

BSA Looks to the Future with Strategic Plan; Introduces new mission, vision, core values and goals.

After a long gestation and eighteen months of conversations, interviews, and lots of research, we're delighted to present [BSA's Strategic Plan](#). With thanks to Li-Wen Kang (BSA Music '88) and Todd Harvey (BSA Visual Arts '94), Chairs, and the hard-working committee that helped to bring this plan to fruition, we feel we have a blueprint to help us prepare our students for the creative workforce of the future.

The questions driving this Strategic Plan: What can we do now for our students to help them thrive in the future (say 2030) in a world that is changing so very quickly? What sort of career-world will they inhabit? What understandings and skills will they need to thrive? What sort of experiences, information and understandings do we need to offer to prepare them for that world? We are grateful to the brilliant and generous artists, alumni, thought leaders, educators, and others who helped us to reach this launching point.

VISION

We respect the young creative mind and
exist to nurture its passion and potential.

We believe that the pursuit of mastery in an artistic field,
paired with a strong individual sense of purpose,
leads to a wide range of positive outcomes
for both the student and the community.



November 2015

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The Nutcracker

BSA's beloved Nutcracker, choreographed by [Barry Hughson](#) especially for our high school and TWIGS dancers, is returning to BSA's Schaefer Ballroom in the Mark K. Joseph Building!

Friday, December 11

7 pm

Saturday, December 12

11 am & 4 pm

Friday, December 18

7 pm

Saturday, December 19

1 pm

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

\$15 (students/seniors 75+) and \$20 (general admission). Visit bsfa.org for box office hours/info.

We hope you'll take some time to read [BSA's Strategic Plan](#) in its entirety. Learn more about BSA's Core Values -- **Curiosity, Confidence, Expertise, Collaboration, Purpose, and Global Perspective** -- and our **Goals** for the school. Also consider joining Chris Ford on his blog [On the Arts & Education](#) to learn more about the work behind the scenes, and his thoughts as implementation gets underway.

Theatre Department Head Donald Hicken to retire at the end of the school year; BSA launches national search for new Theatre Head

Donald Hicken, at the helm of BSA's theatre department before day one as a member of the planning team when the school was just an idea, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Over the years, he has taught and influenced hundreds of students including Jada Pinkett Smith, Josh Charles, Shalita Grant, and Tupac Shakur. "Donald has shaped BSA to be the unique, powerful and nurturing place that it is today. He's had life-changing impact on all of the students he teaches," said Director Chris Ford in a recent [Sun article](#).

In June 2015, Hicken was one of three finalists of over 4,000 nominees for the first-ever [Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre Education](#), a special honor that recognized K-12 theatre educators in the U.S. who have demonstrated monumental impact on the lives of students and who embody the highest standards of the profession. To read more about the award, and Hicken's career, [click here](#).



Recently, BSA welcomed theatre students from the U.K. for the **10th annual BSA exchange program** founded by Hicken. Unique for a public city school, the program enables BSA's actors to work with their counterparts twice, once in Baltimore and then at [Showdown Theatre Arts](#) in the spring when a full production is staged. The BSA students, most of whom have never traveled abroad, also have the opportunity to visit London theatres and other sites. This year the group will present "[Prospect High: Brooklyn](#)," a nationwide premiere play created by [Roundabout Theatre](#). BSA is one of a select group of high schools chosen to work on the project.



BSA students and their British counterparts will present *Prospect High: Brooklyn* in the U.K. this May. This is the 10th year of an international exchange program founded by Hicken.

More Events this month & next!

Jury Exhibition Opens Today!

BSA's first juried show of the work of visual artists from all grade levels opens on **Friday, November 13 from 4-6 pm** in the Segal Gallery. Open through Friday, January 8. Always free, always fabulous!

String Orchestra & Chamber Music this Sunday!

Sunday, November 15 at 3 pm at beautiful [Grace United Methodist Church](#). All welcome to this free concert!

Visiting Speaker Steven J. Tepper

Wednesday, November 18 at 5 pm in the Straus Recital Hall.

We're happy to welcome one of the nation's leading thinkers about Creative Work to BSA! Steven J. Tepper is the dean of the [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#) at Arizona State University, the nation's largest, comprehensive design and arts school at a research university. He's also a leading writer and speaker on U.S. cultural policy and his work has fostered national discussions around topics of cultural engagement, everyday creativity, and the transformative possibilities of a 21st century creative campus. Join us/Free.

Chamber Music & Monument Lighting

Join us in BSA's brownstone parlor before the annual lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 3 at 5 pm for free music and refreshments.

Theatre alumna Jada Pinkett Smith sums up how the community is feeling about Hicken's departure, "Although we know he couldn't stay forever, so many of us have been blessed by his mentorship. We will hold dear how much time and care he's given to BSA as well as to the shaping of the souls of young artists. Thank you Donald!"

BSA has gathered a search committee comprised of board and faculty members to begin to identify candidates who will lead BSA's theatre department into the future. A job description and application instructions will be posted on [BSA's website](#) soon. Stay tuned for information about celebrations and recognition of Donald Hicken's incredible impact and career here at BSA!

