Dr. Sara Diamond is a distinguished alumna of Simon Fraser University whose lifelong commitment to education, research, innovation and the arts has profoundly impacted Canadian culture.

With a PhD in Computing, Information Technology and Engineering from the University of East London; a Masters in Digital Media theory from the University of Arts London; and a BA in History and Communications from SFU. Diamond was well primed to launch her decade-long career at Alberta’s Banff Centre. While serving as Artistic Director of Media and Visual Art and Director of Research, she created and led the Banff New Media Institute to help incubate and support many of Canada’s leading new media companies.

In 2005, Dr. Diamond became President of the Ontario College of Art and Design University, Canada’s largest and most comprehensive art, design and media university. During her 15-year tenure—she transitioned to the role of President Emerita this past summer—she strategically expanded programming and partnerships and built a diverse and Indigenous work force and curriculum. Dr. Diamond secured capital funding to transform physical spaces, including establishing the Richmond Street Campus and Onsite public gallery. Propelled by her visionary leadership and commitment to inclusivity, OCAD U has emerged as an eminent leader in STEAM+D—that is, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, Medicine and Design—with capacities in digital media, design research and curriculum.

Beyond the academy, Dr. Diamond has given years of service and policy direction to public boards, advisory committees such as the NAFTA joint committee on culture, task forces and arts juries, acting as Vice-Chair of the Council of Ontario universities, and advising government, most recently through Rethinking Public Art in Toronto. She is an accomplished digital technology researcher, and a new media artist whose work has been shown in major galleries around the world, including the National Gallery of Canada and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Last year Sara Diamond received the Order of Canada—our nation’s highest civilian honour—for her “immense contributions to the country’s arts, cultural and digital industry landscape.” As an educator, researcher, artist, and innovator, she embodies SFU’s vision of engagement on every level. Sara Diamond is conferred the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.