

Dear AUP Parents,

I am writing with exciting news and an invitation for you to invest in the future of the arts at AUP by supporting The Monttessuy Center for the Arts.

The American University of Paris has a rich history of artistic endeavor centered on its Department of Art History, enhanced in recent years with the addition of a formal major in Fine Arts. I am sure that, as a parent of a global explorer enrolled in one of the department's majors, you know what it means for students to study these subjects in Paris, a city renowned for its extraordinary museums and architectural marvels. Though the city itself is, of course, a classroom, students need well-equipped facilities to effectively put theory into practice. I am therefore delighted to announce that AUP will soon begin work on an exciting new hub for artistic life: The Monttessuy Center for the Arts.

The support of parents, alumni and friends has been vital to our five-year Campus Renovation Plan, which recently culminated in the opening of our Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons. This ten-story building in the heart of the 7th *arrondissement* centralizes all those services that globally minded students need to thrive and achieve success. As part of this development, the AUP Library has relocated to the Quai building. The final step in our campus renovations will be the redevelopment of the library's former location on the rue de Monttessuy into a new home for the Department of Art History and Fine Arts.

This is a project that not only sets its eyes firmly on the future, but also represents a homecoming of sorts; in the 1970s, art history lessons took place in two classrooms in the Monttessuy building. Now, in the context of our rapidly expanding majors in art history and fine arts (up 270% in five years), this return to Monttessuy will allow the University to create a state-of-the-art facility, characteristic of its rising profile as an exceptional institution providing a liberal arts education with a global focus.

The Monttessuy Center for the Arts will greatly increase the scope of the department's offerings; new courses, such as Advanced Painting, will only be possible in the expanded space. The new classrooms will allow sculptors to keep their materials separate from painters and printmakers, tailoring each space to the needs of its artists. In addition, the redevelopment will include a 70-seat auditorium, the first on AUP's campus. The auditorium will host a program of lectures, film screenings and performances, meaning the whole AUP community will be able to benefit from arts events at the University.

An education in the arts, especially from a global institution such as AUP, teaches the most universal of languages in a world of differences. The time has come to help AUP – ever ascending – to secure the space and services that will give wings to its Department of Art History and Fine Arts and to expose all of its students to the arts. The Monttessuy Center for the Arts will provide that opportunity. I hope that, as an AUP parent, you will consider supporting this important project. Please, help us make this vision a reality with your gift.

Warmest wishes,

President Celeste M. Schenck

établissement privé d'enseignement supérieur libre

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Siege social : 5, boulevard de La Tour-Maubourg, 75007 PARIS. France - Tel (33/1) 40 62 06 00 - www.aup.edu

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