



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019
COMMON SPACES

Common Spaces has much to be grateful for as we reflect on the 2018 – 2019 academic year.

After years of planning and construction, the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center is now bringing the Harvard community together in new and exciting ways.

The realization of the Campus Center would not have been possible without the vision of philanthropists Richard Smith and the late Susan Smith, the family of Moise Y. Safra, and Harvard University President Emerita Drew Faust. Nor would it have been possible without the collaborative efforts between senior University leadership and our colleagues in planning, student life, capital projects, and operations. The Smith Campus Center stands proudly in Harvard Square welcoming students, faculty, staff, and visitors while drawing audiences for a diverse line-up of events and programs.

This new centerpiece of the University brought with it a pretty steep learning curve. Try as we might to do things perfectly right out of the gate, what we've found is that it's important to

continue experimenting as a space settles and grows. The Common Spaces team learned a lot this year about how students, faculty, and staff use the Campus Center and other Common Spaces. While studying and group work is invariably at the top of many lists, so too is the desire for concerts, movies, and opportunities to have fun.

It has been ten years since the Committee on Common Spaces was formed and since that time transformations have taken place throughout the Cambridge campus. Examples include the installation of colorful chairs in Harvard Yard, the dedications of the Patio at Lehman Hall and the Porch at Memorial Church, in addition to the ambitious creation of the Plaza between Harvard Yard and the

Science Center. While we are very proud of what's been accomplished so far, we are even more excited about what lies ahead. We look forward to working with the entire University community to bring people together and continue to push towards One Harvard.



Best wishes,

Julie A. Crites

Special thanks this year to:

President Emerita Drew Faust, President Larry Bacow, Vice President Katie Lapp, Vice President for Campus Services Meredith Weenick, Paul Andrew, Marybeth Pearlberg, and Susan Lyons in addition to:

Rolando Abaquin, Lara Adams, Nicholas Boucher, Michelle Byrne, Julianna Buck, Elson Callejas, Sean Caron, Anthony Carvello, Mike Conner, Tracey Daley, Maggie Dawson, Bob Doyle, Amy Fanikos, Diane Gray, Christine Haverty, Stephanie Hazelwood, Carolee

Hill, Mohamed Himmad, Julia Huesa, Tanya Iatridis, Shirin Karanfiloglu, Jim Labeck, Tom Lucey, Jason Luke, Jeanne Mahone, Jill Martyn, Jill Mazmanian, Kathy McCarthy, Alex Miller, Tom Mills, Giles Moore, Greg Morrow, Amy Nostrand, Joe O'Farrell, Alexandra Offiong, Katie O'Dair, Brigid O'Rourke, Sruthi Palaniappan, Robin Parker, George Pierce, Phil Rando, Chief Bud Riley, Joseph Santos, Tina Smith, Maile Takahashi, Rachel Traughber, Syed Shahidullah, Brianne Sullivan, Lisa Valela, Max Vani, Amy Vest, Jackie Yun, Mohamed Zaker, and Catherine Zhang.

THE RICHARD A. AND SUSAN F. SMITH CAMPUS CENTER LAUNCH AND FIRST YEAR

The new Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center opened on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 on the first day of classes for academic year 2018-2019 at Harvard University.

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors were welcomed through the front door by a new Visitor Information Center, Box Office, and interactive media wall highlighting events and news from across the campus in the Moise Y. Safra Welcome Pavilion. Large buckets of over 2,000 bright yellow sunflowers filled the space as Common Spaces staff handed out flowers to celebrate opening day. Daylight streamed through the Arcade illuminating the eight new eighteen-foot tall vertical plant walls and new windows beckoned to a second story roof garden. Inside the new community living room called Harvard Commons, the University community found more light-filled spaces with comfortable couches and chairs mixed with collaborative working tables across five different levels.

From the moment the Smith Campus Center opened, spaces quickly filled with students eager to socialize and study, and faculty and staff seeking quick and casual places to meet or connect on campus. Free reservable meeting rooms on the second floor filled daily from 9am to midnight with student, faculty, and staff meetings while the 10th floor became the special destination for Harvard affiliates in search of comfortable study and social space with glorious views across the campus to Boston and beyond.





