

Leonardo ISAST 2006 Annual Report

February 18 2007

V5 Final

**Prepared by Roger F. Malina
Chair of the Board**

Table of Contents

- 1. Leonardo/ISAST Mission Statement**
- 2. Key Initiatives**
- 3. Other Notable Events**
- 4. Organizational Development**
- 5. Financial**
- 6. Leonardo/ISAST/OLATS Projects**
- 7. Prospective**

Appendices (Available on Board Web Site)

- i. End of Year Financial Report**
- ii. MIT Press 05/06 report**
- iii. 40th Anniversary Marketing plan**
- iv. 2007 Fundraising Plan**
- v. 2006 Donations Summary**
- vi. LEA Annual Report**
- vii. Leonardo Book Series Report**

1. LEONARDO/ISAST MISSION STATEMENT

As a reminder, our Mission Statement states:

We promote and document the work of artists involved with science and technology.

We stimulate art-science and art-technology collaboration.

Our vision statement states:

Science and Technology dominate our current landscape, emerging with an intensity and velocity never before experienced. This intense intellectual creativity needs to be integrated with the humanizing activity of creating art, to bring balance to how we experience our current existence and imagine our futures.

Over the course of history, art has been both an organizing and integrating role with our emotional and intellectual lives. Art serves as a means of presenting, questioning, understanding and creating order out of chaos and change. Imagination often leads the way of discovery in science. Innovation of art, science and technology will allow for new ideas that may be important economically and socially.

Leonardo/ISAST serves as the organization that nurtures and fosters this alliance between the arts and sciences, proactively bringing these social networks together leading to greater creativity and social change in both areas.

2. KEY INITIATIVES

As a result of our long-range plan Rethinking Leonardo, the Board identified 3 key initiatives that have been structuring the priorities of the organization:

- a) Strengthening our ties to educational programs internationally**
- b) Global Crossings: Increasing involvement outside North America and Western Europe**
- c) Increasing the involvement of scientists and research engineers**

Underlying these initiatives are the planning and first steps on the Leonardo 40th anniversary in 2008. This is designed as a developmental and fundraising strategy to seek to stabilize the organization financially and develop a significant endowment. Long-range planning under the rubric Rethinking Leonardo will use this as a fulcrum to set new goals for the organization.

i) TIES TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

San Francisco Art Institute

We developed a number of collaborations with the San Francisco Art Institute, who also hosted our headquarters. This included co-sponsorship of two salons at the San Francisco Art Institute, an open house and student internships. In partnership with Zero One and CADRE of San Jose State University we collaborated on the ISEA International Symposium in San Jose, California, U.S.A., and co-sponsored the Pacific Rim New Media Summit. A special issue of *Leonardo* journal was produced in collaboration with the San Francisco Art Institute. Unfortunately, at the end of the year we received notification from the SFAI that they were terminating our lease because they had other needs for the space.

Organizational Members

We continued successfully to develop the Leonardo organizational membership program, with 6 paying and 4 in-kind organizational members. Student interns from SFAI, the University of Texas at Dallas and Concordia University were retained. Other members include RISD, SAIC, Plymouth Univ. We think this program is a good development and can be grown to a dozen or so organizational members.

Leonardo/OLATS signed a partnership agreement with the Musicologie, Informatique et Nouvelles Technologies (MINT) group of the Sorbonne in Paris in connection with the Pioneers and Pathbreakers project.

Leonardo Education Forum

The Leonardo Education Forum continued to develop new activities for faculty and students within the College Art Association and Society for Literature, Science and the Arts conferences under the leadership of Amy Ione (Chair), Eddie Shanken and Andrea Polli (co-chairs) and Gabriel Harp (University of Michigan), Mariah Klaneski (Wesleyan University) and Josh Levy (Hunter College), Student Chairs.

