



Glossary for the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards

Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education

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Introduction

The Glossary for the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards* is designed to support a shared understanding of the language, concepts, and practices that are fundamental to high-quality visual and performing arts education. The terms included in this glossary provide educators, students, families, administrators, and community partners with clear and consistent definitions that promote effective communication and implementation of the standards.

Visual and performing arts disciplines—including Dance, Design, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts—utilize specialized vocabulary that reflects artistic processes, creative expression, technical skills, and critical analysis. As students engage in creating, performing or presenting, responding, and connecting through the arts, they encounter content-specific language that helps them communicate ideas, interpret artistic works, and participate meaningfully in artistic communities.

This glossary serves as a resource to clarify terminology used throughout the standards and related instructional materials. While some terms may have broad applications across multiple disciplines, others reflect meanings that are unique to a particular art form. Definitions are intended to support understanding within the context of the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards and may differ from definitions used in other academic, professional, or everyday settings.

By promoting a common language for teaching and learning, this glossary helps ensure consistency in curriculum development, instruction, assessment, and professional learning. Ultimately, it supports the goal of providing all South Carolina students with equitable access to rigorous, relevant, and engaging visual and performing arts experiences that prepare them for success in college, careers, and lifelong participation in the arts.

Organization of the Glossary

This glossary brings together terms from all visual and performing arts disciplines represented in the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards (SC CCR VPAPS)*. To support interdisciplinary understanding and highlight connections across artistic fields, terms are presented in a single, unified glossary rather than in separate discipline-specific sections.

Many arts disciplines share common vocabulary; however, the meaning, application, or context of a term may vary among disciplines. Organizing the terms collectively allows readers to compare definitions across disciplines and better understand both the similarities and distinctions in how terminology is used within different artistic contexts.

Throughout the glossary, discipline abbreviations are included with individual terms and definitions to indicate the arts discipline from which the term or definition was derived. Because some vocabulary is shared across multiple disciplines, readers may encounter the same term accompanied by different discipline designations and definitions. These labels help identify the disciplinary context of each entry while providing opportunities to compare how similar concepts and terminology are understood and applied across the visual and performing arts. The abbreviations align with those used in the standards coding system:

- **D** – Dance
- **De** – Design
- **MA** – Media Arts
- **M** – Music
- **T** – Theatre
- **VA** – Visual Art

Together, the glossary reflects the interconnected nature of the arts and supports a comprehensive understanding of the vocabulary used throughout the *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency Standards*.

A

Term	Discipline	Definition
A Cappella	M	Choral or vocal music performed without instrumental accompaniment.
AABA	M	A design sometimes called rounded binary form. It was sometimes originally used for short pieces such as dances. Also called song form, AABA is a variation of ABA in which the first section, A, is played twice before the middle section, B, and a third time to conclude the piece. During the late eighteenth century, the rounded binary form developed into the sonata form.
AB	D	Two-part (binary) form; musical/dance structure in two sections each contrasting with the other.
AB Binary Form	M	The most basic musical form consisting of two (often contrasting) sections.
ABA	D	Three-part form: A = one dance phrase, B = a different dance phrase, A = the original phrase again.
ABA Ternary Form	M	A basic musical form consisting of three sections (A, B, and A), the third section being virtually identical to the first. If it is identical, the third section often is not written out with the performer simply being directed to repeat the first section (usually marked da capo or D.C.), as in the da capo aria and minuet or scherzo with trio.
Abstract Movement	D	Movement that is not narrative. It shows the essence, or quality of an idea.
Accidental(s)	M	A note of a pitch (or pitch class) that is not a member of the scale or mode indicated by the most recently applied key signature, including the sharp (#), flat (b), and natural (♮) symbols.
Accompaniment	M	A musical part that supports or partners a solo instrument, voice, or group.
Actor Abilities	T	The strengths of the actor in relation to the actor's tools of imagination, the actor's body (movement and gesture), and the actor's voice.
Actor Tools	T	A term used to describe the combination of an actor's voice, mind and body to play a role.
Actors	T	The people in a play or dramatic work who portray the characters. This may be done through thought, action, dialogue, costumes, and makeup.
Aesthetic Preferences	T	Artistic choices which give meaning and clarity to a production. Each theatre artist makes choices to

Term	Discipline	Definition
		contribute to the audience's experience through collaboration with the other members of the production.
Aesthetics	De	Concerned with appearance or the appreciation of beauty.
Aesthetics	VA	The branch of philosophy that deals with the nature and value of art objects and experiences. It is concerned with identifying the clues within works that can be used to understand, judge, and defend judgments about those works.
Alto	M	Second-highest vocal range.
Analysis (of music)	M	The study of music that focuses on the form or structure of the music itself. There are several methods of analysis, including analysis by harmonic structure, theme, by form, and by phrase.
Analyze	D	to recognize the constituent parts of something.
Appropriate Sound	M	Characteristic tone of an instrument or voice.
Apron	T	The flat wide part of the proscenium or thrust stage projecting into the audience and used as an acting area.
Arco	M	Directive to play with the bow as opposed to plucked or pizzicato.
Arena	T	A type of stage where the audience surrounds the acting area.
Aria	M	A long, accompanied song for a solo voice, typically one in an opera or oratorio.
Arrange; Arrangement	M	Composition based on existing music (e.g., scoring for voices not used in the original piece or adding a percussion part to the original.)
Articulation	M	The manner or style in which a note or notes in a piece of music are performed based on the context of the music or the intention of the performer.
Artist Statement	MA	An artist statement lets you convey the reasoning behind your work—why you chose a particular subject matter, why you work in a certain medium, etc. And further, a well-written statement shows the relationship of you to your artwork and helps creates a connection with the viewer that will make your work (and your name) more memorable.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Artistic Choices	T	Elements of a production that are distinctive to the vision of a particular production member (e.g., character, lighting, set, directing choices).
Artistic Literacy	D, De, M, MA, T, VA	Knowledge and understanding required to participate authentically in the arts. It is embodied in specific philosophical foundations and lifelong goals that enable an artistically literate person to transfer arts knowledge, skills, and capacities to other subjects, settings, and contexts.
Artistic Problem	VA	The question or problem presented to an artist that is meaningful and challenging for his or her level to be solved through the artistic process. High quality artistic problems are developmentally appropriate and open-ended, supported by skill-building instruction, and designed to offer both challenge and opportunity for success.
Artistic Processes	A	The way the brain and the body make art and define the link between art making and the learner.
Aspects	De	A particular part or parts of the design challenge.
Assess	De	To estimate or evaluate the value of information researched.
Assess	VA	Analyzing and determining the nature and quality of students' growth through means appropriate to the subject. In art education there are many instruments used in assessment: rubrics, checklists, and reflection are among them.
Attention	MA	Principle of directing perception through sensory and conceptual impact.
Audience	T	The group of people attending a performance.
Audience Etiquette	T	The established practices and behavior that reinforce the community experience of theatre for all who attend performances.
Audition	T	The process by which a performer reads for a part in a play.
Augmentation	M	A melody, theme, or motif is presented in longer note-values than were previously used.
Augmentation	D	A process for manipulating dance movement by making the original theme or motif larger or greater with respect to space, time, or energy.
Aural; Aurally	M	By ear; without reference to or memorization of written music.
Aural	T	Pertaining to sound or what is heard.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Aural Cues	M	Musical directive given not using words.
Aural Skills	M	Skills wherein musicians learn to identify musical elements solely by hearing.

