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Media Contact

Stephanie Jayakanthan

sjayakanthan@bsfa.org

443.642.5174 (o)

520.233.3947 (c)

**Patricia and Mark Joseph Make \$3 Million Gift to Baltimore School for the Arts
to Launch Film & Visual Storytelling Program**

BALTIMORE – The Baltimore School for that Arts (BSA) announced today that Patricia and Mark Joseph have made a \$3 million lead gift to the school to establish a film and visual storytelling program. This first-ever program for a Baltimore high school will be introduced at the beginning of the 2017 academic year (September 2017).

The new film and digital program will be named in memory of Charles C. Baum, a business man, lawyer, and film aficionado. Mr. Joseph is a founder of the school and later served on its Board of Overseers. Mrs. Joseph served as Chair of the Board and headed the search which selected Chris Ford as the school’s director. The Josephs were lead donors in both the BSA’s capital campaign and in creating its endowment. Mr. Baum’s wife, Patti, serves on the BSA’s Board.

BSA will join a small handful of high schools in the country with film programs. Fifteen students will be selected to join the film’s inaugural program next September, with 15 additional students each year thereafter. Students will experience a balance between creative storytelling and technological expertise. Like BSA’s current students, the film class will spend four periods a day in artistic study and four periods in academic study.

“The BSA is such a great place. It truly changes kid’s lives, evidenced by its recognition as one of the top five arts high schools in America. Adding the film program will certainly enhance this reputation and, equally as important, it will increase the number of students educated there every year,” said Mr. Joseph. “With this program, students will learn the skills necessary to keep pace with the exciting world of film and digital media. Additionally, we are delighted to be able to honor the memory of our dear friend, Charles Baum, in such a meaningful way.”

BSA will hold auditions for this new program on February 11, 2017.

“We’re incredibly thankful for the Josephs’ generosity and their extraordinary commitment to Baltimore School for the Arts,” said Dr. Chris Ford, BSA’s director. “This recent gift brings their contributions to the school to \$5 million dollars. The Josephs are passionate about enabling Baltimore City students to receive an excellent education. I am humbled by their unwavering belief in our work and the potential of our students. I am in awe of their brilliant vision for our school’s future.”

In developing and designing the program, BSA turned to the Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation for guidance in creating a film and video pilot program this past summer for 15 students. As part of its discovery process, BSA staff has been visiting leading high school and college film programs to learn best practices and consider how to best adapt those practices to the new curriculum. BSA has also been bringing leading practitioners and educators in the film industry to its Baltimore campus to provide advice about the best design for a film and video program.

For additional details about the new film program and the audition process, please visit www.bsfa.org.

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The Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public arts high school that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance, and the visual arts. Additionally, the BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 750 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.

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