Perfect SATs & Rave Reviews!



Two theatre students made the headlines this month with wonderful accomplishments. BSA actor **Laura Seaberg** earned a perfect 2400 on her SATs. She was interviewed on FOX ([click here](#)). She's also a National Merit Semi-Finalist, a North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad semi-finalist, and a Princeton Book award winner!

Isa Guitian, a junior in the theatre department, received rave reviews for her performance as the teen protagonist, Maxine Hunter, in Rep Stage's production of Jami Brandli's "Technicolor Life." Wrote one critic, "As Maxine, Isa Guitian makes debut in a performance bursting with vitality, optimism, confusion and humor. The 11th-grade student at the Baltimore School for the Arts is a natural talent we hope to see much more of in the future." BSA grad Heather Peacock was also in the show as Jane Russell (to the left of Isa in the photo). To read another review, [click here](#).



BSA Alumni in the News

Visual Arts grad **Tony Shore** was awarded a [Rubys Artist Project Grant](#) in visual arts to support the creation of new paintings in response to the Baltimore Uprising. The grants, awarded by the [Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance](#), are given to artists that reflect a diversity of talent and creativity in Baltimore. He was also named to be Chair of the Painting Department at [MICA](#) beginning in 2016.

There will be a second **Chamber Recital** on [Tuesday, December 8 at 5 pm](#) in the Straus Recital Hall. Free.

Mendelssohn Chorus Concert

BSA's vocal musicians will perform at the venerated [Shriver Hall](#) on Saturday, December 5 at 8 pm. Tickets \$10 & \$12.

Welcome Masters

BSA students have had the exciting opportunity to work with some incredible artists this past month including: Bessie Award-winning, former Paul Taylor dancer, currently at USC, [Patrick Corbin](#); Grammy award-winning percussionist [Joe McCarthy](#); opera singer, BSA alum **Eric Greene**; and jazz bassist [Carroll Dashiell](#) to name a few!

Art Practices



Students have continued to venture out after school to see artists at work in Baltimore, most recently visiting the [Springsteen Gallery](#) with Gallery Directors Hunter Bradley and Amelia Szpiech and [Post Typography](#) design studio with founders Nolen Strals and Bruce Willen.

Madison & Cathedral

The staff of BSA's literary magazine [Madison and Cathedral](#) have been hard at work collecting new fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and other creative work from their fellow students. Take a moment to explore the thoughtful (and quirky) content! Give their facebook page a like too!



BSA alum **Ernest Shaw Jr.** is another one of the many artists in Baltimore responding to the events of last April. His [latest mural](#) was unveiled on the side of The Arch Social Club on Nov. 8. Look for his daughter Asya Shaw, also a BSA grad, in the mural

which depicts past, present and future.

Music alum **Kenneth Bean** (r) was appointed Associate Conductor for [The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra](#).



Grad **Brayden Simpson** (and TWIGS student **Indigo Turner**) star in a [timely revival](#) of "Fences" at Everyman Theatre. BSA grad **Mikaela Feely-Lehmann's** Millie received [a great review](#) in the *NY Times* for her role in "Perfect Arrangement," Topher Payne's comedy Off Broadway.

Dancer **Alexandra Albrecht** was nominated for a BESSIE award in dance -- [Read more here](#). **Nardia Boodoo**, a dancer at Washington Ballet, will receive the [American Dance Institute Scholarship](#), created to support promising young artists in the early stages of their careers.

Congrats to all of our alumni for their many accomplishments!

Hello TWIGS!

TWIGS is underway as is our new outreach program Hello TWIGS! -- Saturdays are busier than ever at BSA -- We love it and thank all of the donors who make our outreach programs possible for Baltimore's youngest artists!



Students from Tench Tilghman & Armistead Gardens take the bus to BSA each Saturday for arts classes and lunch.

Celebrate Giving Tuesday by Donating to BSA!

BSA's **Annual Giving Campaign** is underway! You should have received/or will receive soon our request for your support of BSA's students and programs.

[Your donations make an incredible array of programs available for more than 1,000 kids each week!](#) We simply can't do this work without your help, so we hope you'll consider a gift.



This year, we'll be participating in **Giving Tuesday**, a national effort to give back at the start of the holiday season. If you'd like to help Maryland become the most generous state in America, please consider donating on December 1, 2015 to BSA - **We'll be reporting all of our gifts!**

[Just click here](#) or mail that envelope back to us! On behalf of our young artists and scholars, **Thank You!**

Thanks BSA parents!

Thanks to all of BSA's parent volunteers for supporting BSA. Each year a group of parents are elected to serve on BSA's Parent Advisory Committee -- Special thanks to this year's group: Gina Adams, Molly Rath, Brooke Thomas, June Brown, Cheryle Wilson, April Lewis, Sharon Pula, and Melanie Hood-Wilson!



Where the arts change kids' lives

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