

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Xuanning Fu, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
From: Kathy Adams, Interim Chair *Kad*
Department Art and Design
Date: November 17, 2021
Re: Art and Design: Department Name Change Request

The Art and Design faculty voted unanimously to accept a department name change proposal from their Art History program faculty (Dr. Laura Meyer, Dr. Keith Jordan, Dr. Wannasarn Noonsuk, and Dr. Luis Gordo Peláez). The department faculty would like to request this change: “Department of Art, Design, and Art History” (DADAH). In the past three years the CSU system has approved a new major and minor in Art History, and the number of faculty has increased after the arrival of the most recent art historian, Dr. Noonsuk. With this latest addition, the art history area initiated the process to update the program of the BA in Art History to its current four areas of specialty: Renaissance/Baroque, Native American and African Art, Asian Art, Modern and Contemporary Art. In total, the art history area offers three GE lower division courses (ARTH 10, ARTH 11, and ARTH 12), and 18 upper-division courses that we teach on a regular and rotating basis.

This proposed change to the department’s name is to increase the visibility of the BA and Minor in Art History in California’s Central Valley, and beyond. As a new, independent art history program they are relatively new, and the department believes that adding “Art History” to our name will help to promote our new degree studies and increase the enrollment in the department. By including “Art History,” students searching information about universities offering a major or minor in this discipline will find it easier to know about our exciting and promising program.

Our preliminary research on other art history programs across the country has led us to find that a variety of university departments incorporate “art history” to their name, along with “art and design,” among them, [Michigan State University](#), [University of Notre Dame](#), [University of Washington](#), [University of Nebraska](#), [University of Alabama in Huntsville](#), [James Madison University](#), [The University of Tulsa](#), and [Oklahoma State University](#). At the CSU system, “art history” is also part of the name of the department in two schools where (as happens at Fresno State) a BA and a Minor in Art History are currently offered: [San Jose State](#) and [Sonoma State](#). Therefore, our petition to modify the name of the department is consistent with the relevance given to the art history programs in other schools both within the CSU system and elsewhere in the country.

c: Honora Chapman, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities