

THRIVING in GRADUATE SCHOOL @CCA

A presentation by
CCA Graduate Affairs & Community Engagement
(GrACE)



Land Acknowledgement

California College of the Arts campuses are located in Huichin and Yelamu, also known as Oakland and San Francisco, on the unceded territories of Chochenyo and Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who have continuously lived upon this land since time immemorial. We recognize the historic discrimination and violence inflicted upon Indigenous peoples in California and the Americas, including their forced removal from ancestral lands, and the deliberate and systematic destruction of their communities and culture.

CCA has a responsibility to oppose all forms of individual and institutionalized racism toward all people but especially toward Indigenous peoples within the arts, fields in which discrimination has occurred through the omission and silencing of Indigenous voices. CCA is committed to the inherent academic and creative activism required to foster a culture that acknowledges these harms, shows empathy and care, and demonstrates positive steps toward reconciliation and repair.

What is this thing you call “GrACE?”

The screenshot shows the CCA Portal website. The top navigation bar includes 'DASHBOARD', 'THRIVING', 'LEARNING', 'TEACHING', 'WORKING', 'ESSENTIALS', 'CAMPUS PLANNING', and 'LOG IN'. The 'LEARNING' menu is highlighted with a red circle. Below it, the 'Graduate Affairs & Community Engagement' option is also highlighted with a red circle. A red arrow points from the 'LEARNING' menu to the 'Graduate Affairs & Community Engagement' option. The main content area is divided into 'GRADUATE AFFAIRS' and 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT' sections. The 'GRADUATE AFFAIRS' section includes 'MISSION' and 'VISION' sections. The 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT' section includes a description of the team's role. The 'Related Pages' section lists several links, including '2024-2025 CCA Academic Calendar', 'New Graduate Student Orientation & Chimera Welcome Week', 'Curatorial Practice, MA', and 'Design, MFA'.

- We are CCA Graduate Affairs & Community Engagement (“GrACE”), a team of 4 staff dedicated to the CCA graduate experience:
 - ShawnJ West, Director
 - Dave Beeman, Senior Project Manager
 - Trey Gallaher, Project Manager
 - Jason Morris, Project Manager
- You can find us on the CCA Portal under “Learning” toward the bottom

What can GrACE do for me?

- **Serve as your Graduate Academic Advisor. [You can book an appointment online.](#)**
- **Provide opportunities for all graduate students to come together across programs throughout the year, through Grad Slams, Happy Hours, Mixers, Panels, Professional Development Workshops, etc.,**
- **Advise and provide counsel on all aspects of student life; assist with applications to fellowships and grants; showcase student research and creative work; and foster civic engagement.**
- **Work with other CCA teams: Office of Student Belonging and Inclusion, Student Affairs, Graduate Student Alliance, Access Services, Career Education, and others.**
- **Oversee the Teaching & Classroom Assistant application, placement, and hiring process, working with Program Chairs.**



What can I do for myself?

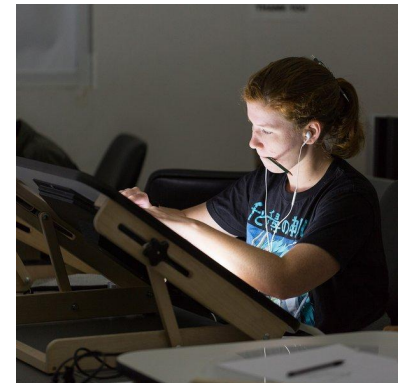


- Check your [CCA](#) email regularly (at least once a day). This is the only way we have of communicating with you.
- Always make sure you're on track with your semester registrations in Workday. If you have questions, you can reach out to GrACE at graduateaffairs@cca.edu or to your advisor directly. Or your Chair.
- Attend classes and required meetings. Let faculty know, well in advance, if you will be unable to attend.
- Familiarize yourself with the [GrACE website](#), including the [Academic Calendar](#) and [Course Guides](#). Also consult the [Student Handbook](#)
- Be kind. ALWAYS treat people (students, faculty, staff, visitors, etc.) how you would like to be treated.
- Be flexible. Sometimes surprises that seem like disappointments initially can take you in amazing new directions.
- Always ask if you need something! If you're not sure who to consult, email ask@cca.edu. Great email address, right?

What CCA Resources Can Help Me Do the Thing?

