



THE POWER OF MANY

—HEAD
Genève

ELIA

Theme: The Power of Many

The 2025 edition of the ELIA Leadership Symposium asks: how can we harness the transformative power of collective intelligence? What are the essential elements that not only create community cohesion but also drive meaningful change?

Hosted by Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève, HES-SO) in Switzerland, the symposium brings together higher art education leaders, creative-thinking researchers, thought leaders on transformative leadership and alternative management models, economists, futurologists, and more. Together, we will examine the systems and processes needed to enable large groups of individuals to share their knowledge, data, and skills to solve complex problems as they navigate societal challenges. How can art education institutions become more than the sum of their parts? What skills are required to lead a crowd or movement with purpose? And what do we do if the system we operate within begins to crack?

In an era marked by societal fragmentation—fuelled by political upheaval, global conflicts, and the rapid evolution of AI technology—it can often feel as though our art schools, universities, and academies are challenged to lead their institutions through these rapid waves of change.

Through case study analysis, dialogue and collaboration with peers, this symposium will provide international leaders in higher arts education with practical tools and actionable insights to create thriving cultures of care and resilience. Learn strategies to tackle real-world issues such as increased governmental pressure, budget cuts, drops in enrolment, health and wellbeing of staff and students, student protests, global politics, and more.

Whether your leadership style is visionary, laissez-faire, empathetic, consensus-based, or something in between—the ELIA Leadership Symposium will equip you with the knowledge and foresight to bridge the gap between traditional hierarchical management and inclusive governance, ensuring a positive impact both within your institution and for future generations.

Programme Wednesday 15 October

Main venue	HEAD – Genève, Avenue de Châtelaine 7, Geneva, Switzerland	Building H
9:30–18:30	Registrations open	Building H: Entrance
9:50–11:30	Campus tours (Optional)	
	Visual Communication and Space Design/ Interior Architecture departments, and workshops	Meeting point @ Building H
	Fine Arts and Cinema departments, and workshops	Meeting point @ Building H
	Fashion, Jewellery, and Accessory Design department, Chair in Watch Design, and workshops	Meeting point @ Building D (Bd James-Fazy 15)
11:30–12:30	Meet and mingle (Optional)	Building E: Georges Addor
11:30–13:00	Evolving with purpose: Responding to new demands in art and design education (Optional)	Building H: Design Room
12:30–13:45	Light lunch	Building E: Georges Addor
13:00–13:45	Empower the many to transform your institution with ASIMUT (Optional)	Building E: 2.20
14:00–15:30	Official welcome - H2O – POWER! Performance by Priya Mara Lanfranchi, Visual Art student from HEAD – Genève - Keynote: Power With, A Wake-Up Call Marie-Laure Salles, Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute	Building H: Le Cube
15:30–16:00	Coffee break	Building H: Le Cube
16:00–17:15	Breakout session 1	
	The cost of cuts in higher arts education (case study + discussion)	Building E: Georges Addor
	Challenges in national political contexts (case study + discussion)	Building H: Petit Cube
	Meisner technique for mental health and development (workshop)	Building H: 1.20
	“Be part of something bigger”—archery as a blueprint for leadership and collective intelligence (workshop)	Building A: Espace 1:1
	Are we alone? (open session)	Building H: Design Room
17:30–18:30	In Conversation with - Roni Brown, Creative Higher Education Specialist, UK - Venka Purushothaman, Deputy President and Provost, LASALLE University of the Arts Singapore	Building H: Le Cube
19:30–22:30	Dinner at Café Papon	Rue Henri Fazy 1

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Programme Thursday 16 October

Main venue	HEAD – Genève, Avenue de Châtelaine 7, Geneva, Switzerland	Building H
8:30–9:30	Registrations open	Building H: Entrance
8:30–9:30	The Backstage Conversation Room (Optional)	Building E: Georges Addor Building H: 2.14, 4.05
9:30–11:00	Panel conversation: Leading through the collective - Carine Ayélé Durand, Director of Musée d'ethnographie de Genève - Kadiatou Diallo, Curator, Mediator and Cultural Practitioner - Laurence Rassel, Director of Ecole de Recherche Graphique (erg), Brussels	Building H: Le Cube
11:00–11:30	Coffee break	Building H: Le Cube
11:30–13:00	Breakout session 2	
	Pursuing meaningful change through policy and advocacy practices (theory + discussion)	Building E: Georges Addor
	Unlocking creativity: Key skills for the future (workshop)	Building H: Petit Cube
	The role of the arts in building dialogue, fostering humanitarian action (theory + discussion)	Building H: 4.05
	Wellbeing at work: The heart of success (workshop)	Building H: Design Room
	Introduction to orchestra conducting as related to collective intelligence for leadership (workshop)	Building A: Espace 1:1
13:00–14:00	Lunch	Building H: Le Cube
14:00–15:30	Panel conversation: Power in the Plural: Inclusive Leadership - Jenny Althoff, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design - Matylda Taszycka, Head of Research Programmes at AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibition - Crystal Williams, President of Rhode Island School of Design	Building H: Le Cube
15:30–16:00	Coffee break	Building H: Le Cube
16:00–18:00	Visit Geneva's art scene - International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum - Le Plaza Centre Cinéma - Quartier des Bains - Museum of Ethnography tour - Mirabaud Collection of Contemporary Art (Private Bank) - Dreamscapes—A Screening Program by HEAD – Genève	Meeting point @ Building H: Le Cube
18:30–23:00	Dinner at Grand Théâtre de Genève	Place de Neuve 5

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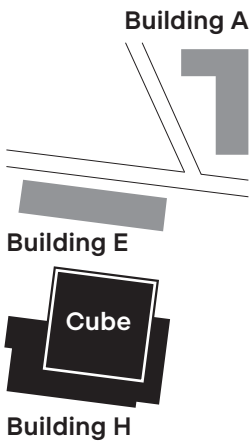
Programme Friday 17 October

Main venue	HEAD – Genève, Avenue de Châtelaine 7, Geneva, Switzerland	Building H
8:30–9:30	Registrations open	Building H: Entrance
8:30–9:30	The Backstage Conversation Room (Optional)	Building E: Georges Addor Building H: 1.20, 2.14
9:30–11:00	Breakout session 3	
	Fundraising as strategic vision: Securing support in challenging times and building resilience for organisational development (theory + discussion)	Building H: Petit Cube
	Collaborations with partner institutions in countries at war (case studies + discussion)	Building E: Georges Addor
	Enhancing student engagement (workshop)	Building H: Design Room
	NASA problem solving: Challenge your collective intelligence (workshop)	Building H: 1.20
	Health and wellbeing in higher education: From institutional systems to cultures of care (case study + solution lab)	Building H: 2.14
11:00–11:30	Coffee break	Building H: Le Cube
11:30–13:00	Keynote: Hope as a Creative Act Christopher Bailey, Arts and Health Lead at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Official closing	Building H: Le Cube
13:00–14:15	Farewell lunch	Building H: Le Cube
14:30–15:30	The Backstage Conversation Room (Optional)	Building E: Georges Addor Building H: 1.20, 2.14
14:15–17:00 14:15–17:00	Visit to CERN Science Gateway (Optional) Excursion to Palais des Nations (Optional)	Meeting point @ Building H: Le Cube
18:00–20:00	Dinner at Bains des Pâquis (Optional)	Quai du Mont-Blanc 30

The Office for the Use of Mistakes and Coincidences

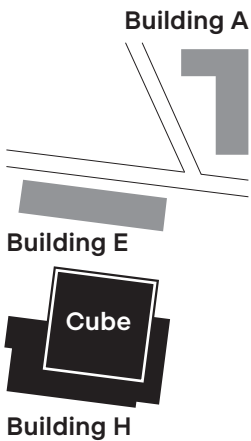
A performative installation and an artistic intervention by Hoernemann&Walbrodt. Coincidentally passing participants give one of their mistakes to the artists at the office. Using typewriters, stamps, gold leaf, pens, paints and various other materials H&W co-create unique artefacts. Finally, the certificate for the mistakes is read aloud and ceremoniously handed over.

