The Kenan Institute for the Arts believes that artists can contribute their creativity and visionary leadership to strengthen our culture, build businesses and generate innovative ideas. At UNC School of the Arts, we invite the campus community to explore new ideas, develop greater capacity and generate innovative approaches to creative challenges.

In the community, we forge alliances aimed at strengthening the arts ecosystem and increasing the contribution that artists make to develop social and economic capital. Regionally and nationally, the Kenan Institute collaborates with leading artists and partners with exemplary arts organizations to advance the creative community.

Devoting resources to understanding artist leadership as an evolving body of knowledge, entrepreneurship as a sustainable career practice, and artists’ capacity to fuel innovation.

Focusing resources towards local and regional projects with national impact that empower and engage artists and the wider creative community in addressing social issues.

Directing research and resources on understanding diverse career pathways in the arts, strengthening professional partnerships, and sharing innovative strategies with the UNC School of the Arts and the field.
The Kenan Institute for the Arts is a catalyst that encourages and supports the exploration and development of new knowledge to transform the way artists, organizations and communities approach their creative challenges. The Kenan Institute for the Arts fosters new knowledge, develops capacity and forges strategic alliances aimed at strengthening the arts ecosystem and increasing the contributions that artists make to the development of social and economic capital. THE KENAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS BUILDS CREATIVE COMMUNITY.