B

Term	Discipline	Definition
Backstory	T	Part of the given circumstances and used by actors for motivation for their characters.
Balance	MA	Principle of the equitable and/or dynamic distribution of items in a media arts composition or structure for aesthetic meaning, as in a visual frame, or within game architecture.
Baroque	M	A genre of classical music of c. 1600-1750 which included composers such as Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi and has a heavy use of counterpoint and polyphony and conveyed drama and elaborate ornamentation.
Bass	M	Lowest vocal range.
Bass Clef	M	A symbol located at the beginning of a staff to indicate the pitches of the notes places on the lines and spaces below middle C.
Beat	M	A main accent or rhythmic unit in music.
Beats	T	The timing or movement of the dialogue in a script, often denoted by a pause in speaking.
Bel Canto	M	A lyrical style of operatic singing using a full rich broad tone and smooth phrasing.
Beta Testing	De	Using a prototype to receive feedback from a sample target group.
Blend	M	The merging musical voices to form a unified, resonant sound in which no individual timbre dominates.
Blocking	T	The patterns and arrangement of actors' movements on stage with respect to each other and the performance space. Often referred to as "staging."
Blues	M	A kind of jazz that evolved from the music of African-Americans, especially work songs and spirituals, in the early 20th century.
Body Percussion	M	The sounds created by using body parts as percussion instruments (for example, clapping hands, stamping feet).
Borders	T	Wide, short draperies that span the width of the stage; these are used to mask lights and scenery that have been raised into the fly loft. Legs and borders are

Term	Discipline	Definition
		typically made from a heavy, light absorbing material similar to that of other stage drapes. Typically, a set of two legs, one on each side of the stage, and one border, is used to form a complete masking "frame" around the stage. Several such sets of legs and borders are typically employed at varying distances upstage from the proscenium.
Bound	D	Of or pertaining to a manner of using energy that communicates a controlled intent.
Bow Direction	M	Up bow or down bow.
Bow Speed	M	How fast or slow the bow moves.
Bow Weight	M	Pressure applied to bow.
Brainstorm	De, VA	Technique for the initial production of ideas or ways of solving a problem by an individual or group in which ideas are spontaneously contributed without critical comment or judgment. (e.g., Popcorn Brainstorming, Passing Brainstorming, Questioning Brainstorming.)
Breath Support	M	Efficient and appropriate use of the breath stream for phonation.

C

Term	Discipline	Definition
Cadence	M	A sequence of notes or chords comprising the close of a musical phrase.
Cadenza	M	An ornamental or virtuoso solo passage, usually improvised, inserted into a movement in a concerto or other work, typically near the end.
Call and Response	M	The alternation of musical phrases between groups of musicians. Three terms have been used to distinguish between different forms of call and response: adjacent (the response follows immediately after the call section); overlapping (the response begins before the call section has concluded; and interlocking (there is a continuous response with a counter solo passage over it, so that the call and response are "locked" together).
Canon	M	Two or more voices in which one voice enters after another in exact imitation of the first. (See rounds.)
Canon	D	Any dance movement or sequence that is performed like a musical round (i.e., the original theme is imitated exactly by another person or group, each one beginning at a slightly different point in time).

Term	Discipline	Definition
Cast	T	(v.) To select specific actors for character portrayal in a play or dramatic work. (n.) The term given to describe the actors in a play or dramatic work.
Catharsis	T	The purification or purgation of the strong emotions (such as pity and fear) that a tragedy creates in the audience, as explained by Aristotle in the <i>Poetics</i> .
Chance	D	A choreographic process in which elements are specifically chosen and defined but randomly structured to create a dance or movement phrase. This process demands high levels of concentration in performance to deal effectively with free-association and surprise structures that appear spontaneously.
Chant	M	To recite musically.
Character	T	The personality in a play or dramatic work. A character may be portrayed by an actor and developed through thought, action, dialogue, costumes, and makeup.
Character Conference	T	The process of a director sitting down with an actor to discuss the various physical and vocal choices that the actor will apply to a character during his/her performance.
Character Qualities	T	Characteristics which include social, physical, and emotional qualities of a character in a play or scene.
Characteristic Tone Quality	M	The particular sound that is characteristic of a specific instrument or voice at all dynamic and pitch levels and with all articulations.
Cheat Out	T	To turn your face or entire body out to the audience to be seen better without completely turning so it still looks natural.
Choir	M	A group of singers who usually sing in parts with several voices on each part.
Chorale	M	A musical composition (or part of one) consisting of or resembling a harmonized version of a simple, stately hymn tune.
Chord	M	Three or more pitches sounded simultaneously or functioning as if sounded simultaneously.
Chord Progression (Harmonic Progression)	M	A series of musical chords.
Choreographer	T	The person who designs dance compositions and arranges dance movements and patterns.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Choreographic Device	D	Techniques used to create variations in movement that are based in dance elements.(e.g., fragmentation, diminution, repetition, changing a dancer’s facing, etc.)
Choreographic Processes	D	Techniques that assist choreographers in developing dance works by deliberate choice making, reflection upon the work-in-progress, and exploration and planning in reference to a specific artistic intention.
Choreographic Structures	D	The specific compositional forms in which movement is structured to create a dance, such as theme and variation, canon, ABA, and rondo.
Choreography	D	The steps, groupings, patterns, and other combined elements of a dance composition that are planned and performed.
Chromatic Range	M	Musical scope of an instrument or composition in half steps from lowest pitch to highest pitch.
Circle of Fifths	M	The relationship among the 12 tones of the chromatic scale, their corresponding key signatures, and the associated major and minor keys.
Classical	M	(1) Music written in the European tradition during a period lasting approximately from 1750 to 1830. (2) Homophonic texture, or an obvious melody with accompaniment. Melodies that tend to be almost voice-like and singable, allowing composers to actually replace singers as the focus of the music.
Classical	D	Dance that has been developed into highly stylized structures such as ballet, Bharatanatyam, or other classical styles within a culture. Generally developed within the court or circle of power in a society.
Climax	T	The turning point in the conflict that forms the basis of the plot structure of a play.
Closed Score	M	A musical score in which two or more parts are put on the same staff.
Codes and Conventions	MA	Codes are systems of signs put together (usually in a sequence) to create meaning. These systems may be verbal, visual, non-verbal, or aural (e.g., sound effects, music). Visual media may use a number of technical codes such as camera angles, framing, composition, and lighting to convey a particular attitude to a subject. Conventions are the commonly accepted or generally known methods of doing something. Codes and conventions are used together in the study and examination of a specific media genre. The camera

Term	Discipline	Definition
		angles used in a film, for example, should be studied in terms of the way camera angles are conventionally used in the particular type of film.
Communication Design	De	Design directed towards making connections between people. Ex. Graphic design, packaging design, web design, etc.
Complementary Keys	M	Keys sharing many common tones.
Components	MA	The discrete portions and aspects of media artworks, including: elements, principles, processes, parts, assemblies, etc., such as: light, sound, space, time, shot, clip, scene, sequence, movie, narrative, lighting, cinematography, interactivity, etc.
Compose	M	To create a musical work or idea.
Composer	M	A person who creates a musical work or idea.
Composition	D	(1) The dance-making process. (2) The end product of the process of exploring movement possibilities; experimenting with a broadly focused movement idea or concept; selecting the movement to be developed further, formulating the structure of the composition/study/phrase, clarifying or “cleaning up” the movement, rhythm, accents, pathways, and body designs so that the intent is clear; and refining the execution of the movement so that the composition can be performed consistently with finesse appropriate to the skill level of the dancer(s).
Composition	M	Any musical work.
Composition	MA	Principle of arrangement and balancing of components of a work for meaning and message.
Composition (Organizational) Strategies	VA	An artist’s arrangement or organization of the objects within a work of visual art.
Compositional Techniques	M	Formal melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic techniques used by composers to create music. Combining music elements to form a whole including style, form, balance, complexity, and continuity.
Compound Meter; Compound Time Signature	M	When each beat is divisible by three rather than two.
Concerto	M	A musical composition for a solo instrument or instruments accompanied by an orchestra, especially one conceived on a relatively large scale.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Conflict	T	The struggle between two opposing forces usually a protagonist and antagonist.
Constraints	MA	Limitations on what is possible, both real and perceived.
Contemporary	M	Music that can be understood as belonging to the period that started in the mid-1970s to early 1990s, which includes modernist, postmodern, neo-romantic, and pluralist music. However, the term may also be employed in a broader sense to refer to all post-1945 musical forms.
Continuity	MA	The maintenance of uninterrupted flow, continuous action or self-consistent detail. across the various scenes or components of a media artwork, i.e. game components, branding, movie timeline, series, etc.
Contour	M	The shape of a melody or melodic line, contour can be seen by viewing a written piece, as well as heard as to the direction up, down, or staying the same pitch.
Context	MA	The situation surrounding the creation or experience of media artworks that influences the work, artist or audience. This can include how, where, and when media experiences take place, as well as additional internal and external factors (personal, societal, cultural, historical, physical, virtual, economic, systemic, etc.)
Contrast	MA	Principle of using the difference between items, such as elements, qualities and components, to mutually complement them.
Convention	MA	An established, common, or predictable rule, method, or practice within media arts production, such as the notion of a 'hero' in storytelling.
Copyright	MA	The exclusive right to make copies, license, and otherwise exploit a produced work.
Costume	T	Clothing worn by actors to portray specific characters.
Count-Singing	M	A choral rehearsal technique that involves singing the correct pitches but replacing the lyrics with each note's position within a measure.
Craftsmanship	De, VA	A degree or level of skill involved in creating a craft or work of art. Evidence of performance with skill or dexterity, especially in the manual arts.
Creative Practices	VA	A student engaged in creative practices creates a mental image or concept, investigates and studies through exploration or examination, constructs a