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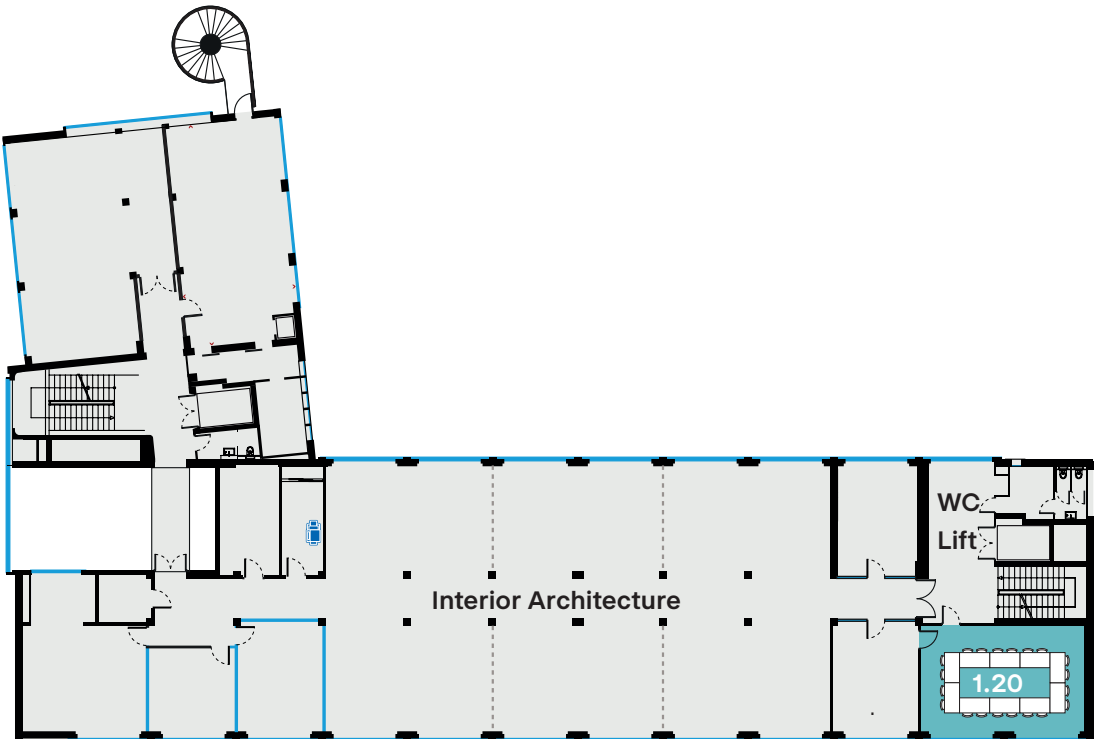


Ground Floor

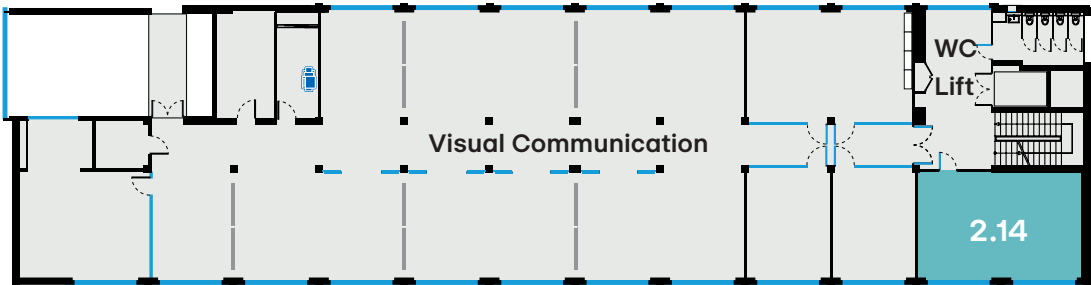




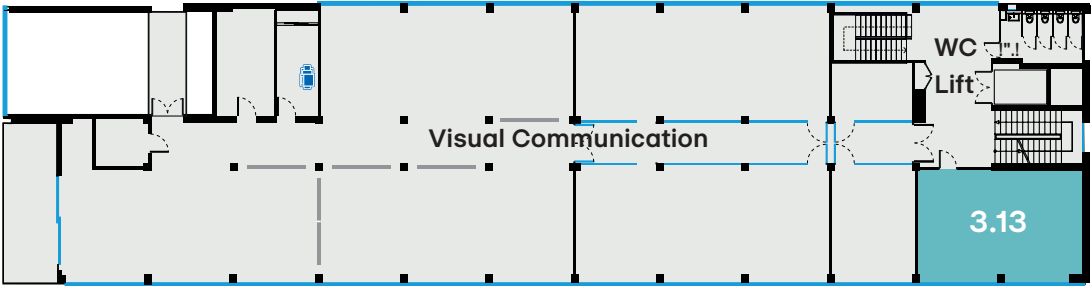
Floor 1



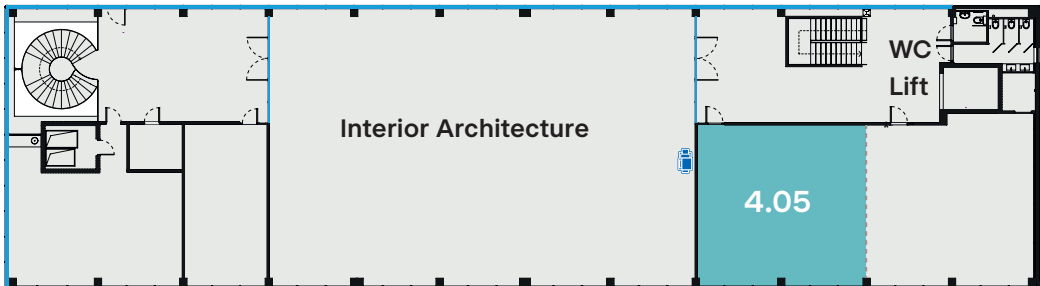
Floor 2

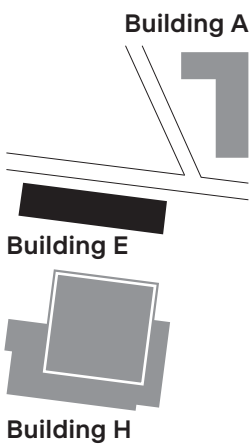


Floor 3

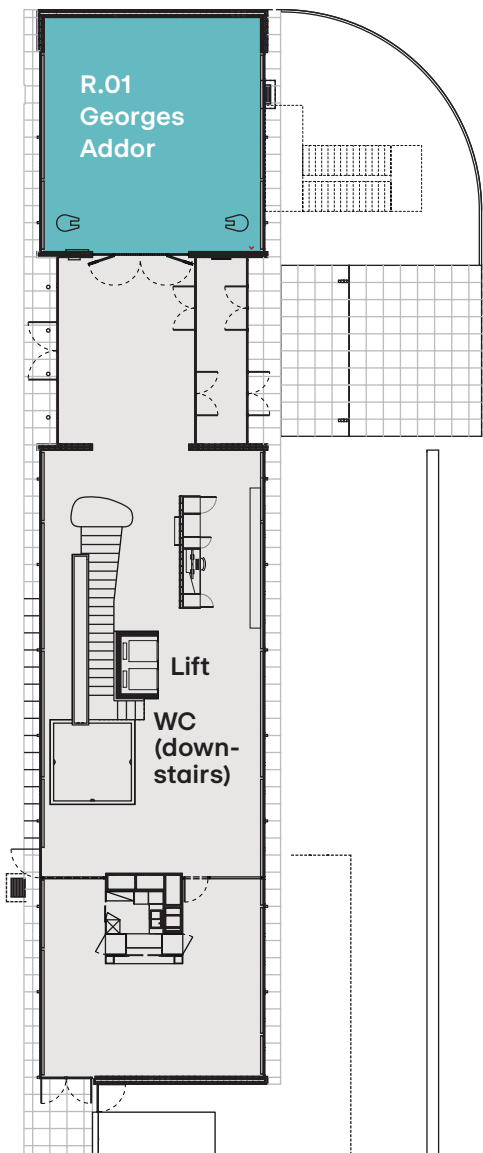


Floor 4

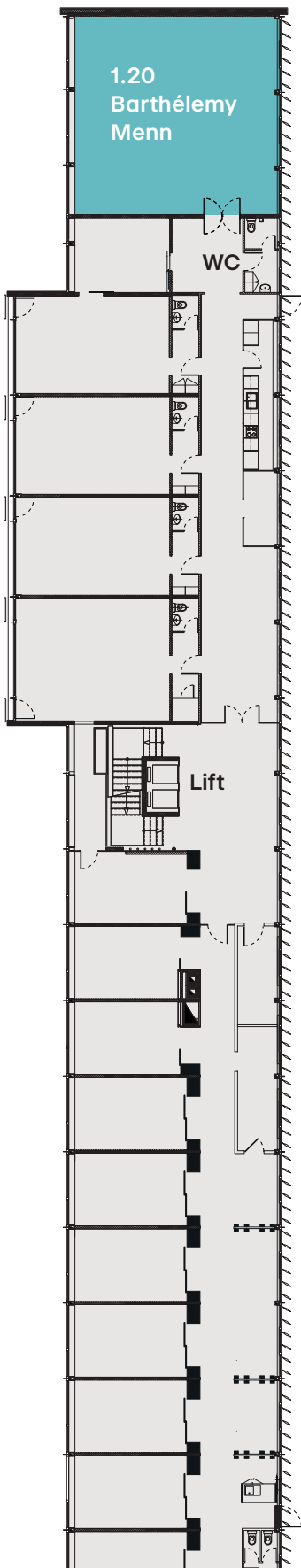




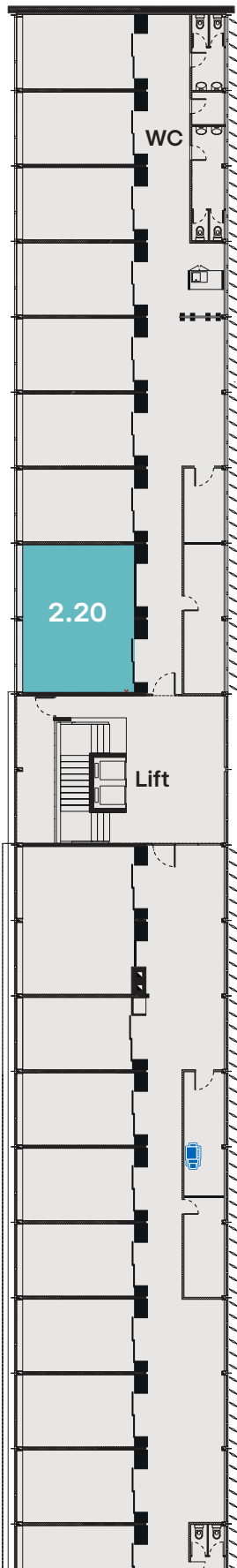
Ground Floor

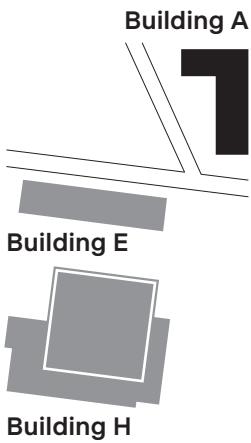


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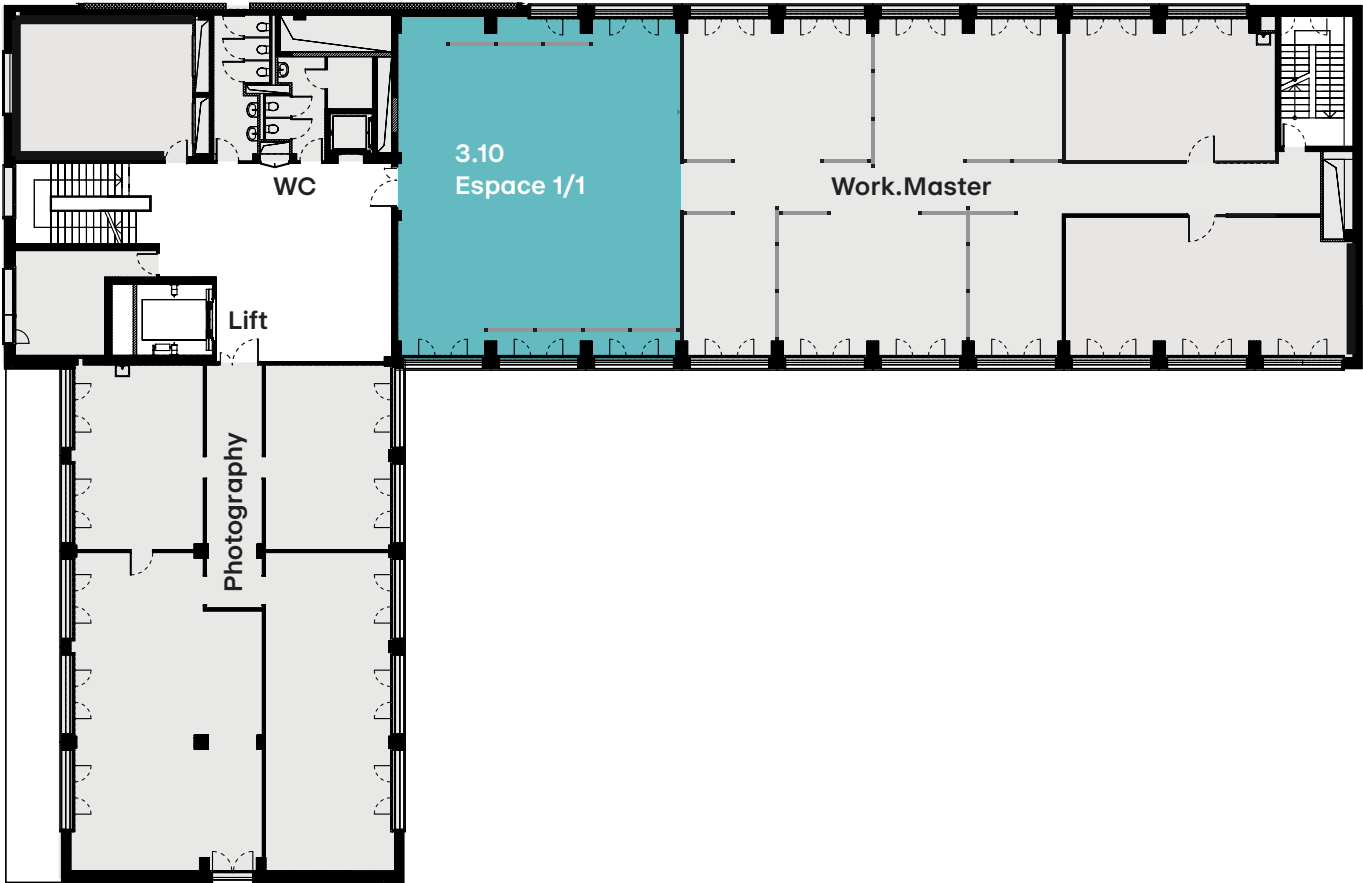


Floor 2





Floor 3



Useful numbers

Emergency number: 112

Police (Geneva Cantonal Police): 117

Fire emergency: 118

Janja Škerget, ELIA Conference Manager:

+31 (0)6 50 40 19 38

For more information on the programme,
please use the PINE App.



The event invitation code is:
ELIALS25
