

BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

Where the Arts Change Kids' Lives

Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public arts high school located in the center of Baltimore City's cultural district. Drawing students of diverse backgrounds from all over the state, the school provides all with pre-professional training in a specific arts discipline (dance, music, theatre or visual arts) combined with a college preparatory academic education.

Inspiring role models

A central feature of BSA is its faculty of professional artists who mentor students throughout the school day. These artists model the discipline and process required to solve problems in creative ways. They promote the collaborative work that is essential in the creative workforce. Innovative partnerships with Baltimore's premier cultural institutions, opportunities for students to perform on the city's main stages, and master classes/residencies with luminaries in the arts further deepen and broaden the professional arts training for students.



Every artist is a scholar

The school has a unique admissions process designed to identify students with the potential for a career in the arts solely through an arts audition—no academic criteria are used. Although academics are not considered at the auditions, once students are admitted, they must all pursue a rigorous academic curriculum—half the day is spent in academics and half in the arts. Students who need it receive free tutoring and test preparation so that they can meet academic benchmarks as well as artistic ones. BSA student test scores are consistently among the highest in the city and state.

A springboard to the future

BSA attendance, graduation and college placement rates are near 100% each year with students regularly admitted to some of the most highly regarded higher education institutions in the country. In recent surveys, BSA graduates reported college completion rates nearly double the national average. BSA alumni are incredibly successful, both in careers in the arts and in a wide range of other endeavors.



Shalita Grant '06 was nominated for a 2013 Tony Award for her role in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*.



Opening doors for Baltimore's kids

A further mission of BSA is to reach younger children with opportunities in the arts that they might not otherwise be able to access, both to enrich and to provide critical early training. Each year, through TWIGS, its free after-school and Saturday program, BSA offers more than 700 Baltimore City elementary and middle school children training in dance, music, theatre and visual arts. Additionally, thousands of Baltimore City children attend free performances at BSA and other educational programs.

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The Development of the Young Artist

This exhibition explores the journey that visual arts students at Baltimore School for the Arts take through four years of intensive, pre-professional fine arts instruction. Their early work focuses on skill building, manipulation of numerous mediums, and mastering many techniques. Later the work becomes more experimental, and finally personal and conceptual. Our students' evolution and maturity is reflected in the work and in the design of this exhibition.

In the FIRST YEAR, studio work focuses heavily on drawing from observation and the composition of works of art by focusing on art elements and design principles. In addition, students study ceramics and take an introductory slide lecture on art.

In the SECOND YEAR students build upon the previous year's experience, drawing from the life model and learning the complexities of painting and printmaking. Students also take a three-dimensional design class and continue the study of art history.

The THIRD YEAR curriculum moves figure drawing in a more experimental direction and students start to paint, for the first time, from the life model. Students also begin to learn the technical aspects of dark room photography and digital imaging. Sculpture is introduced and the study of the history of art continues.

In the FOURTH YEAR, seniors continue the movement toward personal work in all studios. Students are encouraged to find their own voice and method of working in mixed-media exercises that draw on spontaneity and serendipity. Seniors continue work in the sculpture studio. Seniors choose electives in drawing, painting, darkroom and digital photography, printmaking, video, or ceramics to provide additional support in an area of interest and to build a strong portfolio for college.

The journey our students take is long and complex, and one that carries them through their early teens to young adulthood. So many changes happen during this critical time—physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. By graduation they have traveled a great distance, have changed in many subtle and obvious ways, and have developed a personal voice with which to express themselves.