Term	Discipline	Definition
		product by combining or arranging a series of elements, and reflects and thinks deeply about his/her work.
Creativity	VA	The process by which something new and somehow valuable is conceived and/or made, as in art and design problem-solving.
Criteria	MA	The elements and principles students use to design their work.
Critique	T	The analytical examination of a theatre performance, including such aspects as the skill and effectiveness of the individual actors, the cohesiveness of such collective elements as stage properties and lighting, and the overall literary merit of the play.
Critique	VA	A critique is an oral or written discussion strategy used to analyze, describe, and interpret works of art.
Cross Rhythms	M	Effect produced when two conflicting rhythms are heard together.
Crescendo	M	A gradual increase in the loudness of a sound or section of music.
Cut Time	M	Also called alla breve. Used for quick duple time in which the half note, or occasionally the whole note, is given one beat instead of two.

D

Term	Discipline	Definition
Dance Elements	D	The building blocks of dance movement; movement of the body using space, time, and dynamics/energy.
Dance Work	D	An organized, complete, choreographic product that can be comprehended on its own merit.
Deconstructing	VA	The process of separating and examining the parts in a work of visual art in order to better understand that work as a whole.
Decrescendo		A gradual decrease in the loudness of a sound or section of music.
Define (a design challenge)	De	Answering the design challenge questions to provide a clear description of what the design challenge is.
Denouement	T	A series of happenings or events that follow the falling action of a play and bring resolution and allow for catharsis of a character.
Descant	M	Harmonizing voice part added above the melody.
Design	De	An outline, sketch, plan, model, or prototype of a solution to be developed or constructed that considers

Term	Discipline	Definition
		aesthetic decisions. See definitions of Object Design, Environmental Design, Communication Design, and Experiential Design.
Design	T	(1) Any number of terms relating to the goals and purpose of theatrical design. (2) The fundamental descriptors used to communicate and evaluate the elements of design. (e.g., unity, emphasis, balance, line, shape, color, texture)
Design Challenge	De	A design problem or a design issue defined as having the need to be altered, changed, or created in a particular way to solve.
Design Challenge Questions	De	Basic questions used to gather information concerning a design problem: <i>Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How</i> . The answers to these questions define the design challenge.
Design Problem	De	A specific design aspect or issue regarded as needing to be dealt with, overcome, or changed.
Design Process	De	A process designed to identify a specific design problem, research the problem, create a solution to the problem, and present the solution to the problem.
Design Solution	De	A means of solving a design problem.
Design Team	T	A group of designers responsible for creating the look and feel of a production. The team generally includes set, lighting, sound, costume, properties, and makeup designers.
Design Thinking	De, MA	A cognitive methodology that promotes innovative problem solving through the prototyping and testing process commonly used in design.
Design Thinking Strategies	De	Methods or procedures used to brainstorm ideas or reason the process of design. Ex: <i>Mind Maps, Concept Maps, Webbing, Electronic Brainstorms</i> , etc.
Detaché	M	Detached bow stroke.
Detached Bow Strokes	M	Bow movement that move up and down.
Developmentally Appropriate	M	Taking into account the fact that developmental change is qualitative, sequential, directional, cumulative, multifactorial, and individual.
Dialogue	T	The conversation between two or more characters in a play.
Diaphragmatic Breath	M	Abdominal breathing, belly breathing or deep breathing; breathing that is done by contracting the diaphragm, a muscle located horizontally between the

Term	Discipline	Definition
		thoracic cavity and abdominal cavity. Air enters the lungs and the belly expands during this type of breathing.
Diatonic	M	A musical scale (major or minor) comprising intervals of five whole steps and two half steps.
Diction (Enunciation)	M	(1) The clarity with which words are spoken or sung. (2) The choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing.
Digital Citizenship	MA	A standard of behavior with regard to the appropriate use of technology. A set of ethical and social norms that oppose the misuse and abuse of technology.
Digital Identity	MA	How one is presented, perceived and recorded online, including personal and collective information and sites, e-communications, commercial tracking, etc.
Diminution	M	A melody, theme, or motifs presented in shorter note-values than were previously used.
Diminution	D	Manipulating dance movement by making the original theme or motif smaller with respect to space, time, or energy.
Direction	D	A movement element in dance; movement forward, backward, sideward, diagonally, circularly, up, or down.
Director	T	The person who oversees the entire process of staging a production. The director is a member of the ensemble charged with interpreting the text and conveying a central concept or theme through the use of the elements of theatre.
Divergent Thinking	MA	Unique, original, uncommon, idiosyncratic ideas; thinking “outside of the box.”
Dotted Rhythms	M	Rhythm patterns that contain dotted notes (a dot after the note indicates that the note should be extended by half as much again as the note’s principal time value).
Dramatize	T	To bring a story and/or character to life in a scene, play, or other dramatic work.
Dramaturg	T	The person who provides specific in-depth knowledge of historical conventions, sources, context and literary resources pertaining to a particular production to a director, producer, theatre company, or even the audience.
Duple Meter	M	A primary division of 2 beats to the bar, usually indicated by 2 and multiples (simple) or 6 and

Term	Discipline	Definition
		multiples (compound) in the upper figure of the time signature.
Dynamic Contrast	M	Difference between the loudness and softness in music.
Dynamic Range	M	Scope of the range of loudness and softness in a composition.
Dynamics	M	Changes in volume; varying degrees of loudness and softness within a composition.

E

Term	Discipline	Definition
Eighth	M	A note/rest having the time duration of one eighth of the time duration of a whole.
Elements and Principles of Art/Design	VA	The basic design structural components of art and design including line, color, texture, shape, form, space, and value. Art principles include variety, unity, contrast, emphasis, movement, rhythm, pattern, and balance.
Elements of Media Arts	MA	Include but not limited to, light, sound, time, POV, performance, framing, narrative, and editing.
Elements of Music	M	The basic building-blocks of music, as follows: 1. Rhythm: beat, meter, duration, tempo, syncopation 2. Dynamics: forte, piano, [etc.], crescendo, decrescendo 3. Melody: pitch, theme, conjunct, disjunct 4. Harmony: chord, progression, consonance, dissonance, key, tonality, atonality 5. Timbre/Tone color: register, range, instrumentation 6. Texture: monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, imitation, counterpoint 7. Form: binary, ternary, strophic, through-composed
Embellishments	M	A group of notes or a single note added to a basic melody as ornamentation. (In Orff-Schulwerk, embellishment is also a color part.)
Emphasis	MA	Principle of giving greater compositional strength to a particular element or component in a media artwork.
Ensemble	M	A group of musicians that perform as a unit. 2-part-ensemble is divided into two parts, frequently SA. 3-part-ensemble is divided into three parts, frequently SSA or SAB. 4-part-ensemble is divided into four parts, frequently SATB.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Ensemble	T	A coordinated group of actors who work together for the common goal of a successful performance.
Ensemble Skills	M	The abilities that allow a group of musicians to perform together with a refined degree of unanimity of phrasing, dynamics, and style.
Enunciation	M	The clarity with which words are spoken or sung.
Environmental Design	De	Design of surroundings or conditions in which a person, place, or thing interacts. Ex. Interior design, playground design, community planning, etc.
Ethics	MA	Moral guidelines and philosophical principles for determining appropriate behavior within media arts environments.
Exaggeration	MA	Principle of pushing a media arts element or component into an extreme for provocation, attention, contrast, as seen in character, voice, mood, message, etc.
Experiential Design	De, MA	(1) Design based on personal interactivity or experiences; sometimes referred to as interactive design. Ex. Design parades, design festivals, design theme parks, etc. (2) Area of media arts wherein interactive, immersive spaces and activities are created for the user; associated with entertainment design.
Exploration	D	Developing or creating movement based on ideas, stimuli, or images presented by the teacher or leader.
Exposition	T	Introduces background information, establishes the setting, and presents important characters to the audience.
Expression	M	The art of playing or singing music with emotional communication. The elements of music that comprise expression include dynamic indications, such as forte or piano, phrasing, differing qualities of timbre and articulation, color, intensity, energy and excitement.
Expression Markings	M	Printed directives for the musician to perform a specific way.
Expressive Elements	M	Dynamics, tempo, and articulations.
Expressive Indications	M	Directives in music to performer to play with a specific expressive element.