- [CCA Shops](#) - so many!
- [CCA Libraries](#) - books, tools, online resources
- [CCA Technology](#) - Adobe Creative Cloud and other software is free for students!
- [CCA Office of Student Belonging & Inclusion](#)
- [CCA Student Affairs](#)
 - [Access & Disability](#)
 - [Graduate Student Alliance](#) (more later)
 - [CCA Cares](#)
 - [CCA Commuting Resources](#)
 - [Student Handbook](#)
- [CCA Events Pages](#) - You're only here a short time. Be a sponge. You'll likely never be surrounded by so many experts and practitioners in so many fields. Learn from them! Attend as many as you can, even those outside of your practice area.
- [CCA Career Development](#)
- [CCA Learning Resource Center](#) and [Grad Student Learning Resources](#)
- [CCA Counseling & Psychological Services](#)
- [CCA Exhibitions](#) | [CCA Wattis Institute](#) | [Exhibition Planning & Resources](#)

SHOPS PRO TIP: Consider attending as many Shop Orientations as you can. You never know where your practice will take you.



What CCA Resources Can Help Me Do the Thing?

Want to learn more about
CCA resources?

Attend ...

- Chimera Welcome Week
August 25-29
- Grad Days
August 28-29



What CCA Resources Can Help Me Do the Thing?

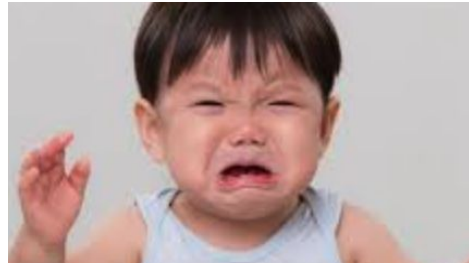


REMINDER: PROTECT YOUR WORK:

Don't risk losing your work. Back up your work **REGULARLY** on an external or online drive. CCA offers some online resources.



I backed up my work.



I didn't.

Getting Around CCA & San Francisco

- [CCA Campus Maps](#) (i.e. Where is Blattner Hall?)
- [CCA Guide to Public Transit](#)
- [CCA Muni Pass](#) is included in most of your student fees - Take advantage! Covers city MUNI rail and buses (sorry, not BART).
- [Bay Area Rapid Transit \("BART"\)](#) & [Clipper Card](#)
- Exploring Neighborhoods
 - [SFTravel.com](#) offers an AMAZING array of free downloadable neighborhood maps, showing many Art / Design / Architecture / Research institutions, along with music, just-for-fun, and other venues.
- [Lyft / CityWheels](#) bike program. \$150/year for regular bikes. E-bikes available, too! WEAR A HELMET :)
- Free [Mission Bay Shuttle](#) to Civic Center



Just a Few Bay Area Professional Organizations & Resources to Get to Know

[The Center for the Book](#) (walking distance!)

[Center for Architecture + Design](#)

[Architectural Foundation of San Francisco](#)

[Prelinger Archive](#) & [SF Prelinger Library](#)

[Association of Architecture Organizations, SF](#)

[Root Division](#) (studios, teaching opportunities and other arts resources)

[Kala Art Institute](#), Berkeley (Printmaking & Photo)

[SF Camerawork](#)

[Minnesota Street Project](#)

[Artists Television Access](#)

[Other Minds Music Festival](#)

[Litquake](#) (SF Literary Festival - October)

[City Lights Books](#)

[Bolerium Books](#) (used books & historical ephemera on social movements)

[Small Press Traffic](#)

[FOG Design + Art Fair](#) (January)

[SF Art Book Fair](#) (July)

Pssst... The Bay Area can be expensive. What are some inexpensive options for:

- **Food**
- **Course & Making Materials**
- **Housing**
- **Clothing & Furniture**
- **Child Care**



Remember: Money you save during your time here means money you won't be paying interest on down the road.

Pssst... The Bay Area can be expensive. What are some inexpensive options for:

Food:

You can't focus if you're hungry.
No student should have to go through food insecurity.



- Find out about [CCA Meal Plans @ Makers Cafe](#) for those living off campus
- SFSU has put together a great pdf showing [SF's most inexpensive markets](#).
- Find out about CalFresh [SNAP Benefits](#) for domestic college students
- San Francisco has a number of thriving [farmer's markets](#).
- Consider a [Costco Membership](#) (\$60/year membership fee - walking distance from CCA), or order in bulk through [Instacart](#), splitting the cost with friends if you don't have a car.

Pssst... The Bay Area can be expensive. What are some inexpensive options for:

Course & Making Materials:

- [CCA Materials Library](#)
- [CCA Material Reuse Center](#)
- [Urban Ore in Berkeley \(a gem\)](#)
- [Scrap Depot in SF](#)
- [East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse in Oakland](#)
- [Berkeley Outlet](#) (No website - used office furniture. Huge selection. Limited hours)
- Facebook Marketplace
- Craigslist (be careful)
- Bay Area [Public Library Tool Libraries](#), as a backup to CCA Materials library



Pssst... The Bay Area can be expensive. What are some inexpensive options for:

Housing:

- CCA has put together a helpful set of resources regarding graduate student housing in the Bay Area. [You can find it here.](#)



Pssst... The Bay Area can be expensive. What are some resources & inexpensive options for:

Clothing & Furniture:



