

PRATT INSTITUTE  
COMMENCEMENT 2025

MAY 20 AT 10 AM  
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL  
NEW YORK CITY

# COMMENCEMENT 2025

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
SCHOOL OF ART  
SCHOOL OF DESIGN  
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION  
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Pratt**

# THE INSTITUTE CONVOCATION

## THE ALMA MATER

Towering far above her neighbors  
Shop and mart and hall,  
Stands the home of student-labors,  
Noblest of them all!  
At each meeting, give her greeting,  
Raise the proud salute!  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Hail, Pratt Institute!  
Round the world the chain extending  
Each to other binds,  
All her honored name defending,  
Hearts and hands and minds.  
At our meeting, give her greeting,  
Raise the proud salute!  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Hail, Pratt Institute!

VIEW OUR FULL COMMENCEMENT  
PROGRAM AT THE QR BELOW OR AT  
[PRATT.EDU/COMMENCEMENT-2025-PROGRAM](https://pratt.edu/commencement-2025-program)



## LIVING LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Pratt Institute is situated on Lenapehoking, the traditional and unceded homeland of the Lenape people, past, present, and future. The Lenape people have been living on this land long before the United States was established, and their wisdom is essential to our time.

We acknowledge that the genocide, theft of land and resources, forced migration, and systematic cultural oppression of Indigenous Peoples and Nations have a long-lasting impact on the living conditions, mental health, and cultural lineage of Indigenous Peoples and Nations. We acknowledge that the colonizers and their descendants have benefited economically and socially from the oppression of Indigenous Peoples and Nations, and we commit to repairing inequity and rebalancing the power distribution.

As learners and educators, we recognize Indigenous Peoples and Nations' longtime traditions of making art and storytelling. We acknowledge the significance of their creativity and how often they are unrecognized as artists, designers, and writers, while their culture is appropriated and taken by other artists, designers, and writers.

Only when we are informed of our past can we collectively envision our future. We begin by properly naming the land we reside on and recognizing ourselves as (in)voluntary immigrants to this land. We will actively work to challenge the legacy of settler colonialism, undo its extractive and exploitative land practices, and express gratitude to the stewards of the land and water who came before us, and honor their descendants who are here today.

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The Alma Mater lyrics were written by Mary Wright Plummer (1856–1916), one of Pratt Institute's early library directors (1890–1911), a major figure in American librarianship. The alma mater is set to the tune of *Annie Lisle*, a popular 1857 ballad by H.S. Thompson (active 1849–1885) about a heroine dying of tuberculosis. First used by Cornell University in 1870 for their alma mater, *Far Above Cayuga's Waters*, the tune has since

been adopted by countless academic institutions as their respective alma mater throughout the country.

The Pratt mace was designed by the late Paul Fjelde, emeritus professor of art and distinguished medalist. The mace was presented to the Institute by the class of 1956.

# CEREMONY SCHEDULE

## FACULTY PROCESSIONAL

*Pomp and Circumstance*

Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1954)

## PRESENTATION OF THE MACE

Justice Whitaker

Distinguished Teacher (2024–25)

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Uzma Z. Rizvi

President, Academic Senate

## THE ALMA MATER

Nina Kulikov

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting

Tempe Munach

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting

## OPENING DECLARATIONS

Frances Bronet

President, Pratt Institute

## THE PRATT LEGACY

Gary Hattem

Chair, Board of Trustees

## FACULTY HONORS

Frank Franca

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Undergraduate Communications Design

## STUDENT SPEAKERS

Delmy M. Lendof

Vice President for Student Affairs

Valeria Zhikharevich

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Communications Design

Victoria Forbes

Master of Arts,

Art and Design Education

## CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Stefan Sagmeister

Doctor of Fine Arts

Introduced by William Hilson

Presented by Dean Anita Cooney

Annabelle Selldorf

Doctor of Fine Arts

Introduced by Kathryn Chenault

Presented by Quilian Riano

Claudia Rankine

Doctor of Letters

Introduced by Mike Pratt

Presented by Interim Dean Karyn Zieve

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Claudia Rankine

## 2025 DEGREE CANDIDATES

Frances Bronet

President, Pratt Institute

*School of Architecture*

Dean Quilian Riano

*School of Art*

Dean Jorge Oliver

*School of Design*

Dean Anita Cooney

*School of Information*

Dean Anthony Cocciolo

*School of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

Interim Dean Karyn Zieve

## PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Frances Bronet

President, Pratt Institute

## CLOSING DECLARATION

Uzma Z. Rizvi

President, Academic Senate

## FACULTY RECESSIONAL

*Prince of Denmark's March*

Jeremiah Clarke (c. 1673–1707)



@PrattInstitute

#PrattGrad25



Open captioning is available on the ceremony livestream at [pratt.edu](https://pratt.edu)

# NOTES ON ACADEMIC HERALDRY

The academic disciplines of our faculty and students are signified on their regalia by the following colors:

Arts, Letters: white  
Education or Pedagogy: light blue  
Engineering: orange  
Fine Arts: brown  
Architecture: blue violet  
Library Science: lemon  
Music: pink  
Philosophy: dark blue  
Public Administration: olive brown  
Science: golden yellow  
Social Service: citron

## SILVER BRAIDS AND PRATT CIRCLE AWARDS

Pratt Institute is proud to provide Pratt Circle Awards and Silver Braids to all candidates who graduate with *Academic Honors/Distinction*.

## GOLD BRAIDS

Gold Braids are awarded to candidates who have made significant contributions to their academic departments and disciplines.

## GREEN BRAIDS

Green Braids are presented to exceptional students who have proved to be outstanding leaders in the advancement of sustainability on the Pratt campus.

## RED BRAIDS

Red Braids are presented to students who have exhibited leadership in Student Affairs for at least one year.

## LIGHT BLUE AND WHITE BRAIDS

Light Blue and White Braids are awarded to First-Generation graduates.

## WHITE BRAIDS

White Braids are awarded to student-athletes who are members of a Pratt varsity athletic team for at least two seasons.

## RAINBOW BRAIDS

Rainbow braids may be worn by students who identify as part of the LGBTQI+ community and are presented during the Lavender Graduation, prior to Commencement.

## DIPLOMA MAILING/DELIVERY

Diplomas and certificates will be mailed to the address specified on the graduation application. We estimate that the diploma should be received by June 21, 2025, provided that all degree requirements have been completed and the student is cleared by all administrative offices and the library. If your address has changed, please notify the Registrar's Office by email (reg@pratt.edu) no later than May 24, 2025.

# PRATT INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP

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Jorge Oliver, School of Art  
Anita Cooney, School of Design  
Anthony Cocciolo, School of Information  
Karyn Zieve, (Interim), School of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Maira Seara, School of Continuing and Professional Studies  
Russell Abell, Libraries

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Eliana Abu-Hamdi, Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Partnerships  
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## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

### *Libraries*

Amy Ballmer, Research and Collection Development

### *Provost Division*

Leslie Mutchler, Foundation

### *School of Architecture*

Stephen Slaughter, Undergraduate Architecture  
Alexandra Barker (Interim), Graduate Architecture and Urban Design  
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Vicki Weiner, Academic Director, Historic Preservation  
Leonel Lima Ponce, Academic Director, Sustainable Environmental Systems  
David Burney, Academic Director, Urban Placemaking and Management  
Rosetta Elkin, Academic Director, Master of Landscape Architecture

### *School of Art*

Aileen Wilson, Art and Design Education  
Susan Young, Associate Degree Programs  
Valerie Hubbs, Creative Arts Therapy  
Mary McBride, Creative Enterprise Leadership  
Douglas Easterly, Digital Arts  
Kara Hearn, Film/Video  
Jane South, Fine Arts  
Shannon Ebner, Photography

### *School of Design*

Meta Newhouse, Undergraduate Communications Design  
Gaia Hwang, Graduate Communications Design  
Lisa Z. Morgan, Fashion Design  
Ignacio Urbina Polo, Industrial Design  
David Foley, Interior Design

### *School of Information*

John Lauermann, Curriculum and Teaching Lead, Data Analytics and Visualization  
Craig MacDonald, Curriculum and Teaching Lead, Information Experience Design  
Irene Lopatovska, Curriculum and Teaching Lead, Library and Information Science  
Cristina Pattuelli, Curriculum and Teaching Lead, Museums and Digital Culture

### *School of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

Sarah A. Lichtman, History of Art and Design  
Gina Marchetti, Humanities and Media Studies  
Christopher Brownell, Mathematics and Science  
Leo Coleman, Social Science and Cultural Studies  
Beth Loffreda, Writing

## THE COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

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Rachel Asher, Associate Director of Ceremonies  
and Events, Commencement Lead  
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Emma Legge, Core Committee  
Renaë Govinda, Core Committee  
Jamie B. Jones, Core Committee  
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Rodric Bowman  
Rachel Christiansen  
Joseph Della Monica  
Rosemary O'Sullivan Fischer  
Meaghan Foley  
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James Kempster  
Delmy Lendof  
Luke Phillips  
Jaimee Schwartz  
Tue Tran  
Jolene Travis  
Alex Ullman

## TRUSTEES OF PRATT INSTITUTE

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Courtney Chandler

## GRADUATE STUDENT TRUSTEE

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Frank Attong  
Anya Bernstein  
Sam Burbank  
Darelle Daniels  
Donald Ketteler  
Daniel Lawson  
Mon Lee  
Andrew Riad  
Kalinka Rogashka  
Jeannie So  
Chloe Spencer  
René Woeckener

## COMMENCEMENT 2025

### DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

David Frisco, Executive Director of Creative Services,  
Pratt Communications and Marketing  
Stephanie Greenberg, Associate Director of  
Project Management  
Chris Keating, Print and Digital Production Manager  
Robert McConnell, Senior Graphic Designer  
Brandhi Williamson, Assistant Director of Copy  
Editing and Content Review



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25COMMENC  
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MMENCEME

Let the work done here be earnest and good...  
Work for the genuine and the true  
will sweeten and give courage to life.

CHARLES PRATT

*excerpt from Founder's Day speech, October 2, 1888*