

Biography

SHAWN BRIXEY

Dean | School of the Arts, Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, Virginia

Shawn Brixey is Dean of the School of the Arts (VCUarts), at Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond, Virginia. VCUarts is the top ranked arts and design school in U.S., with more than 250 faculty, lecturers and staff, 175 graduate students and 2,800 undergraduates spanning a wide range of creative research and scholarly disciplines including: Art History, Art Education, Cinema, Communication Arts, Craft/Material Studies, Dance and Choreography, Fashion Design and Merchandising, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Kinetic Imaging, Music, Painting and Printmaking, Photography and Film, Sculpture and Extended Media, and Theatre. He is the Special Assistant to the Provost for the School of the Arts in Qatar, VCUarts international branch campus located in Doha, Qatar. Brixey also is a professor in the School of the Arts and an Affiliate Professor in the School of Engineering.

A graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute in sculpture and experimental media, and The Media Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in environmental design, architecture, engineering, media arts and sciences, Brixey is best known for pioneering complex (STEM to STEAM) artworks that synthesize physics, astronomy, cosmology, biology and computing. He has exhibited commissioned arts and sciences work extensively: Documenta; Deutscher Kunstlerbund; Cranbrook Art Museum; Yeshiva University Museum; MIT Museum; Contemporary Art Center of Cincinnati; Art Institute of Chicago; Winter Olympics, Nagano, Japan; World EXPO, Hannover, Germany; American Design and Architecture Triennial, Smithsonian Museum; the Berkeley Art Museum, The European Capital of Culture, and many others.

He has received a wide range of arts and sciences grants and awards to support his research and educational initiatives, including National Endowment for the Arts, National Science Foundation, Apple Computer, AVID Incorporated, Adobe Systems Incorporated, Intel Corporation, Silicon Graphics, Newport Research Corporation, IBM, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Derivative, Social Strata, D-Box, Leica and Hughes Aircraft. Highlights of Brixey's research accomplishments include a prestigious Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship for New Media, and winner of the Editors' Choice Award in *Popular Science* magazine's "World Design Challenge." The annual challenge centers on the invention and application of innovative design ideas that creatively address global problems for communities in need.

Brixey lectures internationally on issues intersecting art, design, culture, technology, innovation, higher education and building sustainable and transformational learning cultures. Keynote addresses and presentations at conferences include NASAD, CAA, NAMAC, HASTAC, ICFAD and SLSA. Critical writing and reviews of his work and thinking on these topics have been featured in diverse sources, including the New York Times, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Times, Cincinnati Inquirer, Toronto Star,

Chronicle of Higher Education, Scientific American, Scientific Russia, Stranger, Guardian, Wired Magazine, Surface Magazine, Art News, Art Journal, Smithsonian World Television, Asian Television Network, TEDx, KQED, NPR and MSNBC. Significant review of his artwork is explored in numerous videos, magazines, books and journals, including: Information Arts, The Intersection of Art, Science and Technology, MIT Press, 2002; From Technological to Virtual Art, by art historian Frank Popper, MIT Press, 2007; Art and Electronic Media, by media theorist and historian Edward Shaken, Phaidon Press, 2008, Art + Science Now, by Dr. Stephen Wilson, Thames and Hudson, 2010, Ontologia Dei Media, by media philosopher Mario Costa, Post Media Books, Milan, Italy, 2012; Re-collection: Art, New Media, and Social Memory, by museum director Richard Rinehart, and media scholar Jon Ippolito, MIT Press, 2014, and The New Geography by Mike Maizels, Mellon New Media Curator at Wellesley College, Art Journal, 2015.

Brixey serves as an advisor and consultant for numerous universities, governmental agencies, corporations and cultural organizations. In 2009, he served as Chair of the New and Virtual Media Directorate for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The CFI awards more than \$500M annually for pioneering research in media arts, electrical engineering, information technology and social science. In 2013, Brixey was invited to be the Creative Director of the inaugural Cinematic Innovation Summit (CIS) for the renowned Dubai International Film Festival. The CIS brought together more than 200 academic and media industry leaders in a think-tank environment designed to advance research and accelerate future technology convergence across cinematic media. He recently completed a five-year term as a member of the International Scientific Advisory Council for GRAND, a centrally funded National Research Council in Canada.

Preceding his appointment as Dean at VCU School of the Arts, Brixey was Dean of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) at York University in Toronto, Canada. With an enrolment of 55,000, York University is the third largest research university in Canada, and AMPD one of the largest and most comprehensive arts, media, performance and design faculty in North America. Under Brixey's leadership, he led the historic name and identity change of the Faculty of Fine Arts, becoming The School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD). During his tenure, he oversaw significant expansion of the school's mission, creative curriculum, study abroad opportunities, fundraising activities, industrial partnerships and research impact, including the creation of the new Department of Computational Arts, and groundbreaking joint undergraduate and graduate programs in Digital Media with the School of Engineering. During his tenure, AMPD witnessed its first Governor General Award, Royal Society Fellowships, Academy Award nomination, and Tony Award. AMPD also achieved major success in external sponsored research, with 600% increase in grant awards, including one of four participating faculty (Science, Health, AMPD, Engineering) to receive York's largest to-date federal grant from The Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) supporting a new \$120M national vision research project.



Previous to York, Brixey was professor and The Floyd and Delores Jones Endowed Chair in Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle. At UW, he co-founded and directed The Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS), UW's pioneering interdisciplinary BFA and Ph.D. program in digital arts and media culture. Brixey also was professor, Founder and Chair of the Digital Media Program, Founder and Director of the Center for Digital Art and New Media Research at the University of California Berkeley, where he also served as an Executive Council Member: on The President's Planning Commission for Digital Media; Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS); College of Environmental Design, Center for Design Visualization; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives Media, and the UC system-wide Digital Media Innovations Agency.