F

Term	Discipline	Definition
Fair Use	MA	Permits limited use of copyrighted material without acquiring permission from the rights holders, including commentary, search engines, criticism, etc.
Fairness	MA	Complying with appropriate, ethical and equitable rules and guidelines.
Falling Action	T	The series of events in a play that follow the climax and the resolution of the conflict.
Feedback	De	A reaction or response to a particular design problem or design solution.
Flat	M	Lowering of a pitch by a half-step.
Folk Dance	D	The traditional dances of a given country or area that have evolved naturally and spontaneously in conjunction with everyday activities and experiences of people who developed them. Folk dances are perpetuated from generation to generation in the manner of all folk traditions—from person to person, family to family, village to village.
Folk Song	M	A song originating among the people of a country or area, passed by oral tradition from one singer or generation to the next, often existing in several versions, and marked generally by simple, modal melody and stanzaic, narrative verse.
Four-part chorale style	M	Music written for four voices (SATB).
Force	MA	Principle of energy or amplitude within an element, such as the speed and impact of a character's motion.
Form	M	The structure or organization of a musical phrase or composition. AB, or binary, form (in which two contrasting sections are present) is the most basic. ABA, or ternary, form is derived from binary form and results from the repetition of the first section. Larger musical forms include rondo, theme and variation, sonata, and symphony.
Fragmentation	M	The use of fragments or the "division of a musical idea (gesture, motive, theme, etc.) into segments." It is used in tonal and atonal music, and is a common method of localized development and closure.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Fragmentation	D	The manipulation of movement: the original movement flow is broken into irregular pieces, or <i>fragments</i> . The original movement need not be completed when fragmentation is applied as a choreographic tool.
Free Flowing	D	Of or pertaining to a manner of using energy that communicates a released and carefree intent.
Fugue (fugal form)	M	A contrapuntal composition in which a short melody or phrase (the subject) is introduced by one part and successively taken up by others and developed by interweaving the parts.
Functional	De	Referring to a design having a special activity, purpose, or task.

G

Term	Discipline	Definition
General Space	D	An area beyond personal space that is available for movement purposes.
Generative Methods	MA	Various inventive techniques for creating new ideas and models, such as brainstorming, play, open exploration, experimentation, inverting assumptions, rule bending, etc.
Genre	M	A unique category of music with similar style, form, emotion, or subject (e.g., ballad, concerto, folk music, lullaby, march, and spiritual.)
Genre	D	A kind or type of dance. Each dance genre is distinguished by specific learned technique with historical, cultural, kinesiological, or entertainment values.
Given Circumstances	T	The “who,” “what,” “where,” “when,” and “why” of a particular moment, scene, or play. Most often, the term is used in acting coaching or critique in relation to an actor’s understanding of his or her character’s situation and motivation.
Good Posture	M	The position of the body for performing.
Grazioso	M	Played in a graceful, smooth, or elegant in style.
Guided Drama	T	A scene, play or drama activity that is led by a teacher or instructor.

H

Term	Discipline	Definition
Half	M	A note/rest that has half the duration of a whole.
Harmonic Structure	M	The structure of a work or passage as considered from the point of view of its chordal characteristics and relationships between those chords.
Harmony	M	(1) The pattern of intervals and chords in a composition. (2) The ways in which chords and intervals are related to one another and the ways in which one interval or chord can be connected to another. Adjective form, harmonic.
Head Voice	M	A clear, open tone that resonates in the head and not in the throat or chest.
Hemiola	M	A rhythmic pattern of syncopated beats.
Heterogeneity	MA	How an artwork can be made up of many distinct experiences and parts that are independent however when placed together bring deeper meaning. (e.g., installation that includes recorded, sounds, images, and performances)
Historical (Cultural) Context	M	Music containing characteristics popular of a particular time-period or geographical region.
House	T	Describes the audience as a whole or where the audience sits in the auditorium.
Hybridization	MA	Principle of combining two existing media forms to create new and original forms, such as merging theatre and multimedia.

I

Term	Discipline	Definition
Improvisation; Improvise	M	The creation of music in the course of performance. Verb form, improvise.
Improvise; Improv	T	A spontaneous style of theatre in which scenes are created without advance rehearsing or scripting. (Adjective form, “improvised”).
Improvisation	D	Movement created spontaneously, ranging from free form to highly structured environments but always with an element of change. Improvisation is instant and simultaneous choreography and performance.
Inciting Incident	T	The event that begins the conflict of the play and builds to the climax. Sets the central conflict onto motion.
Information Literacy Skills	MA	The abilities necessary to access, utilize, and critically evaluate the products of the mass media, including an

Term	Discipline	Definition
		informed understanding of the nature of the media and the methods they employ.
Instrument Family	M	Grouping of several different but related instruments.
Intent	MA, VA	Purpose behind making art whether personal or analyzed through the work made by others. Purposes include storytelling, advocacy or activism (propaganda), expression through symbol, decoration, beauty, investigation of a theme, and function (such as in design fields).
Interactions	De	A person or a group of persons interacting with a prototype.
Interactivity	MA	A diverse range of articulating capabilities between media arts components, such as user, audience, sensory elements, etc., that allow for inputs and outputs of responsive connectivity via sensors, triggers, interfaces, etc., and may be used to obtain data, commands, or information and may relay immediate feedback, or other communications; contains unique sets of aesthetic principles.
Interpretation	M	Decoding motivations behind musical structures and the ways in which listeners and performers understand musical works and practices.
Interval(s)	M	(1) Pair(s) of notes sounded at the same time. (2) The distance between two pitches. (Skips, steps, leaps).
Intonation	M	The proper production of a musical tone so that it is played or sung in tune with characteristic tone for voice or instruments.
Investigate	De	To examine, research, or inquire the design problem or aspects of the design problem in order to create a solution.

J

Term	Discipline	Definition
Jazz	M	A type of music of American origin characterized by improvisation, syncopation, and usually a regular or forceful rhythm, emerging at the beginning of the 20th century.
Judgement	MA	The ability to make informed and cognizant decisions regarding a media artwork, especially in the critique process.
Juxtaposition	MA	Placing greatly contrasting items together for effect.

K

Term	Discipline	Definition
Key	M	Tonality of a composition.
Key Signature	M	The sharp, flat, or natural signs placed at the beginning of a staff indicating the tonality of the composition.
Kinesthetic	D	Of or pertaining to the ability of the sensory nerve endings in one's muscles, tendons, and joints to respond to movement while one is dancing or viewing dance.
Kodaly	M	Hand signals are used to show tonal relationships. The moveable "do" is practiced. The musical material emphasized is the mother-tongue folksong. Uses rhythm syllable "Ta" for quarter notes and "Ti-Ti" for eighth notes.

L

Term	Discipline	Definition
Legal	MA	The legislated parameters and protocols of media arts systems including user agreements, publicity releases, copyright, etc.
Levels	D	The altitude of a movement or shape (high, middle, low) in relationship to its distance from the floor.
Lighting	T	The illumination of the performance dictated by the given circumstances of the play, including the source of light, the time of day, the mood of the play, as well as the specific requirements of the scenic design (e.g., the areas to be lit).
Locomotor Movement	D	Any motion in which the feet or any other part of the body is used to carry the body from one place to another (e.g., walking, running hopping, jumping, skipping, galloping, sliding, leaping, rolling, crawling).
Loop	M	A repeating section of sound material. Short sections of material can be repeated to create ostinato patterns.

M

Term	Discipline	Definition
Macrobeat	M	The pulse of the music. The primary beat you would tap your foot to.
Makeup	T	Body paint or prosthetics worn by actors to portray specific characters and their traits.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Manage Audience Experience	MA	The act of designing and forming user sensory episodes through multi-sensory captivation, such as using sequences of moving image and sound to maintain and carry the viewer's attention, or constructing thematic spaces in virtual or experiential design.
Major	M	A mode based on a scale consisting of a series of whole steps except for half steps between the third & fourth and seventh & eighth degrees.
Major and Minor Tonalities	M	Keys based upon seven-tone diatonic scales and derived from ancient Greek modes and modalities. (A pentatonic tonality is based upon a five-note scale usually made up of the pitches do, re, mi, so, and la.)
Manipulate	D	To shape and reform the dance movement.
Markets	MA	The various commercial and informational channels and forums for media artworks, such as T.V., radio, internet, fine arts, non-profit, communications, etc.
Markings	M	Printed directives for the musician to perform a specific way.
Mass	M	A choral composition that sets the invariable portions of the Eucharistic liturgy to music.
Match Pitch	M	To perform the same pitch given by another instrument or person.
Meaning	MA	The formulation of significance and purposefulness in media artworks.
Media Arts Contexts	MA	The diverse locations and circumstances of media arts, including its markets, networks, technologies and vocations.
Media Environments	MA	Spaces, contexts and situations where media artworks are produced and experienced, such as in theaters, production studios and online.
Media Literacy	MA	A series of communication competencies, including the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate information in a variety of forms, including print and nonprint messages.
Media Messages	MA	The various artistic, emotional, expressive, prosaic, commercial, utilitarian and informational communications of media artworks.
Media Texts	MA	Aural, print, graphic, and electronic communications with a public audience. Such texts often involve numerous people in their construction and are usually shaped by the technology used in their production.

Term	Discipline	Definition
		Media texts include papers and magazines, television, video and film, radio, computer software, and the Internet.
Medium (Materials)	MA, VA	(1) Material or technique used to create art and determine the nature of the final work. (e.g., film, digital imaging, web design) (2) Medium can also refer to what carries a paint's pigments and is also called a vehicle or a base. The medium is what determines what kind of paint is produced.
Melodic	M	A repetitive pattern that can be used with any scale.
Melodic Direction	M	The quality of movement of a melody, including nearness or farness of successive pitches or notes in a melody.
Melodic Theme	M	Subject material in which part or all of a composition is based.
Melody	M	A succession of tones comprised of mode, rhythm, and pitches so arranged as to achieve musical shape, being perceived as a unity by the mind.
Message	MA	Media messages contain “texts” and “subtexts.” The text is the actual words, pictures and/or sounds in a media message. The subtext is the hidden and underlying meaning of the message. Media messages reflect the values and viewpoints of media makers.
Meter	M	The way beats of music are grouped, often in sets of two or three. Recurring pattern of stresses or accents that provide the pulse or beat.
Meter Signatures	M	Notational convention used to specify how many beats are to be in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat.
Microbeat	M	Division of the large or primary beat.
Mime	T	The art of showing a character or telling a story through movement and gestures non-verbally.
Mind Mapping	De	A visual diagram used to organize information and ideas. It starts with a single idea, written or drawn in the center of a blank page, to which associated words or ideas are added, continuing to associate the words and ideas.
Minor	M	A scale having half steps between the second and third, fifth and sixth, and seventh and eighth degrees, with whole steps for the other intervals.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Mock Scenes	T	Sample scripts/scenes used for rehearsal/educational purposes and not for a formal performance.
Modeling or Concept Modeling	MA	Creating a digital or physical representation or sketch of an idea, usually for testing; prototyping.
Modulation	M	Changing from one key (tonic, or tonal center) to another.
Monologue	T	A speech made by a single character. In classical plays, monologues are delivered to another character or characters.
Mood	T	The overall feeling or tone of a play/scene (this can be communicated through technical elements such as lighting, sound, scenery, costume; or through acting and script elements).
Morgue	T	A collection of photos and clippings that create a reference file for makeup, costumes, props.
Motivation	T	The justification or reason for a particular action taken by the character.
Motive	M	A short tune or musical figure that characterizes and unifies a composition. It can be of any length but is usually only a few notes long. A motive can be a melodic, harmonic, or rhythmic pattern that is easily recognizable throughout the composition.
Movement	MA	Principle of motion of diverse items within media artworks.
Movement Phrase	D	A sequence of movements that are ordered based upon a preconceived choreographic intent and contains a clear beginning, middle, and end that aligns with artistic intent. A movement phrase could be compared to a paragraph of movement and would contain two or more movement sentences.
Movement Sentence	D	A sequence of movement that contains more than simple elements in an ordered sequence but contains a clear beginning, middle, and end and movements are enhanced by the application of body, shape, energy, and/or space.
Movement Sequence	D	A brief sequence of movements that are not necessarily ordered into a formal choreographic structure that communicates artistic intent but rather demonstrates a solution to a movement problem. A movement sequence could contain as few as two or movements.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Movement Study or Composition	D	A brief choreographic product that is created in response to movement generated to fulfill a specific exploratory intent. A movement study should contain more than one phrase of movement and could be compared to a few paragraphs of movement.
Movement Qualities	D	The essential nature and quantity of energy expended in a movement; its force or strengthened feeling; the intention toward the movement; the shadings in the amount of energy, intensity, or power; subtle variations in treatment of movement contrasts. In some models, this dance element is referred to as <i>dynamics</i> or <i>efforts</i> .
Multimodal Perception	MA	The coordinated and synchronized integration of multiple sensory systems (vision, touch, auditory, etc.) in media artworks.
Multimedia Theatre	MA	The combination of live theatre elements and digital media (sound, projections, video, etc.) into a unified production for a live audience.
Musical Idea	M	Musical fragment or succession of notes.
Musical Phrases	M	Grouping of consecutive melodic notes.
Musical Styles	M	Genres of music.

N

Term	Discipline	Definition
Narrative	T	An oral or written sequence of events (story).
Narrative Structure	MA	The framework for a story, usually consisting of an arc of beginning, conflict, and resolution.
Netiquette	MA	The correct or acceptable way of communicating on the Internet.
Non-Traditional Notation	M	A word, place, character, or object regarded as typifying or representing something.
Notation; Notate	M	A system used for writing down music showing aspects of music tones such as the tones to be sounded (pitch), the time each tone should be held in relation to the others (duration), and the degree of loudness (dynamics) at which the tone should be played. Verb form, notate.
Note	M	A symbol used to represent the duration of a sound and, when placed on a music staff, to also indicate the pitch of the sound.

O

Term	Discipline	Definition
Object Design	De	Design of a material thing often related to industrial and product design. Ex. Design of tools, toys, cars, etc.
Objective	T	The specific “want” or “need” of one character. The success is dependent on his or her overcoming the particular obstacles presented in the moment, scene, or play or on the actions of other character.
Obstacle	T	The specific objects, thoughts, other characters, etc. stopping a character from fulfilling his or her objective.
Octavo	M	A generic term for sheet music (typically in the form of a booklet) containing a short choral work.
One-Act	T	A play that consists of multiple scenes, but only one act.
Open Scene	T	Are exercises for acting classes. As their name suggests, they contain dialogue that is open to many interpretations; the lines are intentionally ambiguous, suggesting no particular plot or intentions. (<i>Also called Contentless scenes, Ambiguous scenes, Elliptical scenes, Spare scenes, Skeletal scenes.</i>)
Open Score	M	A musical choral or orchestral score in which each part has a staff to itself.
Oratorio	M	A large-scale musical work for orchestra and voices, typically a narrative on a religious theme, performed without the use of costumes, scenery, or action.
Ornamentation	M	Decorative notes of short duration added to compositions to emphasize certain notes.
Ostinati; Ostinato	M	Short music patterns that are repeated persistently throughout a performance, composition, or a section of one. (Singular form, ostinato.)

P

Term	Discipline	Definition
Pantomime	T	The art of acting without words through facial expressions and gestures.
Partner Songs	M	Two or more different songs that are performed at the same time to create harmony.
Partnering	D	Working with another dancer to create interesting movement through lifts, guiding, and/or weight sharing.
Passage	M	A musical idea that may or may not be complete or independent.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Passing Brainstorming	De	A brainstorming technique in which individuals convey ideas one after another building upon the ideas of others in a group.
Pathways	D	Patterns of dance movement in and through space as in straight, zigzag, curvy, or wavy.
Patsch	M	Patting either the left, right, or both thighs with the hands.
Pattern	M	A repetitive sequence.
Pentatonic	M	A scale made up of five tones (usually do, re, mi, so and la) as opposed to the seven-tone diatonic scale and the twelve-tone chromatic scale.
Percussion	M	Family of instruments in which sound arises from the striking of materials with sticks, hammers, or the hands.
Percussive	D	Movement having a beating or striking quality.
Performance	M	An event that features the realization of a composition.
Performance	T	Referring to the production of a play or dramatic work, or the specific acting/technical job of a production member in a play.
Permutation	M	Any ordering of the elements of a set.
Phrase	M	A division or section of a musical line, somewhat comparable to a clause or sentence in language.
Phrasing	M	The art of performing music in a way that allows each phrase to be conceived as a single unit.
Personal Aesthetic	MA	An individually formed, idiosyncratic style or manner of expressing oneself; an artist's "voice."
Personal Preferences and Interests in Music	M	A musician's own taste in music.
Perspective	MA	Principle pertaining to the method of three-dimensional rendering, point-of-view, and angle of composition.
Phrase	D	A natural grouping of movements that give a temporary feeling of completion.
Phrasing	M	(1) A short musical idea similar to a sentence in spoken language; also a style of performance that gives shape to the musical phrases. (2) The grouping of consecutive melodic notes, both in their composition and performance.
Physical Model	De	A three-dimensional replication or copy of a prototype

Term	Discipline	Definition
Pitch	M	(1) The property of a musical tone that is determined by the frequency of the sound waves creating it. (2) The highness or lowness of a tone.
Pitched	M	Adjective describing instruments that produce various tones; includes the families of brass, woodwinds, strings, and keyboards.
Pizzicato	M	Directive to play plucked with the fingers rather than bowed or arco.
Plagal Cadence	M	A chord progression where the subdominant chord is followed by the tonic chord (IV-I).
Playing Position	M	How an instrument is held when performing.
Playwright	T	The person responsible for writing plays for performance in the theatre.
Plot	T	The main events of a play or scene, written or improvised, created by the playwright or improvisers.
Point of View	MA	The position from which something or someone is observed; the position of the narrator in relation to the story, as indicated by the narrator's outlook from which the events are depicted and by the attitude toward the characters.
Polyrhythms	M	The use of several patterns or meters simultaneously.
Popcorn Brainstorming	De	A brainstorming technique in which individuals freely state ideas in a group.
Portfolio	T, VA	A collection of student work serving to showcase and document an artist's accomplishments. It may also be the materials collected in such a case, especially when they are representative of an artist's work. By extension, a portfolio might be a portable collection of originals or reproductions of an artist's work in a format other than the traditional case — as a set of digital images online or on a disc for example.
Position	M	The placement of the hand or slide.
Positioning	MA	The principle of placement or arrangement.
Post-Mortem	T	A way of critically evaluating the work of a production after the show closes so that each participant can use it as a learning experience for future improvement.
Posture	M	The position of the body for singing or playing an instrument.
Presentation	De	An activity in which an individual or a team shows, describes, or explains a design solution to a group of people.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Principles of Media Arts	MA	Include but not limited to, interactivity, heterogeneity, hybridization, medium, and temporality.
Process (Artistic)	VA	A complex operation involving a number of steps to complete any method or technique of art-making, such as the addition and subtraction processes in sculpture, the etching and intaglio processes in printmaking, constructing processes, or drawing and painting processes.
Processfolio	VA	A collection or documentation of an artwork/s throughout the stages of the artistic development. A processfolio shows the progression of artwork from conception to completion.
Production Elements	D	Costumes, lighting, scenery, sound, and special effects.
Production Elements	T	Technical elements selected for use in a specific production, including sets, sound, costumes, lights, music, props, and makeup, as well as elements specific to the production such as puppets, masks, special effects, or other story telling devices/concepts.
Production Processes	MA	The diverse processes, procedures, or steps used to carry out the construction of a media artwork, such as prototyping, playtesting, and architecture construction in game design.
Production Staff	T	A group of theatre practitioners who work together to create a performance. Production teams are often comprised of a director, stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, costume designer, scenic designer, and publicity staff.
Production Team/Meeting	T	The team of people onstage and behind the scenes that make a performance possible (e.g., actors, director, technical crew, producer, etc.). This team may gather periodically to discuss the production process.
Professional Theatre Practitioner	T	Someone who works in the theatre as a livelihood.
Projection	D	A confident presentation of one's body and energy to communicate movement and meaning vividly to an audience. It also refers to performance quality.
Prompt	T	(v) Giving the actor a line if it is forgotten. Usually done by the stage manager during rehearsals. (n) Any suggestion/stimulus used as a starter for a

Term	Discipline	Definition
		scene or activity (e.g., a quote, a word, a location, character type, photograph, music clip, etc.).
Prop (Properties)	T	Anything that the actor uses on stage that is not scenery (i.e. a coffee cup or a cell phone).
Proscenium	T	A type of stage where the audience directly faces the playing area which is separated by a portal called the proscenium arch.
Prototype	De	A two-dimensional product or three-dimensional model of a design solution. See definitions of physical models, space models, interactions, and storytelling.
Prototyping	MA	Creating a testable version, sketch or model of a media artwork, such as a game, character, website, application, etc.
Pulse	M	Consistent beats.

Q

Term	Discipline	Definition
Quarter	M	(1)A note/rest having the time duration of one fourth of the time duration of a whole. (2)An ensemble of four performers.
Question-and-Answer	M	A pattern or phrase in which a pair of musical statements complement one another in rhythmic symmetry and harmonic balance.
Questioning Brainstorming	De	A brainstorming technique in which individuals generate questions in a group that may later be explored.