The Leonardo Abstracts Database project, led in English by Sheila Pinkel of Pomona College and in Spanish by Pau Alsina, continued to expand; two calls for abstracts were issued. The peer review panels recognized the top-rated abstracts for excellence.

Nisar Keshvani ran the Leonardo International Faculty Alert information list.

ii) *GLOBAL CROSSINGS*

We continued actively to seek the involvement of members of the professional community outside North America and Western Europe as authors, for collaborations and as members of our committees and working groups.

We co-sponsored the ISEA Pacific Rim New Media Summit, including the production of a *Leonardo* journal special issue led by Greg Niemeyer.

OLATS, led by Julien Knebusch, continued to co-sponsor the YASMIN Mediterranean Rim network, with moderated discussions on nanotechnology, climate change, exhibiting biological art, and education.

iii) INVOLVEMENT OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Leonardo Scientists Working Group

Board Member Tami Spector led the establishment of the Leonardo Scientists Working Group, identifying key scientists and research engineers involved in arts projects and art research. A database has been developed, and an initial working group meeting is planned for early 2007.

Nanoscience

A five-year agreement was signed with the Exploratorium for activities within the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network. Tami Spector and Tom Rockwell of the Exploratorium are serving as guest editors of a special section for *Leonardo* journal.

Artists and Climate Change

OLATS signed a three-year agreement on Artists and Climate Change with the Kilkenny Arts Center (Ireland). ISAST received initial funding from the LEF Foundation to publish articles relating to artists and climate change. A Leonardo working group on art and climate change is being established.

Space Exploration and the Arts

The Leonardo/OLATS Space Arts Working Group co-sponsored the “Expanding the Space” workshop in Valencia, Spain, in connection with the International Astronautical Congress.

Leonardo/OLATS will be co-sponsoring an Arts and Space Symposium in Bangalore in November 2007 after the International Astronautical Congress.

Leonardo/OLATS will be co-sponsoring the Arts and Space Symposium during IAC 2008 in Glasgow.

Also of note: The Board elected chemist John Hearst to the Governing Board of Directors.

iv) 40th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING

An agreement was signed with David Hoffman in connection with fundraising for the Leonardo 40th anniversary event in 2008.

Leonardo 40th anniversary fundraisers were held in San Jose during ISEA and at the home of Lisa Bornstein.

A 40th anniversary logo was adopted.

- **A partnership was established by OLATS with CIANT in Prague for a Leonardo 40th Anniversary Symposium, “Mutamorphosis,” to be held in November 2007.**

3. OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS

2006 was marked by a number of other significant events:

- **After an international search, Sean Cubitt of Melbourne University was appointed Editor in Chief of the Leonardo Book Series. Four Leonardo Books were published.**
- **The First Leonardo/OLATS Electroacoustic Music Symposium Leonardo Award for Excellence was made and will be announced in 2007.**
- **Leonardo co-sponsored Ear the Earth, in New York, U.S.A., and Design as Seeing as Thinking, in Istanbul, Turkey.**
- **Marcia Tanner led a number of meetings and discussions about developing Leo Neo, or activities addressed to a more general public. A mock-up issue is under development.**
- **MIT Press informed us that they no longer wanted to host our web site. This move was precipitated when basement flooding at MIT Press took out the servers that hosted the Leonardo On Line web site. An agreement was forged whereby the Fondation Daniel Langlois Centre for Research and Documentation would host the Leonardo On Line web site.**

4. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

John Hearst and Meredith Tromble were elected to the Governing Board of Directors. Greg Niemeyer rotated off. We plan to grow the Governing Board to the legal number of 15 members from the current 12.

The nomination committee chaired by Sonya Rapoport continued successfully to develop new prospects for the Board.

The Leonardo International Advisory Committee, chaired by Board member Beverly Reiser, was consulted on a number of issues. In 2007 the International Advisory Board will be reappointed and a co-chair will be sought. We will seek to involve the LIAC more closely in Leonardo planning and decisions.

