If ever there was a time that called for creative, outside-the-box collaboration, this is it! Leonardo’s boundary-crossing community embodies the qualities and character most needed today. During this extraordinarily challenging time, Leonardo continues to turn obstacles into opportunities for growth and positive impact. By marshaling reserves of fortitude, resilience, curiosity and compassion, Leonardo’s vision activates creativity to push the boundaries of today and unleash the possibilities of tomorrow.

This inaugural "State of the Leosphere" highlights recent progress and pathways to increase organizational capacity, expand global reach, pursue creative experimentation and innovation, deepen signature partnerships with MIT Press and Arizona State University, and embrace access as an engine of creative integrity and impact. In the year to come, Leonardo will celebrate its 30th Anniversary with MIT Press, and launch Vision 2028 with ASU to culminate in the 60th Anniversary of Leonardo.

We can’t wait to share this with you.

Diana Ayton-Shenker.
CEO, Leonardo/ISAST
Executive Director, Leonardo ASU Initiative

Marc Hebert
Chair, Leonardo/ISAST
Increased Capacity

Major Milestones: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

Since December 2020, Leonardo has identified over $2.5mm in new and diversified income commitments, including $500K from private foundations (Ford, Knight, Haas, Ability Rights), $650K from public agencies (CAC, NEA, PPP), $1mm from Individual philanthropy (donor), and strategic partnerships, $400K STM, $60K Interplanetary Initiative, $60K Cyland. Leonardo’s first $1mm pledge will anchor Leonardo Vision 2028, a $10mm philanthropic campaign to be launched with ASU Foundation early 2022 culminating in Leonardo’s 60th Anniversary in 2028.

The goal of Vision 2028 is to harness the power of Leonardo to transform systems, amplify networks and incubate new ideas to tackle the complex solutions we face today.

Because complex problems require creative solutions.

- **224% increase in annual funding**
- **470% increase in overall funding commitments**
- **$2.6MM new & diversified funding commitments**
- **4x team & professional capacity**
2021 culminated in Leonardo LASER Garden at ArsElectronica, a series of hybrid formats animated by the theme of a “new digital deal” and grounded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Coinciding with the launch of LASER Linz, 21 Leonardo LASERs explored ‘Anti-disciplinary Topographies’ with a global audience.

The LASER network grew 16%, now hosted in 48 cities worldwide with 110 events annually reaching 14,371 participants directly.

Multilingual publications included new work in Russian, Spanish, and Catalan, marking a new milestone for Leonardo. One of the highlights include Leonardo’s collaboration with The CYLAND Media Arts Lab’s, resulting in Leonardo’s first, entirely bilingual English-Russian special issue on “Cosmos & Chaos” space art with 12 authors, including ASU’s Lindy Elkins-Tanton, 2 curating editors and over 100 artists. The issue featured all women scientists and artists. Selected artworks were shown in a multi-city exhibit in Fall 2021.
1 billion people live with disability. How do we learn from and with disability innovation?

Leonardo’s CripTech Incubator, a ground-breaking, disability-centered art technology incubator, offers access solutions serving creatives with disability. Seeded by the California Arts Council Intersections + Innovations grant, this project is quickly expanding nationally with support of Ford Foundation and others to address global issue of creativity and access. Project partners include: Thoughtworks Arts (San Francisco), RadMad Disability Lab (UC Berkeley), Beall Center for Art and Technology (UC Irvine), Santa Barbara Center for Art, Science and Technology, Ground Works with A2rU, Gray Area Foundation for the Arts, Arizona State University and MIT Press.

CripTech Incubator’s 2022-2023 inaugural cohort of artists

Meesh Fradkin  Carmen Papalia  JS Shokrian

moira williams  Andy Slater  Olivia Ting

Digital Art experiments led to innovative collaborations such as DoomScrolling at the Wrong Biennale, the We=Link international net native exhibit, and Leonardo’s collaboration with New Art City and the Lumen Foundation, delivering one of the first interactive, VR exhibition platforms linked to original artist content and Leonardo archives.
As 2021 UN Year of the Creative Economy kicked-off, Leonardo led the way challenging a network of networks to reimagine systems and transform futures by building a creativity infrastructure.

Leonardo reached a global audience of over 250,000 through over two dozen keynotes, panels, joint publications and collaborations.
Established in 2019, the ASU partnership with Leonardo turns scholarly insight into creative practice for global impact.

Together, we are advancing ASU to become the #1 leader in creativity for transformation. We leverage Leonardo’s world-class creative content and network of networks, harness ASU’s leadership in innovation and sustainability, and scale access to Leonardo’s visionary programs to engage and inspire lifelong learners and leaders.

In its pilot phase, the partnership enabled Leonardo to pursue pan-university partnerships, establish foundational stability, and secure funding for capacity building and growth. Co-creating new programs, we launched the Leonardo Imagination Fellowship, produced experimental A.R. interactive art, initiated Interplanetary Initiative research on space exploration and the SDGs, and inaugurated a 2-year collaboration, Seize the Moment (STM) offering Leo Labs and the Leonardo Lift-Off Platform.

Leonardo Imagination Fellowship pilot generated 245 applicants from 75 countries, granting 3 awards to eco-artists, all women of color, 2 indigenous. All Fellows addressed SDGs with new & multi-media art presented at UNESCO. Future Fellowships will create peer-to-peer virtual residency network across 7 continents.
2022 marks the 30th Anniversary for MIT Press and Leonardo's partnership.

The partnership’s ability to adapt and adjust was highlighted during the past two years as Leonardo and MIT Press continued to thrive together exploring new platforms, new authors and new ways of expanding our collective reach.

Google Scholar ranked Leonardo #3 in citations for Visual Arts category (July 2020 data), the only Visual Arts journal incorporating science and technology. The journal continued to attract robust demand in article downloads across academic databases EBSCO, JSTOR and Project Muse.

By sunsetting the Leonardo Music Journal (LMJ), Leonardo now integrates LMJ as a special section of each issue. To expand format options for journal readers and optimize Leonardo's digital presence, preliminary concept design is underway with the PubPub platform.

Leonardo Book Series published new titles including:

A Biography of the Pixel, by Alvy Ray Smith
The pixel as the organizing principle of all pictures, from cave paintings to Toy Story. Heralded as a remarkable tale of the journey of the field.

Living Books, Experiments in the Posthumanities, by Janneke Adema
Reimagining the scholarly book as living and collaborative—not as commodified and essentialized, but in all its dynamic materiality.

Art in the Age of Machine Learning, By Sofian Audry
Machine learning art and its practice in new media art and music.

Material Witness: Media, Forensics, Evidence, By Susan Schuppli
The evidential role of matter—when media records trace evidence of violence—explored through a series of cases drawn from Kosovo, Japan, Vietnam, and elsewhere.
Leonardo’s commitment to improving justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) drives our efforts to expand access in creative sectors. Here’s a snapshot of JEDI work-in-progress:

Board:
Progress: increase from 17% to 35% of Board members from underrepresented communities
Goal: 52% Board members from historically underrepresented communities

Staff:
Progress: increase from 0 to 55% professional team from underrepresented communities
Goal: retention and professional advancement of talent; outstanding workplace for all

Program & Community:
Progress: center inclusive diversity in program activity, events, partnerships, outreach
Goal: feature diverse representation across 100% programs and participation

Training & Development:
Progress: annual facilitated trainings, quarterly team professional development staff
Goal: facilitated training and development for Board; demonstrable field-building leadership

Outreach:
Progress: increase use of live transcript, text description of visual material; multilingual programs and publications (Russian, Spanish, Catalan)
Goal: redesign program, publications, media for full access across abilities; increase multilingual offerings (eg. Chinese, Portuguese, Arabic)

Organizational Policy:
Progress: establish Code of Ethics, Equity Statement, Anti-racist Editorial Guidelines; integrate JEDI lens into recruitment and HR
Goal: demonstrable field-building leadership in non-profit
MISSION:
Leonardo fosters transformation at the nexus of art, science, and technology. We serve to empower an inclusive global network of hybrid creativity, where all belong in pursuit of a more vibrant, just, and regenerative world.

VISION:
Leonardo activates creativity to push the boundaries of today and unleash the possibilities of tomorrow.

ABOUT:
A not-for-profit 501(c)3 enterprising think tank, Leonardo offers a global platform for creative exploration and collaboration, reaching tens of thousands of people across 135 countries.