R

Term	Discipline	Definition
Range	M	The scope of notes that a voice or instrument can produce or scope of notes in a composition from the lowest note to the highest note.
Recapitulation	M	A part of a movement (especially one in sonata form) in which themes from the exposition are restated.
Recitative	M	Musical declamation of the kind usual in the narrative and dialogue parts of opera and oratorio, sung in the rhythm of ordinary speech with many words on the same note.
Register	M	A division of the range of an instrument or singing voice.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Rehearsal	T	The repeated practice of a play or scene in order to prepare for the final performance.
Reimagined Theatrical Work	T	Using a well-known or familiar work as a starting point, the director moves it beyond the time and place it was originally intended for to open up the work to a new audience.
Repeat	M	Reiteration of a tone at the same pitch level.
Repertoire	M	A selection of musical pieces that an ensemble or performer knows or is prepared to perform.
Replicate	D	Performing movement accurately while following a leader.
Representation	MA	Media representations are the ways in which the media portrays particular groups, communities, experiences, ideas, or topics from a particular ideological or value perspective.
Research	De	Investigating the design challenge determining the who, what, where, when, why, and how using a variety of research methods; surveys, observations, interviews, experiments, internet, encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, etc.
Resisting Closure	MA	Delaying completion of an idea, process, or production, or persistently extending the process of refinement, towards greater creative solutions or technical perfection.
Resolution	T	Conflicts are resolved and the plot is made clear.
Responsive Use of Failure	MA	Incorporating errors towards persistent improvement of an idea, technique, process or product.
Rest	M	A symbol standing for a measured break in the sound with a defined duration.
Résumé	T	A brief, usually one page, historical list of your significant stage roles, theatrical experiences, training, and education. It also contains your physical description and contact information.
Retrograde	M	Reverses the order of the motive's pitches: what was the first pitch becomes the last, and vice versa.
Rhythm	M	The systematic arrangement of musical sounds, principally according to duration and periodic stress.
Rhythm Syllables	M	Musical training involving both ear training and sight singing. Whether the teacher chooses Kodály, Orff, Suzuki, or another method, it must be used appropriately, sequentially, and consistently.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Rhythmic	M	A set of beats and rests that defines the tempo and pace of a musical piece.
Rising Action	T	The related events that create tension in the plot of a play and build to the climax.
Rondo; Rondo Form	M	The musical form in which the first section, A, recurs after each of several contrasting sections: ABACA or ABACABA.
Round(s)	M	Songs or instrumental pieces that begin with a single voice or instrument on the melody, followed at intervals by the other voices or instruments that enter individually and perform exactly the same melody, thus forming a polyphonic harmony out of a simple melody.
Rudiment	M	Small rhythmic patterns which are later extended into more complex patterns.
Rules	MA	The laws, or guidelines for appropriate behavior; protocols.

S

Term	Discipline	Definition
Safety	MA	Maintaining proper behavior for the welfare of self and others in handling equipment and interacting with media arts environments and groups.
SAG–AFTRA	T	Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. An American labor union representing film and television principal and background performers.
Sample Learning Target	A	A broad lesson learning scenario.
Scale	M	A group of notes (or pitch-classes) arranged sequentially (rising or falling) beginning with a fundamental frequency or pitch.
SCBDA	M	South Carolina Band Directors Association
Scene	T	A particular moment or segment of a theatrical play.
Score	M	A written or printed representation of a musical work.
Script	T	The written text of a play or movie.
Section	M	A complete, but not independent musical idea.
Set	T	The visual elements used in support of a play production or scene. Used to denote place, time, and atmosphere.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Setting	T	The locale, period, time in which the action of a play takes place. The time, place, and social situation in which the action of a literary work takes place.
Sharp	I	Raising a pitch by a half-step.
Side-Coaching	T	Assistance given by the teacher/director as a fellow player to the student/actor during the solving of a problem to help keep him or her in focus.
Sixteenth	M	A note having one sixteenth the time value of a whole note.
Skip/Leap	M	Any interval larger than a whole tone or whole step.
Social Dance	D	Dance that appears in one's own culture; this can include courtship dances, work dances, war dances, and communal dances also known as recreational and ballroom dance. Includes such dances as waltz, foxtrot, tango, meringue, salsa, mambo, rhumba, and swing.
Soft Palate	M	The fleshy, flexible part toward the back of the roof of the mouth. Lifting the soft palate reduces nasality in singing and produces a more open tone.
Soft Skills	MA	Diverse organizational and management skills, useful to employment, such as collaboration, planning, adaptability, communication, etc.
Solfège	M	A system that uses distinct syllables to identify the various notes of a scale. Whether the teacher uses Kodály's methodology, John Feierabend's Conversational Solfege series, or the Alexander Technique, it must be used appropriately, sequentially, and consistently.
Solo	M	A single performer or a passage that is to be performed by a single performer.
Sonata	M	A composition for an instrumental soloist, often with a piano accompaniment, typically in several movements with one or more in sonata form.
Sonata Form	M	Musical structure with three sections, exposition, development, and recapitulation.
Soprano	M	Highest vocal range.
Space	D	An element of dance relating to the area through and with which the body moves and interacts.
Space Model	De	A 2D or 3D replication or copy within which all things move.
Spiccato	M	A directive to perform the indicated passage of a composition separated or detached. A bowing

Term	Discipline	Definition
		technique where the bow bounces lightly on the strings.
Spiritual	M	A religious folk song of African-American origin.
Staccato	M	A dot above or below the note indicating that the note thus marked should be shortened to half its written length, the second half replaced with silence.
Stage	T	The performance area. Does not have to be a traditional performance space.
Stage Areas	T	Areas that make up the theater and performing space. Also referred to as “parts of a stage” (e.g., apron, borders, grand drape, wing space, etc.).
Stage Geography	T	Areas of the stage that are used to denote where a scenery piece or actor is placed. Often used in blocking (e.g., Stage Right, Downstage Left, Upstage Center).
Stage Manager	T	The person who provides organizational support to the director, actors, designers, stage crew, and technicians throughout the production process and during the performance to make sure that the production runs smoothly.
Stage Picture	T	How the combination of scenery and actors on stage work together to draw the focus of the audience to a particular area of the stage at important moments in the play.
Stagecraft	T	The technical aspect of theatrical, film, and video production. It includes set construction, loading in and striking the set, hanging and focusing of the lights, design and construction or purchase of costumes, makeup, creation or purchase of props, stage management, and recording, set up, playback, and mixing of sound.
Standard	De	Principle that is used as a basis for judgment.
Step Dynamics	M	Phrases or sections of music increase or decrease volume by steps in a piece of music (pp-p-mf-f).
Step	M	An interval of a second.
Stick/Bow Technique	M	Proper grip and control of the stick or bow.
Story Elements	T	Are the characters, setting, plot, conflict, and the resolution. Dramatic structure.
Storytelling	De	The use of words to describe the function or purpose of a prototype.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Style	M	The composer’s manner of treating the various elements that make up a composition—the overall form, melody, rhythm, harmony, instrumentation, and so forth—as well as for the performer’s manner of presenting the composition.
Stylistic Convention	MA	A common, familiar, or even “formulaic” presentation form, style, technique, or construct, such as the use of tension building techniques in a suspense film, for example.
Subject Matter	VA	The content that the artist has chosen to represent in a work of visual art. Traditional subject matter in painting, for example, includes landscapes, buildings and street scenes, still lives, and the human face and figure.
Sustained	D	A manner of using energy that communicates an intent to prolong the movement being executed.
Swing; Swinging	D	A body movement that has the quality or action of the pendulum on a clock as it traces an arc like path between two points—rising, falling, rising. The rising action is increasingly sustained, and the falling action is increasingly quickened.
Syllables (Sight-Reading System)	M	A method of musical training involving both ear training and sight singing.
Syncopation	M	Deliberate upsetting of the meter or pulse of a composition by means of a temporary shifting of the accent to a weak beat or an offbeat.
System(s)	MA	The complex and diverse technological structures and contexts for media arts production, funding, distribution, viewing, and archiving.
Systemic Communications	MA	Socially or technologically organized and higher-order media arts communications such as networked multimedia; television formats and broadcasts; “viral” videos; social multimedia (e.g. “vine” videos); remixes; transmedia, etc.

T

Term	Discipline	Definition
Tableau	T	A frozen scene or picture in a play or dramatic work often used to communicate character, mood, time, and/or place.
Tactics	T	The various ways that a character attempts to overcome their obstacles and achieve their objective.

