The Lawrence and Isabel Barnett Center for Integrated Arts and Enterprise educates and prepares students for successful careers in the arts and related entrepreneurial fields. The center advances and increases students’ understandings of the business side of the arts and the worlds of arts management, policy and culture.

The Barnett Center expands the vision of Lawrence and Isabel Barnett who imagined creating a place where students could learn skills and abilities that would equip them to be successful in the arts.

ABOUT LAWRENCE AND ISABEL BARNETT

Lawrence Barnett, a native of Orrville, Ohio, and alumnus of Ohio State, worked with Columbia Broadcasting System Artist Bureau, representing such notables as Guy Lombardo, Sammy Kaye, Ronald Reagan, George Burns, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis and Jack Benny. Barnett later became president of Music Corporation of America (MCA), chairman and president of General Artists Corporation (GAC), executive vice president of Chris-Craft Industries and vice chairman and director of United Television, Inc.

Isabel Bigley Barnett starred in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Oklahoma! and Me and Juliet, and is perhaps best remembered for originating the part of Sarah Brown in Frank Loesser’s Guys and Dolls, for which she won the Tony in 1951. Isabel donated her extensive collection of theater memorabilia to Ohio State’s Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute in 1993.
PROGRESS

GRADUATE STUDENT THINK TANK
Groups of interdisciplinary graduate students who work collaboratively with artists and organizations to solve critical artists’ issues and identify and develop new models for organizational management structures, assist with succession planning, and conduct field research. They work with artists of prominent national and international cultural/arts organizations that have significant performing history and with local and regional organizations.

BARNETT SPEAKER SERIES AND SEMINARS
Speakers and seminars that offer a platform for new thinking, research and practice in integrated arts, arts entrepreneurship and enterprise by faculty, students, artists and entrepreneurs in all areas of the arts.

BARNETT SYMPOSIUM
An in-depth inquiry and analysis of public and not-for-profit sector policies and practices. The inaugural symposium in 1993 brought together key figures from foundations, state arts councils, university experts in public policy, artists and arts administrators to discuss the broad topic of public policy and the arts. The symposium is a biannual event.

MENTORSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS
Opportunities for students to participate in residencies and practicums with alumni, faculty and arts practitioners in a variety of platforms and locations. Local, national and international placements will be cultivated.

SONIA BASSHEVA MAÑJON, PHD
In 2013, Sonia BasSheva Mañjon was named inaugural director of the Barnett Center. Mañjon, who also serves as an associate professor in the Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy, served as vice president for institutional partnerships, chief diversity officer, and visiting associate professor of theatre at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Mañjon created the Think Tank, a student group that works with professional artists and arts organizations to examine non-profit and profit organizations and management structures and established the Barnett Ambassadors, an advisory committee with representatives from Ohio State alumni, faculty, staff, and students, City of Columbus, non-profit organizations and the business community.

THE BARNETT AMBASSADORS
The Barnett Ambassadors is an advisory committee made up of representatives from: Ohio State departments, colleges, schools and centers including the Fisher College of Business, School of Music, Wexner Center for the Arts, Department of Art, The John Glenn School of Public Affairs and others; City of Columbus representatives includes the Greater Columbus Arts Council and Columbus Public Health; non-profit and business representatives includes VSA Ohio, Black Arts Plus and Huntington Bank; Ohio State alumni and emeritus faculty; and Ohio State students both undergraduate and graduate. The Ambassadors meet up to three times per year, attend Barnett Center activities and events when possible, introduce/connect the center director to internal and external constituents and recommend possible collaborations, partnerships, programs and activities.

THE BARNETT FELLOWSHIP FUND
Supports students interested in graduate level studies in arts policy and administration. It covers tuition and fees, and offers a monthly stipend and annual travel grant. The fellowship lasts for two years and has supported nearly 50 students in the Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy.