The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Stephanie Rowden, M.A., associate professor of art and design in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2026.

Professor Rowden received her B.A. Degree from Brown University, Providence RI in studio art in 1982 and M.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1999. Professor Rowden first joined the University of Michigan as Roman V. Witt Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Art in 2001 and joined the Michigan faculty as assistant professor in 2003 and was promoted to associate professor of art and design in 2010.

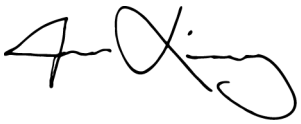
Professor Rowden is an artist whose experimental audio documentaries and essays blend oral history, creative non-fiction and musique concrète to explore the complexities of human interconnectedness. Her work spans radio, podcast, installation and participatory public art, and her pieces have been broadcast on WBEZ-Chicago Public Radio, Michigan Public and BBC Radio 4, and featured by the Third Coast International Audio Festival.

Professor Rowden's interest in public participation extends to her civic work. In 2018, she co-founded the Creative Campus Voting Project (CCVP), a non-partisan initiative that uses art and design to educate and engage new voters. CCVP's flagship project, a partnership with the Ann Arbor City Clerk, is the design of two Campus Voting Hubs at the University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Duderstadt Center Gallery. These vibrant installations draw thousands of visitors with non-partisan voting information, civic education, and the opportunity to register and vote.

Professor Rowden has received grants and fellowships from the U-M Institute for the Humanities, ArtServe Michigan / the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Mid-Atlantic Arts Alliance / National Endowment for the Arts, ArtMatters, Inc., and the University of Michigan Arts of Citizenship program. She has been an artist-in-residence at the MacDowell Colony and the Ragdale Foundation.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Stephanie Rowden, associate professor emerita of art and design.**

Respectfully submitted:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2026