THE RICHARD A. AND SUSAN F. SMITH CAMPUS CENTER OPENING CELEBRATIONS

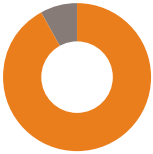
Over 3,000 members of the Harvard community attended the building dedication and opening celebration on Thursday, September 20th.

Remarks were made by President Bacow and Richard Smith followed by performances from fifteen student dance and musical groups as Smith Campus Center food vendors provides small bites and samples of their new menus to the Harvard community.

Other celebrations included:

- **SCC After Dark** on Friday, September 14, a late-night party for all undergraduate and graduate students with over 1,800 in attendance who danced the night away in Harvard Commons, made DIY sundaes in Collaborative Commons, watched live silk-screen printing and on-demand typewriter poetry in the Arts Wing, along with DJs and mocktails up on the 10th floor.
- **Chess Weekend** on Friday, September 21 through Sunday, September 23 took place to celebrate the return of chess to the plaza space overlooking Massachusetts Avenue which has been home to Harvard Square's venerable chess scene for over fifty years. The chess weekend launched with open free play for all followed by an open simultaneous chess exhibition with Grandmaster Larry Christiansen on Saturday and culminating in the invitational "Collin's Cup" blitz 5-minute chess tournament on Sunday which garnered local and national press coverage.
- **Additional celebrations** included a panel discussion and reception with design architect Andrew Barnett of Hopkins Architects, a community partners reception, a thank you luncheon for the project team, and a thank you reception for the Campus Center's building tenants.

**COMMON SPACES ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT:
RICHARD A. AND SUSAN F. SMITH CAMPUS CENTER**



92%

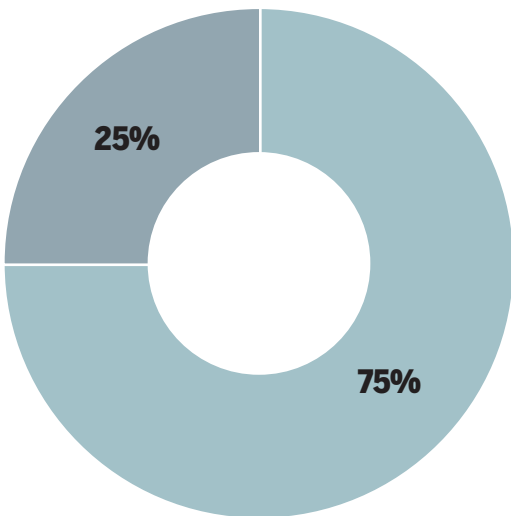
of surveyed students, faculty, and staff would recommend or highly recommend the Smith Campus Center to a friend.



74%

of surveyed students, faculty, and staff have attended an event at the Smith Campus Center

Number of Room Reservations for Meetings and Events at the Smith Campus Center During Academic Year 2018-2019:

