Dear Faculty and Staff of the School of the Arts,

My name is Holly Price Alford, and I am the Director of Diversity for the School of the Arts. I am also an associate professor in the Department of Fashion Design + Merchandising. The Dean of the School of the Arts chose me because of my work in the area of Diversity. I was appointed to the position in August, 2012 to ensure that the School of the Arts meets the University’s Five Year Diversity goals, as well as the goals and objectives of the School of the Arts Five year Diversity Plan. I strongly believe that diversity of cultures, views and experiences are crucial to a student’s academic experience, and that the School of the Arts foster an environment of inclusion and support.

As Director of Diversity and Inclusion I am responsible for helping faculty and staff, finding ways to celebrate our diversity and assisting should any concerns develop. I work directly with the Dean and serve as a liaison to the Vice President of Diversity and Equity. I look forward to working with faculty and staff in the School of the Arts. If you have not read the summary of the School of the Arts Diversity plan you can find it on the following web page: arts.vcu.edu/diversity

Thank you,

Holly Price Alford
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Faculty Research Grants

Linda Lee, Department of Fashion Design + Merchandising
Travel costs to explore and document China’s emerging urban youth culture.

Susie Ganch, Department of Craft/Material Studies
Development and marketing of ‘tool kit’ to facilitate participation in the Radical Jewellery Makeover, a community and mining recycling project.

Sandra Wheeler, Department of Graphic Design
For image rights and editing costs for the book White Space in Graphic Design, published in 2009 by Patchell Books, Ltd. (UK) with foreign co-editions in other languages including Spanish and Korean.

Exploratory Grants

Sonali Gulati, Department of Photography & Film
Support for the distribution of I Am, a feature-length documentary film completed after five years in the making.

Matt King & Scott Putman
Exploring the Perspective for the Viewer in Venues for Dance in Sculpture
This inquiry explores the perspective of the viewer in traditional venues for dance and sculpture and challenges the conventions of the performance stage and the art gallery. By asking how we might borrow from each other’s field of expertise, Dance and Sculpture, a number of questions emerge.

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As artists, designers, performers and scholars, we stand upon many shoulders in our search for the “new.” Diverse backgrounds, lifestyles, language, philosophies and opportunities help us to find the most exciting new questions—which is a cornerstone of the VCUarts experience. Communication, creative expression, and our search for answers provide our minds and souls with new and exciting recipes, allow us to share the aggregate of human experience in this converging world, and draw on the rich diversity of our collective human spirit.

**VCU School of the Arts Policy Statement**

The VCU School of the Arts believes that art is inclusive. Therefore, this diversity policy establishes that the School of the Arts accepts and welcomes all people by maintaining and celebrating diversity within our student body, faculty and staff. The School of the Arts provides equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination according to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, and sexual orientation in accord with University Policy. To support this policy and to stimulate understanding, the School of the Arts will establish forums to explore diversity in education, arts and design. We believe that to achieve educational excellence, we must value and practice inclusion.

**Diversity and Affirmative Action**

Diversity creates relationships in which individuals of differing perspectives, life experiences and cultural backgrounds are welcomed, valued and supported. This means diversity is inclusive of all groups.

Affirmative Action is initiated by the federal government to ensure equal opportunity to underrepresented individuals who have historically been denied.

Diversity does not replace Affirmative Action. They work together. Affirmative Action opens the door. Diversity works to change the culture within the organization.

**Diverse Organizations**

Black Education Association (BEA)
Equality VCU
Equity and Diversity Committee

**Offices that Foster Diversity**

The Office of Inclusive Excellence
VCU Safe Zone
VCU Disability Services
University Counseling Center

**Training Programs**

Green Zone
VCU Safe Zone

**Off Campus Resources**

Richmond Vistor's Guide
visitrichmondva.com/about-richmond-region/diversity
visitrichmondva.com/rainbow

GayRVA is Richmond’s go-to source for news, entertainment, and information about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) community.
www.gayrva.com

Hope in the Cities builds trust through honest conversations on race, reconciliation and responsibility. Its goal is the creation of just and inclusive communities.
www.hopeinthecities.org

VA Center for Inclusive Communities
www.inclusiveva.com

Cultural Centers Include:
Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives
Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
Virginia Holocaust Museum
Richmond Slave Trail
Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Maymont House
American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar
Virginia Randolph Home Economics Cottage
Virginia Civil Rights Memorial
Valentine Richmond History Center
Virginia Historical Society
Virginia War Memorial
Islamic Society of Greater Richmond
Islamic Center of Richmond
Richmond Gay Community Foundation
Central Virginia Rainbow Partnership
Weinstein Jewish Community Center
Hindu Center of Virginia
VCU Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA)