Championing the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique and vital contribution to society for over half a century
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Cover: From left, Row 1: Matthew Ronay; Genesis Belanger; David Altmejd; Martand Khosla; Vanessa German, Row 2: Renate Bertlmann; Fletcher Benton; Kiyomi Iwata; Hank Willis Thomas; Paloma Varga Weisz, Row three: Red Grooms; Annabeth Rosen; Leonardo Drew; Sook Jin Jo; Jun Kaneko, Row Four: Phyllis Green; Joana Vasconcelos; Mel Chin; Seward Johnson; Adejoke Tugbiyele

strategic planning committee

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For more information, visit www.sculpture.org or email isc@sculpture.org. This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; the New Jersey Cultural Trust; and the National Endowment for the Arts.
Serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Sculpture Center at such a consequential time in the history of our organization is an honor. 2020 marked the 60th anniversary of the ISC’s founding and the beginning of a global pandemic that elicited both incredible challenges and wonderful opportunities for our worldwide sculpture community. This is an exciting time to reimagine our priorities and reinvent our methods of engaging one another. In this context, members of our Board met to renew our Strategic plan in order to align it to our vision and outline the future goals that we aim to accomplish.

Our increased focus on diversity and accessibility will further our reach and fulfill the promise of this great organization. Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a foundational aspect of our success and critical to our sustainability. To that end, we created a designated DEI committee to institutionalize its continued pursuit. We are committed to driving all our initiatives through this lens.

Increasing participation of underrepresented people and communities within every aspect of our organization will enliven and enrich the experience of us all. We will continue to grow our Board and membership with this objective in mind to ensure a successful future and allow the organization to thrive.

Also important to sustainability is our continued effort to ensure financial security. Fundraising across both near and long-term efforts remains prerequisite to accomplishing our objectives for the community we serve.

The ISC is the leading international organization serving the sculpture community, building and strengthening bridges through increased collaboration with our partners continues to be a critical part of our mission. The ISC is truly a community organization and lives on only through the continued investment and involvement of arts organizations, educational institutions, businesses, governmental agencies and non-profits the world over.

I want to personally thank you, our ISC members, for participating and contributing in various ways to help our community flourish. I also thank the Board, staff, and strategic planning committee for listening to the needs of our membership and amplifying voices from across our organization.

Our community has strengthened its bonds despite not being able to meet face-to-face. Importantly, the challenges of the pandemic have taught us that our organization can withstand radical evolution, display extreme flexibility in how we engage with one another, and foster the collective experience of making and enjoying sculpture. This resilience signifies a continued bright future for our community in the years ahead.

I invite the ISC community to join me in our mutual commitment to successfully accomplish our vision. Please reach out to me or our Executive Director with any ideas about the organization you would like to share. I couldn’t be more excited about the direction of the ISC and look forward to more engagement with all of you.

Jon Ott
ISC Board of Trustees Chair
The mission of the International Sculpture Center is to:
• Expand public understanding and appreciation of sculpture internationally.
• Demonstrate the power of sculpture to educate and effect social change.
• Engage artists and arts professionals in a dialogue to advance the art form.
• Promote a supportive environment for sculpture and sculptors.

The International Sculpture Center champions the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique and vital contribution to society.

At the core of every service provided by the International Sculpture Center, we value:

our constituents
Sculptors, Institutions, and Patrons.

dialogue
as the catalyst to innovation and understanding.

education
as fundamental to personal, professional, and societal growth.
summary of our current position

strengths

• The ISC is recognized as a leader in the field that is welcoming and accessible to all.

• ISC is a well-established organization with a good infrastructure and broad reaching global connections.

• Our highly respected programming and publications continue to grow, reaching newer audiences each year.

• The ISC has a strong fan base with consistently growing numbers of followers on social media platforms.

• Our user-friendly website remains a significant and free resource for information in the field of contemporary sculpture.

• We maintain a respected voice within the sculpture community through established connections and collaborations with many institutions.

• We have a large and long-term membership and subscription base.

• Our Board of Trustees operates on a successful and efficient committee structure.

Top: Jean Shin, *Huddled Masses* (detail), 2020. Cell phones and computer cables, dimensions variable. / Photo: Courtesy the artist; Bottom: Jean Shin
vision for this strategic plan

Over the three-year period covered by this strategic plan, the International Sculpture Center (ISC) will focus on:

diversity and accessibility

• Increasing awareness, access, and inclusion to programming, membership, and staff and board positions for underrepresented people and communities.

governance

• Increasing the diversity of our Board of Trustees and selecting members that include a broader range of identified governance needs.

partnerships

• Continuing to increase community engagement in the arts through collaborations with businesses, nonprofits, cultural and educational institutions, and government agencies that will, in turn, further advance sculptural arts in the global community.

sustainability

• Ensuring ISC’s financial security through the expansion of revenue streams, cultivating long-term programs and relationships through development.

relevance

• Focusing on our mission and core values and fulfilling the essential needs of our community, and assessing how the organization supports these tenets.
goal 1
Create an inclusive environment that represents the diversity of the global sculpture community and is accessible to all.

- Increase the diversity of our Board of Trustees, staff, and writers.
- Expand opportunities for underrepresented voices in our content and programming.
- Deepen awareness and implement on-going education.
- Include more underrepresented communities in chapters, sculptor groups, and membership.
- Ensure that the ISC is accessible to people with disabilities.
goal 2
Expand our reach and build relationships.

• Optimize our organizational level membership and the services we provide.

• Cultivate strong relationships and collaborations with individuals and organizations to foster community engagement.

• Pursue and secure partnerships with other nonprofits, cultural and educational institutions, and government agencies, as well as businesses and other private sector entities that have aligned goals.

• Develop new multi-level, multi-platform strategies for delivering content, programs, and engagement opportunities.
strategic priorities & goals for advancement

goal 3
Financial Strength and Stability.

• Expand fiscal reserves and resources through increased fundraising efforts pursuing private and public grant opportunities.

• Cultivate long-term programming through partnerships.

• Develop long-term fiscal stability initiatives, including planned giving and endowments.

• Increase board involvement in fundraising efforts.

• Create succession plans for board officers and key personnel.

• Build staffing to align with long-term needs.
strategic priorities & goals for advancement

goal 4
Further establish the ISC as the leading international organization and the essential community for all people interested and dedicated to sculpture.

• Review the mission, vision, and core values of the ISC.

• Evaluate the services and programming the organization provides.

• Survey ISC members and the broader sculpture community.

• Secure resources for services and programming.

• Increase awareness of and engagement with the ISC.

Top: Young Joon Kwak, Venus Trap, 2020. Resin, acrylic paint, and dyed walnut base. / Photo: Ruben Diaz, Courtesy the artist and Commonwealth & Council; Bottom: Xina Xurner, performance at Rec Center, Los Angeles, 2019. / Photo: Scott Free
conclusion

The Board of Trustees, the Executive Director, and the staff of the International Sculpture Center embrace our renewed strategic plan, and together we are unanimously committed to continued improvement not only for our organization but the community that we serve. Over the next three years, our work and focus on inclusion will result in increased visibility, dialogue, learning, professional development, and advocacy of sculpture worldwide, leading to greater appreciation of the impact of sculpture on a community level.