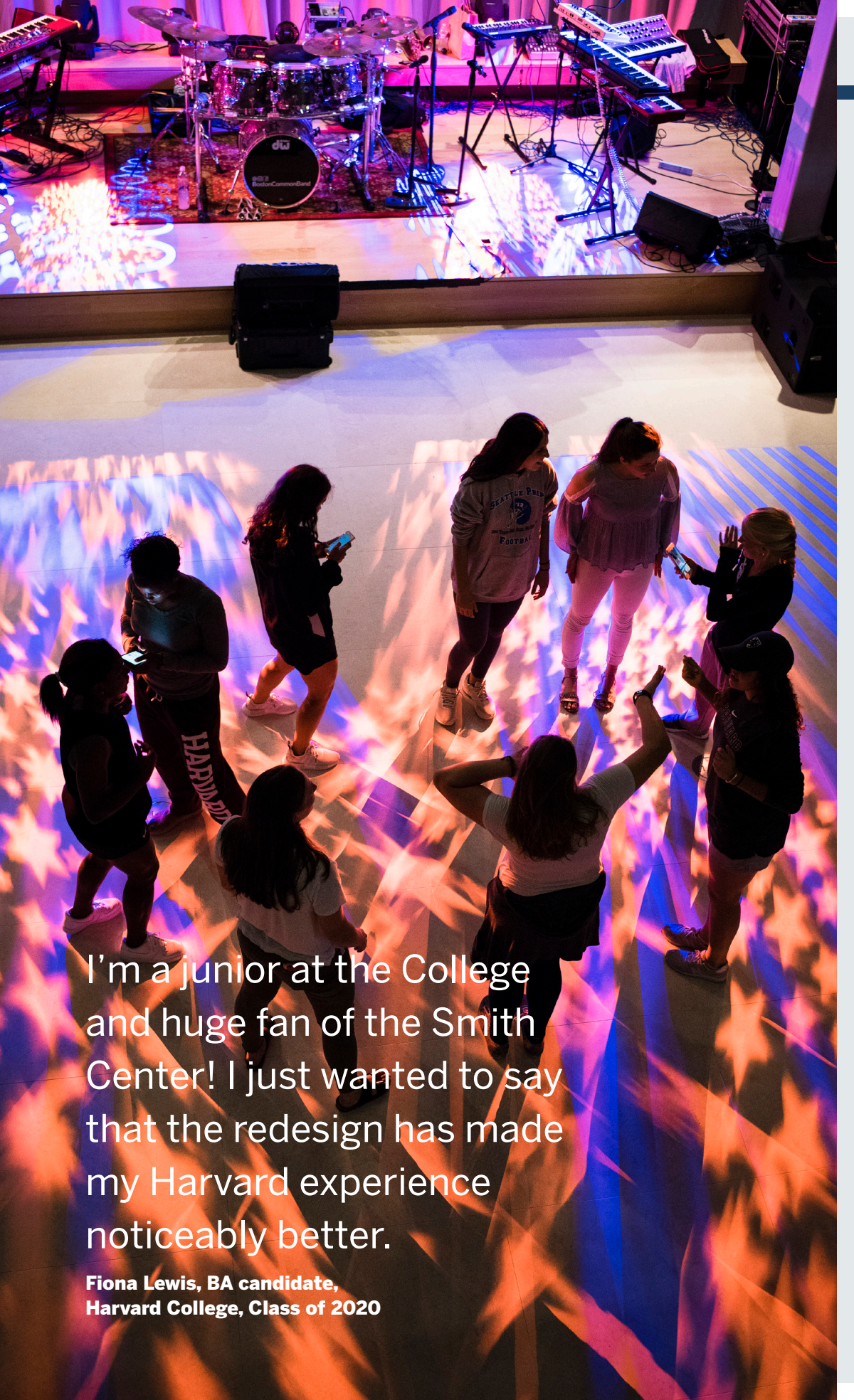


STUDENTS: 6,517
FACULTY/STAFF: 2,200

I came to work at the Smith Center and it is gorgeous and welcoming!
This is a great example of creating inclusive, health-promoting, welcoming spaces for all!

**Erika Sita Eitland, Doctoral Candidate,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**



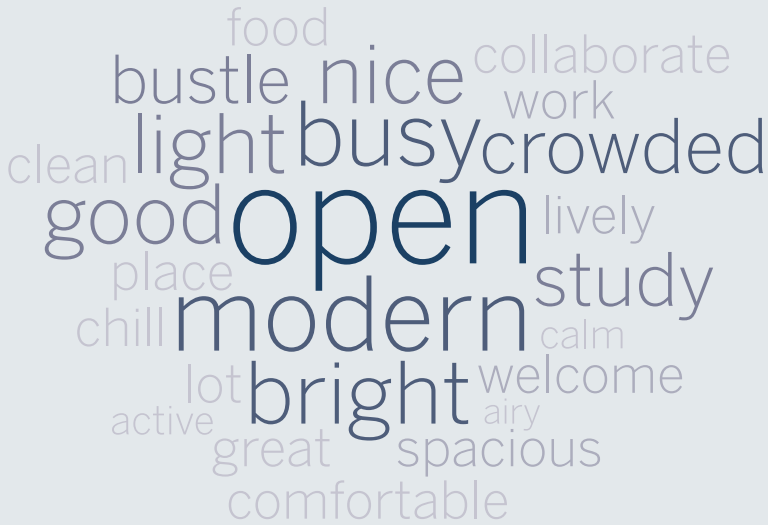


I'm a junior at the College
and huge fan of the Smith
Center! I just wanted to say
that the redesign has made
my Harvard experience
noticeably better.

