

March 16, 2020

Friends of the McGovern College of the Arts:

In light of the continuing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, I am announcing that all McGovern College of the Arts performances, productions, public exhibitions, festivals, and special events scheduled for the remainder of the spring semester are now cancelled. This action is consistent with advice given in the most recent health advisories from the CDC and the federal government, and it is consistent with the approach being adopted by many of our partner arts organizations throughout the city of Houston. It is also the reality of a situation in which the gathering of large groups, including the groups that form as a natural part of the planning, preparation, and rehearsal process associated with these events, poses a significant public health risk.

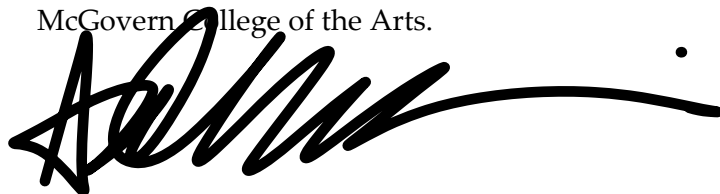
I know this news is disappointing—imagine the disappointment to our faculty, staff, and students—but please know that we made the decision with the utmost concern for the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and audiences. Public health and safety for the entire McGovern College of the Arts extended family is our highest priority.

We will be making every effort to reschedule as many of our events for which it is possible and practical to do so. It is too early to say at this time when any possible rescheduling might occur.

Please note also that this is separate from a cancellation of activities related to student instruction. Student progress toward degrees and graduation will not be affected by the cancellation of events. Every program in the college has been asked to develop a plan for how to maintain continuity of instruction and granting of credit during this time, and students will be informed of these plans in more detail by Friday, March 20. Academic advising will continue remotely as well.

Circumstances continue to evolve rapidly. Should any of this information change at any time, we will continue to inform you.

You are welcome to contact me with questions. I appreciate your continued support of the McGovern College of the Arts.

A large, bold, black handwritten signature, likely of Andrew Davis, is written over the text of the letter. The signature is stylized and appears to be a cursive or semi-cursive script.

Andrew Davis
Dean and Professor of Music
Cullen Foundation Endowed Chair