The Leonardo staff had an excellent year juggling a large number of tasks and projects, including a number of projects with San Francisco Art Institute faculty and student interns. There was no staff turnover.

During the year, fundraiser Kathy Pace was retained to assist staff in individual and foundation fundraising

Individual membership grew 20%, to 525 paid associate members. An additional 120 ex officio members were recognized through their volunteer work on Leonardo projects. There were 501 library subscribers.

The organization functioned without an Executive Committee of the Board due to the unavailability of local board members. A new committee will be established in 2007. The organization still suffers from the lack of a formal executive director function.

Board Member Michael Grey led the international search committee that resulted in the appointment of Sean Cubitt as Editor in Chief of the Leonardo Book Series.

5. FINANCIAL

The ISAST organizational budget for the year was \$293,000. Fundraising efforts netted \$46,000 in individual donations and a \$2,000 grant from the LEF foundation. In order to meet the financial shortfall loans of \$62,000 were provided by the Board Chairman.

MIT Press reported for the *Leonardo* journal account for June 2005 to June 2006 a total income of \$361,000, expenditures of \$260,000 and a gain of \$101,000 split 50:50 with Leonardo/ISAST as provided by our contract.

We netted \$3,700 dollars from royalties on books sold in the Leonardo Book Series.

\$12,000 was deposited to the endowment in connection with a match from an anonymous donor.

The organization's financial system was improved and streamlined by Pat Bentson and our accountant. Quarterly reports are now issued on time and are accurate. Due to the press of activities we were not able to carry out the 2005 audit, which will be carried out next year.

The organization is operating at a substantial annual financial deficit; remedying this situation is clearly a first priority of the Governing Board.

6. LEONARDO/ISAST/OLATS PROJECTS

(Note: ISAST and OLATS are separate organizations, but since many projects overlap, we note here projects led by both ISAST and OLATS)

i) PRIZES AND AWARDS PROGRAM

The Leonardo Prizes and Awards program was on hold pending establishment of a more significant prize endowment.

However Leonardo/OLATS established an agreement with Marc Battier and the Electro-acoustic Music Symposium to establish a Leonardo-EMS Award for Excellence to be awarded for the best paper at the annual symposium.

ii) WORKING GROUPS

The Leonardo Education Forum was led by chair Amy Ione and vice chairs Eddie Shanken and Andrea Polli. Several activities and panels were implemented at the College Art Association and Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts conferences. The Forum is viewed as one of the most successful Leonardo projects, and its further development is being encouraged.

The Leonardo Space Arts Working Group co sponsored the Expanding the Space workshop during the International Astronautical Congress in Valencia, Spain. Leonardo/ISAST co-sponsored an artist in residence, the duo Semiconductor, at the UC Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory, funded by Arts Council England.

The Leonardo Scientists Working Group, led by Tami Spector, developed a database of scientists and will hold a meeting in spring 2007.

A Leonardo Artists and Climate Change Working Group is being developed.

The Leonardo Nanoculture working group is being led by Victoria Vesna at UCLA.

iii) PUBLICATIONS

***Leonardo* journal had a very successful year. Lynne Carstarphen was appointed Coordinating Editor. All issues were on schedule and the number of pages exceeded contractual obligations.**

The journal published special sections on the following topics:

- * Space Art 2004**
- * Melilla Colloquium papers**

- * CAA 2005 papers (2 installments)
- * ArtScience: The Essential Connection (3 installments)
- * Arts Council England Arts and Science Research Fellowship papers

An agreement was signed with Josep Perelló of Barcelona for a *Leonardo* special section on the physics of aesthetics as part of the Year of Einstein.

An agreement was established with Ernest Edmonds at the University of Technology, Sidney, to start a new *Leonardo* section, Transactions, for rapid publication of peer-reviewed, camera-ready articles. Greg Turner will be serving as an editorial advisor.