**Fiona Lewis, BA candidate,
Harvard College, Class of 2020**

**COMMON SPACES ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT:
RICHARD A. AND SUSAN F. SMITH CAMPUS CENTER**

**HOW STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF DESCRIBE
THE NEW SMITH CAMPUS CENTER:**



**WHAT STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WOULD LIKE
TO SEE MORE OF IN THE FUTURE:**



HARVARD COMMONS AT THE SMITH CAMPUS CENTER

During the inaugural year of the Campus Center, Harvard students, faculty, and staff hosted an incredible series of events on the main stage in Harvard Commons.

Events were open to the whole Harvard community and general public, attracting over 6,000 attendees across the academic year. Collaborating partners included University Chaplains, Harvard Dharma, the College Events Board, American Repertory Theatre, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard Dance Center, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Graduate Commons, the Office for the Arts, T.H. Chan School for Public Health, Graduate School of Arts and Science, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Highlights of Harvard Commons events included:

- **Hungama** on October 13 celebrated Navaratri with Garba and Raas group dances followed by a Bollywood dance party.
- **Harvard-Yale “Bulldog Roast”** on November 14 brought over 300 students to performances from the Lampoon, On Harvard Time, and the Stand-Up Comic Society, and Professor Andrew Berry presented his iconic “Why Harvard is Better Than Yale” comedic lecture.
- **QWEnter Formal** (Winter Formal for Quincy, Winthrop, and Eliot Houses) on December 8 with over 800 students in attendance.
 - **“The Impossible Man”** on March 14 featured a performance by visiting artist Tracie Morris with pianist Janice Lowe celebrating the life and work of pioneering African-American thespian Ira Aldridge (1807-1867).
- **The Harvard Student Art Show** opening reception on April 5 welcomed over 600 students who enjoyed a student band showcase and over 80 works of art on view throughout the Campus Center.
- **ArtsFirst** on May 5 presented “Beyond Borders” with the SilkRoad Ensemble, Parker Quartet and the Brattle Street Chamber Players of Harvard College.



COMMON SPACES ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT: THE PLAZA AND OUTDOOR SPACES

- **The Plaza's new summer shade canopy, "Wavelength,"** provided respite from the sun on hot summer days and was developed in partnership with Project for Public Spaces and designed by Interboro Partners. "Wavelength" has provided a great backdrop to a variety of activities including lawn games and fitness classes and our popular "Summer Thursdays on the Plaza" evening series.
- **Popular annual favorite WinterFest** averaged 250 visitors per day from January through March for curling, bowling, shuffleboard, and enjoying s'mores and hot chocolate around the fire pits.
- **Live music concerts** took place four times per week between April through October in addition to weekly Zumba, Yoga, and Tai Chi classes, as well as a rotation of lawn games like cornhole and Ping-Pong.
- **Our popular food truck program offered over 15 different food trucks** across lunch and dinner, 7 days a week, all year-round. Returning favorites like Bon Me and Chicken and Rice Guys were joined by new additions like Zaaki (Egyptian cuisine) and The Pull Up (soul food).
- **Common Spaces co-hosted "Run the Yard,"** Harvard's first and only university-wide 5K, had nearly 400 runners from across students, staff, faculty, and their family and friends including many academic groups and undergraduate houses who participated as teams.
- **Other notable events included:**
 - **The Harvard-Yale 'tailgate' breakfast** for over 2,000 Harvard College and Yale students on the morning of "The Game"
 - **Arts First on May 3 – 4 with "Jazz on the Plaza"** by the Harvard Jazz Bands on Friday and a performance fair and dance festival on Saturday.

The Plaza does a great job of catering to students, staff, tourists/visitors, and locals – not an easy task! The variety of activities, as well as the hip and comfortable seating options, make it a great place to spend time.

**Olivia Mandica-Hart, Archivist,
Pusey Library, Harvard University**



Bringing the University Community Together.

Whether it's supporting our community with communal spaces where everyone can participate fully in Harvard's academic, cultural, and social offerings or co-creating events and programs with an array of diverse partners from across the University, Common Spaces is here to help everyone at Harvard thrive.

CONNECT

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