- Secret San Francisco has compiled a great list of chic & stylish thrift stores in the Bay Area. Let your freak flag fly!
- Ikea, located just across the Bay Bridge in Emeryville
- Visit one of the Bay Area's amazing Flea Markets
- Urban Ore in Berkeley (still a gem)
- Facebook Marketplace
- Craigslist (be careful)

Pssst... The Bay Area can be expensive. What are some resources & inexpensive options for:

Child Care:



- [SFGate Guide](#) to Best Daycares in the Bay Area
- [Ca.gov](#) has compiled a list of subsidized programs. Check if your family qualifies.
- Did you know that San Francisco has a Department of Early Childhood? Visit their [Resource Page](#)

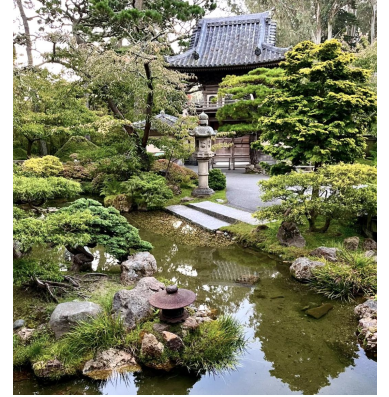
What are some inexpensive escapes? Where can I find some peace & serenity?

There are many places around the SF area that are accessible via Muni or bus. You can find many on our [Commonly Requested Field Trip Venues](#) page on the Portal.



- **Beaches:**
The beaches here are wonderful places to relax and unwind. Some favorites include:
 - [Ocean Beach](#) (dog-friendly)
 - [Crissy Field East Beach](#)
 - [Baker Beach](#)
 - [Land's End](#)
 - [Marshall's Beach](#) (clothing optional)
 - [China Beach](#)
 - [Fort Funston](#)

What are some inexpensive escapes? Where can I find some peace & serenity?



- **Parks & Public Areas:**
 - [Salesforce Park](#) - built on top of the downtown Transit Center
 - [Golden Gate Park](#) / Japanese Tea Garden
 - [Presidio](#)
 - [Mission Dolores Park](#)
- **Hikes:**
 - [BayNature.org](#) has compiled a great map of [hikes accessible by public transit](#)
 - [Hiking by Transit](#) also has a great map of public-transit-accessible trails
- Use your CCA ID Card for museum and other discounts around the Bay Area.
- [Discover & Go](#) passes from local city libraries. Provides California library cardholders with free and discounted tickets to local museums, state parks and cultural institutions
- Take yourself on a meditative “[Dérive](#),” (first-year Grad Fine Arts students will learn about this soon).
- Did you know CCA has its own Meditation Room? It's located in the Main Building west of the student lounge, across from Room 102A.

What are some inexpensive escapes? Where can I find some peace & serenity?

- Other “Recharging” ideas:

- Keep a calendar of upcoming city-wide events: both in and outside of your area of study: readings, live music, theater, exhibitions, etc. Some helpful sites:

- [Eventbrite](#)
- [SF Funcheap](#)
- [SFGate](#)
- [SF/Arts](#)



- Keep a journal
- Keep AT LEAST one afternoon / morning / evening (are you an AM / PM person?) FREE for mental wandering & reset
- Join a [Meetup](#) Group: cooking, hiking, cycling, art, music, theater, etc.
- Volunteering - One Brick, San Francisco Food Bank (Pennsylvania Street)
- Spend time with friends (bowling, movies, walks, meals). Be in community.
 - The Embarcadero, Grace Cathedral is free.

What are some good ways to build community?



The Grad Student Alliance is a great way to get connected to the community. Organized and guided by the GSA directors, students Navneet Vaid and Maitri Rudani. Whose mission is to champion on behalf of all graduate students and create opportunities for community, cross-pollination and collaboration. You can find more information on the Portal.

[Graduate Student Alliance \(GSA\)](#)

What are some good ways to build community?

GrACE is always looking at new ways to build and support the community together. Look for the following this year:

- Grad Slams
- Happy Hours
- Salons
- Collaboration & sharing opportunities with fellow grad students & GSA and the overall CCA community at large.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback!

Email: graduateaffairs@cca.edu



What are some good ways to build community?



Look around you right now. Your fellow students are your best resource.

- Friends made now can become future collaborators and lifelong resources. Ask each other!
- Plan your own get-togethers, pot-luck dinners, readings, movie nights, bowling, mini golf, etc.
- Attend each others' exhibitions, screenings, readings, performances, symposia, fashion shows, product debuts, etc. Do unto others!
- Are you inspired by someone's work? Tell them. Be supportive. Ask questions.

Finally...

GrACE is here to help.

**Have an idea? Email us at
GraduateAffairs@cca.edu.**

Questions?

NOTE: We will email each of you a copy of this presentation. We will also post this information on the GrACE Portal Pages.