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Takadimi	M	The beat is always called ta. In simple meters, the division and subdivision are always ta-di and ta-ka-di-mi. Any note value can be the beat, depending on the time signature. In compound meters (wherein the beat is generally notated with dotted notes), the division and subdivision are always ta-ki-da and ta-va-ki-di-da-ma.
Team	De	A group organized to meet specific goals.
Technical Elements	T	Include the set, lighting, sound, costumes, properties, and hair and makeup.
Techniques	De, VA	The use of tools and materials in unique ways that are specific to the designer/artist, the medium, or the art form.
Technological	MA	The mechanical aspects and contexts of media arts production, including hardware, software, networks, code, etc.
Technology	D	Electronic media (such as video, camcorders, digital recorders, CD players, iPods, stage lighting and sound, still cameras, computer software and hardware, and interwrite boards) used as tools to create, learn, explain, document, analyze, and/or present dance on stage or in the classroom.
Tempo	M	(1) A steady succession of units of rhythm; the beat. (2) The speed at which a composition is performed or is written to be performed.
Tempo	D	The rate of speed at which dance movement is performed.
Temporality	MA	How the passage of time can change one's interpretation of an artwork or one's ability to witness the artwork.
Tenor	M	A singing voice between baritone and alto, the highest of the ordinary adult male range.
Tenuto	M	A note or chord held for its full time value or slightly more.
Tessitura	M	The general range of a melody or voice part; specifically, the part of the register in which most of the tones of a melody or voice part lie.
Texture	M	The number and relationship of musical lines in a composition.
Theater	T	The location where plays, films, operas, or other live performances take place. (*not to be confused with "theatre" which is the art of dramatic performance).

Term	Discipline	Definition
Theatre Artist Professionalism	T	The way a theatre artist behaves in meetings, rehearsals, and during the run of a show that displays a love and respect for the art form.
Theatre Conventions	T	Practices and/or devices that the audience and actors accept in the world of the play even when it is not realistic, such as a narrator, flashback, or an aside.
Theatre Games	T	Games/Activities designed to develop acting skills popularized by Viola Spolin. A curriculum based on these games is often referred to as “creative drama.”
Theatre Movement	T	The positioning and movement of actors on a stage during the performance. Large, sometimes informal, groupings of individuals or organizations that focus on specific political or social issues to theatre. (Also known as blocking.)
Theatre Shop	T	A specialized workshop used to build and assemble scenic (set) pieces required for a performance. (Also known as a scene shop.)
Theatre Theorist	T	Theatre practitioners who have created theoretical discourse surrounding their style of work (e.g. Viola Spolin, Antonin Artaud, Augusto Boal).
Theatre Terms, Vocabulary, Protocols	T	Words, patterns, ideas, and expectations relating to the art of theatre/drama.
Theatrical Genre	T	A specific kind of theatre such as a tragedy, drama, melodrama, comedy, or farce.
Theatrical Style	T	The use of a specific set of characteristic or distinctive techniques such as realism, expressionism, epic theatre, documentary theatre, or classical drama; style may also refer to the unique artistic choices of a particular playwright, director, or actor.
Theme	T, VA	Broad central idea. Examples include “identity,” “mankind’s relationship to nature,” and “change.” In the arts, a theme is a broad idea or a message conveyed by a work, such as a performance, a painting, a motion picture, or a video game. This message is usually about issues of life, society or human nature. Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a work.
Theme and Variation	M	A musical form consisting of a main idea followed by changed versions of that idea.
Thrust	T	A type of stage where the audience sits on three sides of the stage or the stage thrusts out into the audience.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Timbre	M	(1) The blend of overtones (harmonics) that distinguish a note played on a flute, for example, from the same note played on the violin. (2) The distinctive tone quality of a particular musical instrument.
Time (Meter) Signature	M	Notation to specify how many beats (pulses) are to be contained in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat.
Tonality	M	The use of a central note, called the tonic, around which the other tonal material of a composition (notes, intervals, chords) is built and to which the music returns for a sense of rest and finality. The term tonality refers particularly to harmony and to chords and their relationships.
Tone	M	Steady, consistent sound.
Tone	MA	Principle of “color,” “texture,” or “feel,” of a media arts element or component, as for sound, lighting, mood, sequence, etc.
Tone Cluster	M	A musical chord comprising at least three adjacent tones in a scale.
Tone Color; Timbre/Quality	M	(1) The blend of overtones that distinguish a note played on a flute, for example, from the same note played on a violin. (2) The distinctive tone quality of a particular musical instrument or voice. (3) The character of musical tones with reference to their richness or perfection.
Tonic Triad	M	A chord of three notes, the lowest note being the tonic of the key, the middle note being the third tone of the key, and the top note being the fifth tone of the key.
Traditional Notation	M	Music written on one or more staves, using traditional note symbols and clefs to indicate pitch locations and durations.
Transdisciplinary Production	MA	Accessing multiple disciplines during the conception and production processes of media creation, and using new connections or ideas that emerge to inform the work.
Transition	D	An organized connection between dance movements that maintains continuity in the dance.
Transmedia Production	MA	Communicating a narrative and/or theme over multiple media platforms, while adapting the style and structure of each story component to the unique qualities of the platforms.

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Transpose	M	To reproduce in a different key, by raising or lowering in pitch.
Treble Clef	M	A symbol located at the beginning of a staff to indicate the pitches of the notes placed on the lines and spaces above middle C.
Trio	M	An ensemble of three performers.
Triplet(s)	M	Three notes of equal length that are performed in the duration of two notes of equal length.
Triple Meter	M	A primary division of three beats to a measure.

U

Term	Discipline	Definition
Unison	M	Two or more musical parts sounding the same pitch or at an octave interval.
Unit	T	A distinct piece of action in a script that is denoted by a significant change in action.
Unities, The	T	Part of the neoclassical principles of theatre which include time, place, and action.
Unity	D	One of the aesthetic criteria for evaluating dance: the state or quality of a coherent series of movements; the harmonious relationship among all dance elements that contributes to the sense of completeness.
Unpitched	M	Instruments that do not produce various tones; includes such percussion instruments as claves, maracas, and wood blocks.

V

Term	Discipline	Definition
Variations	M	Formal technique where material is repeated in an altered form. The changes may involve harmony, melody, counterpoint, rhythm, timbre, orchestration, or any combination of these.
Verse and Refrain	M	The verse section of the song is the section in which different sets of words are sung to the same repeated melody and contrasts with a refrain, where the words and melody are both repeated.
Vibrato	M	The pulsating or vibrating element of some sounds that is produced with a full resonant quality of tone.
Vibratory	D	Of or pertaining to a sharp, quick action done by moving body parts quickly back and forth or side to side. The speed of the shaking can be changed slightly,

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		but if the action is done too slowly, the vibratory quality is lost. Body parts can shake separately or simultaneously.
Virtual Channels	MA	Network based presentation platforms such as: Youtube, Vimeo, Deviantart, etc.
Virtual Worlds	MA	Online, digital, or synthetic environments (e.g., Minecraft, Second Life).
Visual Literacy	VA	The ability to interpret and make meaning from information presented in the form of an image.
Vocal Inflection	M	Alteration in pitch or tone of the voice.
Vocalist	M	A singer, typically one who regularly performs with a jazz or pop group.
Vocalize	M	A vocal exercise that is sung without words, typically using different vowel sounds.
Vocal Score	M	Music score of a vocal or choral composition written for orchestral accompaniment, such as an oratorio or cantata. In a piano-vocal score, the vocal parts are written out in full, but the accompaniment is reduced and adapted for keyboard (usually piano).
Vocal Skills/Technique	M	The abilities that allow a musician or group of musicians to perform with a refined degree of phrasing, dynamics and style.
Vocal Sound Source	M	Sound created by a voice.
Vocational	MA	The workforce aspects and contexts of media arts.
Voice (Artistic)	VA	A particular opinion, attitude, or style expressed in artistic form (2D, 3D) or to visualize; to create a mental image of.
Voicing	M	The manner in which one distributes, or spaces, notes and chords among the various voice parts.

W

Term	Discipline	Definition
Warm-up	D	Movements and/or movement phrases designed to raise the core body temperature, move the body through a preparatory range of movement, and bring the mind into focus for the dance.
Webbing	De	A brainstorming technique that provides a visual structure or framework for idea development and can assist with organizing and prioritizing information.
Whole Note	M	The longest note/rest duration in music.

Term	Discipline	Definition
Wings	T	Areas that are part of a stage deck but offstage (out of sight of the audience). The wings are typically masked with legs (curtains). The wing space is used for performers preparing to enter, storage of sets for scenery changes and as a stagehand work area. Wings also contain technical equipment, such as the fly system.

References

South Carolina Department of Education. (2017). *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency*. <https://ed.sc.gov>

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