Leonardo/OLATS is a partner in the DOCAM project led by the Langlois Centre Research and Documentation on archiving, documenting and restoring new media. This is part of the OLATS Pioneers and Pathbreakers project. As an element of this project, *Leonardo* is initiating a section guest-edited by Jean Gagnon and Alain Depocas.

The *Leonardo Music Journal*, under Editor in Chief Nicolas Collins and Managing Editor Pat Bentson, published an issue with the theme "Noises Off: Sound Beyond Music"; the CD was curated by Peter Cusack.

The *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, under Editor in Chief Nisar Keshvani, published issues on locative media, an issue in conjunction with *LMJ* and an issue on wild nature. An on-line discussion and chat system was established. The new web-site design was greeted very favorably.

The *Leonardo Abstracts Service (LABS)*, under Sheila Pinkel and Pau Alsina, issued two calls for abstracts; 170 have been received to date in English and 40 in Spanish, and a number received special mentions and publication.

Sean Cubitt was appointed Editor in Chief of the *Leonardo Book Series*; a new *Leonardo Book Series* advisory committee was appointed. Four books were published. Several new book contracts were signed by MIT Press under the *Leonardo Book Series*. The *LBS* is developing well and is one of the strongest *Leonardo* projects at this time.

The *Leonardo On Line* web site was migrated to the Langlois Research and Documentation Center under a hosting and collaboration agreement.

Leonardo Reviews, under Michael Punt, continued to publish over 20 reviews a month with a large international review board. The project is thriving. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected migration of the *Leonardo* web sites from MIT Press, there was a period during which on-line access was hampered by incorrect redirection from the old ULR.

The *Leonardo/LMJ* archives were made available on JSTOR at the beginning of 2006.

iv) COLLABORATIONS

The following collaboration agreements were established:

SIGGRAPH 2007, with Vibeke Sorensen, in connection with the Global Eye project.

ACM MM, in connection with Alejandro Jaimes, for Leonardo Galleries to be published in connection with their Symposia.

OLATS continued to cosponsor the YASMIN Mediterranean rim network, with moderated discussions on Climate Change, Exhibiting Bio Art and education.

OLATS signed a three-year agreement on Artists and Climate Change with the Kilkenny Arts Center. ISAST received initial funding from the LEF Foundation to publish articles related to artists and climate change.

An agreement was signed with Ollivier Dyens, Chair of the French Department at Concordia University, to host student interns as part of their organizational membership.

v) 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

David Carrier was appointed Guest Editor for a 40th anniversary section in *Leonardo* journal.

The workshop Expanding the Space in Valencia was labeled a 40th anniversary event.

The fundraiser during ISEA was labeled a 40th anniversary kickoff event.

7. PROSPECTIVE

As Leonardo enters its 40th anniversary, we take note of the large number of dynamic projects of an international nature. 2007 will be a crucial year for Leonardo as 40th anniversary fundraising is ramped up. The goal of this fundraising is to stabilize the organization by significantly increasing the endowment and by bringing in sufficient foundation and donation income to meet the organizational budget deficit of \$160,000 estimated for 2007.

The organization will have to move its headquarters offices to new premises. This will be disruptive and the staff are to be thanked for their loyalty to the organization in facing another office move.

We will be working with Mark Resch to raise funds for the Leonardo 40th anniversary event in 2008. University of New Mexico and Banff New Media Institute are candidates as hosts.

Major events in 2007 will include the Leonardo/OLATS co-sponsored 40th anniversary symposium Mutamorphosis, being organized in Prague in November, and fundraising for Leonardo's 40th Anniversary.

Nicolas Collins's 3-year contract as Editor in Chief of Leonardo Music Journal is up for renewal.

The 2005 audit will be conducted.

Leonardo is turning 40. It will also be a time for rethinking the organization's goals and strategy for financial sustainability. We hope to engage the Governing Board and International Advisory Board in thorough evaluation of current activities, steps needed for financial sustainability and future plans and developments.