

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate

FROM: R. Brown  
Dean  
Faculty of Arts

SUBJECT: Change of Name -  
Centre for the Arts

DATE: Jan. 17, 1990

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The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee recommends the following motion:

MOTION: "that Senate approve that the name for the Centre for the Arts be changed to School for the Contemporary Arts"

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To... Robert C. Brown

.....  
Dean of Arts

Subject... Proposed name change for

.....  
Centre for the Arts

From... Ellen Gee

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Associate Dean of Arts

Date... 24 November 1989

Please find attached a proposal, and rationale, for the Centre for the Arts to change its name to School for the Contemporary Arts. This proposal was vetted by the appropriate sub-committee of F.A.C.C., and has F.A.C.C. approval (13 in favour, 1 abstention).

*Ellen Gee*

EG/rd

M.S.a.

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts

## MEMORANDUM

To: Ross Saunders  
Chair, SCUS

From: R. C. Brown  
Dean of Arts

Subject: Change of Name

Date: 6 December 1989

This is to recommend that the name for the Centre for the Arts be changed to School for the Contemporary Arts. The proposed name change was recommended by the Centre and has been approved by the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee. A rationale is attached.

*RC Brown*

R. C. Brown  
Dean of Arts

RCB/hj

Enc:

## CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

### RATIONALE FOR AMENDING THE DEPARTMENTAL NAME

The faculty of the Centre for the Arts has determined by vote that the name of the department should be amended to School for the Contemporary Arts. This new name accurately reflects the department's existing research activity, pedagogy and philosophy. The faculty deemed the present name inappropriate and somewhat misleading. It was generally felt that the name change would clarify the nature of the department for students and position the department itself more precisely in the University and the community at large. The change is in keeping with the plan enunciated in the "Proposal for the Further Development of the Centre for the Arts, Simon Fraser University," which received departmental approval in 1981. This proposal recommended that the Centre become a School for the Contemporary Arts (p.10). It should be noted that the change of name is undertaken to refine the public perception of the Centre and entails no new budgetary requirements or increased expenditure, nor does it entail structural changes within the department or the University.

It is worth pointing out that the original name of the department, Centre for the Arts, was selected before the department developed its present program of courses, which now includes professional studios in the various art forms along with an academic emphasis on critical issues of art and art making. At its inception the Centre had an entirely different complexion, offering non-credit participation in art activities to students and faculty, and functioning as a service organization or "Centre" to the university at large; as such its name was appropriate. However, as the department developed academic programs, the original name lost its utility. With the advent of the new graduate MFA program, the need for a change of name becomes acute.

The inclusion of the phrase "contemporary arts" underscores the department's fundamental commitment to current developments in the respective disciplines, as opposed to more traditional research and critical activities connoted by the isolated term "arts". For although the tradition has a crucial place in the curriculum, it is the focus on issues of contemporary art making and performance that gives the program its distinctive place in the Canadian university context. The new name clearly elucidates the thrust of departmental activity for prospective students, the University and the public.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

NOV 15 1989

FACULTY OF ARTS