courses through the Baltimore Student Exchange Program (University of Baltimore & Johns Hopkins Carey School of Business)
❖ Attend workshops held by professional associations (ex. AIGA, SBA)
❖ Enroll in online professional development course (ex. Skillshare, 99U, MOOC, Coursera) to fit your business needs

ENGAGE
❖ Attend mica "Mind Your Business" Events www.mica.edu/mindyourbusiness
❖ Attend Alumni Panels & Flash Forward Alumni Panel (Offered in Fall)
❖ Attend Johns Hopkins Carey School of Business, University of Baltimore, Towson University (Global Towson) business workshops
❖ Pitch your goals/product/service at events
❖ Ignite www.ignitebaltimore.com
❖ TEDx www.ted.com/about/programs-initiatives/tedx-program
❖ Toastmasters www.toastmasters.org
❖ Find an angel funder or conduct crowd-source funding (ex. Kickstarter, Indiegogo)

EXHIBITING

LEARN
❖ PD 5570 Professional Practice for Visual Artist (Offered Fall/Spring)
❖ Crisis Century
❖ Graduate Survey of Art, Design and Theory
❖ Career Development Workshops on Grants & Residencies, Approaching Galleries, Self Promotion & Professional Package www.mica.edu/Academic_Services_and_Libraries/Career_Development/Professional_Development_Program_Calendar.html

ENGAGE
❖ Apply to local Calls for Entry (ex. Baker, Sondheim, Rubies, PNC) www.micanetwork.com (search Calls for Entry)
❖ Visit Galleries and Attend Openings locally and regionally
❖ psbaltimore.com
❖ art-collecting.com
❖ Apply for a GradEx solo exhibition in Lazarus Center
❖ Participate in the Salon Series artist lectures

TEACHING

LEARN
❖ ED5533 Philosophy and Pedagogy (Offered Fall and Spring)
❖ Find an appropriate Graduate Teaching Internship (GTI) that best suits your career goals
❖ Build relationships with undergraduate and graduate faculty mentors

ENGAGE
❖ Participate in teaching and learning with technology workshops held by Mica Academic Affairs (ex. Moodle, Behance, Lynda, Kaltura) academicteaching@mica.wordpress.com Click Events.
❖ Attend and get involved in professional education conferences:
❖ National Art Education Association www.arteducators.org
❖ Maryland Art Education Association www.marylandarted.org
❖ College Art Association www.collegeart.org
❖ Society of Photographic Educators www.spenational.org
❖ National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts www.nceca.net
ENHANCE YOUR PRACTICE

WRITING

LEARN
- CP 5500 Writing for Artists, Critics and Curators (Offered Fall)
- CWRT 5559 Finding Words (Offered Fall/Spring)
- CRST 5700 Thesis Methods Workshop
- CD 5562 Design Language Studio
- CWRT 5403 Advanced Creative Writing

ENGAGE
- Submit to local art publications: What Weekly, Bmore Art, City Paper
- Submit to national art publications:
- Publish your work on blogs relevant to your area of study
- Apply to work as a Writing Assistant in the Learning Resource Center
- Attend professional art history/critical studies writing conferences
- College Art Association collegeart.org
- Maryland Writer’s Association marylandwriters.org

CURATING

LEARN
- CP 5500 Writing for Artists, Critics and Curators (Offered Fall)
- CP 5800 Interdisciplinary Approaches to Curatorial Practice
- CP 5700 Connecting Audiences (Offered Fall/Spring Occasionally)

ENGAGE
- Publish your work on blogs and relevant to your area of study and the nature of your exhibitions and submit reports on your findings to national conferences and publications
- Apply for a Graduate Exhibition Assistant and mentor with the Office of Exhibitions team
- Join the Grad Ex jury to coordinate solo student exhibitions
- Apply for PNC Grant, moca LAB Grant, Apply for Open Society Institute Fellowship
- Propose an exhibition to John Fonda Gallery, Area 405, Gallery CA, Maryland Art Place, The Creative Alliance, School 33, Apex Art in NY, etc.
- Apply for Mildred’s Lane Summer Program, a residency at Recess Art in NY