Boston Arts Academy (BAA) is Boston’s only public high school for the visual and performing arts. BAA provides a diverse student body, a majority who come from low-income families, access to a college-preparatory arts and academic education not otherwise available to them. Our mission is to prepare a community of aspiring artist-scholar-citizens to be successful in their college or professional careers and to be engaged members of their communities. Our innovative arts and academic curriculum yields impressive results.

The Boston Arts Academy Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that was established in 1999 to raise essential funds for the Boston Arts Academy (BAA) high school. Each year, the BAA Foundation raises 40% of the school’s budget from private philanthropic sources. The BAA Foundation helps bridge the gap between the school’s allocation from the Boston Public Schools, and the true cost of a high-quality education that is both arts-intensive and college preparatory. Support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors is critical to the school’s ability to offer a comprehensive arts and academic education.

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On the cover: Boston Arts Academy students performing the school’s original production, Dancing in the Streets, at the Strand Theatre.
Dear Friends,

It is such a pleasure to share with you the successes from our 2017-18 school year. All that is described within these pages you are holding, and so much more, was made possible by your continued generosity and your belief in the amazing young artists who attend the Boston Arts Academy (BAA). Thank you!

Some of the extraordinary milestones of the year include:

• Both the city and state unanimously approved $125M to replace the school building in Fenway. BAA has been temporarily relocated to Dorchester during construction.
• Launching a new Fashion Technology major—the first of its kind in any public high school in Massachusetts!
• 97% of BAA's 2018 graduates were admitted to college and received $2.5 million in scholarships and financial aid.
• BAA ranks first among public arts high schools in Massachusetts and 17th in the country (niche.com).

Throughout the school year, our 469 students flourished as artists, scholars, and citizens within the school building and across the city. Thanks to your support, they stretched imaginatively, thought critically, collaborated, and strengthened their communication skills, to prepare for college, conservatory, and careers. BAA graduates are innovating in every possible career from professional dancer to aeronautical engineer.

You are transforming lives and creating opportunities for Boston's youth.

You are part of a caring community that supports our students’ creativity and intellectual discovery. As leaders of the school and the Foundation, we celebrate the accomplishments that you have made possible. For each student attending BAA, the Foundation must raise an additional $5,000 to support the true cost of a conservatory-style arts education and high-quality college preparation. The new building will not change this funding formula.

A building can only become a high performing school with top notch faculty and staff, and fully equipped classrooms and studios. Please consider making a generous gift to support the ongoing work of Boston Arts Academy.

Thank you for caring so deeply for each of our students.

With gratitude,

Anne R. Clark
Headmaster
Boston Arts Academy

Denella J. Clark
President
Boston Arts Academy Foundation

Dr. David P. Nelson
Chair
Boston Arts Academy
Board of Trustees

Dr. M. Lee Pelton
Chair
Boston Arts Academy Foundation
Board of Directors

P.S. Please join us for BAA Honors on May 4, 2019 at the InterContinental Boston to celebrate BAA’s students and honor those whose civic, artistic, and philanthropic work has changed students’ lives.
The city’s only public high school for the visual and performing arts, Boston Arts Academy educated 468 students who reflected the diversity of Boston’s neighborhoods. At BAA, urban students are immersed in a conservatory-quality arts training and college preparatory education where they are exposed to the cultural riches Boston has to offer, to a range of arts and career possibilities, as well as guidance through the college application and admission process. Academic, social and emotional supports are readily available.

The biggest news of this year was the city and state’s December 13, 2017 decision to tear down the old school building on Ipswich Street and build a new facility.

Boston Arts Academy Foundation established its own Board of Directors, led by Dr. M. Lee Pelton, President of Emerson College.

In summer 2018, BAA relocated to the Grover Cleveland Complex in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester.

The first class of Fashion Technology students enrolled in Fall 2017.

Ground is broken for the new school at 174 Ipswich Street in October 2018.
In September, students and faculty started the school year at the Cleveland Complex in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester. BAA will be in this temporary space for three years while the new school at 174 Ipswich Street is built.

Construction is underway! On October 16, 2018, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Massachusetts Treasurer Deborah Goldberg were joined by City Councillors, BAA Foundation Board members, Trustees of the School Board, founding faculty, founding Board members, longtime supporters, alumni, parents, leaders of the ProArts Consortium who played a critical role in the school’s founding, and many friends for the Groundbreaking. The crowd enjoyed music performed by the Boston Arts Academy Spirituals Ensemble, and were inspired by the promise of the new school building.

“Boston Arts Academy has a 21-year track record in closing the achievement and opportunity gap and making it possible for its graduates—who come from every Boston neighborhood—to go to college or launch a career.” Martin J. Walsh, Mayor, City of Boston

The new Boston Arts Academy will have more and better rehearsal studios for dance, theatre, and music. It will have high-tech fashion and visual arts studios, and a cutting-edge STEAM laboratory where students can explore intersections between science and art. Performance spaces will include a rooftop recital hall that opens onto a terrace overlooking Fenway Park, a black box theatre, and a 500-seat professional theatre.

However, a building is only a building. To become a transformative place of creativity and learning, BAA must have the necessary staff and state-of-the-art equipment. That’s why the BAA Foundation Board approved a $30 million comprehensive campaign, Building Our Future, to ensure that the new school has the human capital needed to fulfill BAA’s promise over the long term.
BAA believes that when students have rigorous, sequential arts education alongside meaningful academics, combined with

- Targeted student supports,
- Constructive engagement with adults,
- Opportunities for college and career exploration, such as Career and Technical Education programs, job shadowing, internships, summer enrichment programs, and enrollment in courses at partner college,

students become successful artists, scholars, and citizens.

**2017-18 School Year**

**468 Students**

- **13.2%** White
- **4.1%** Asian
- **4.3%** Multi-race
- **40.3%** African American
- **37.5%** Hispanic

**FULL INCLUSION**

The sole criteria for acceptance to Boston Arts Academy is a demonstrable passion for the arts. As the city’s first inclusion high school, we don’t consider academic, behavioral, or learning history. This past school year:

- **66%** of BAA students come from economically disadvantaged families
- **40%** speak a language other than English at home
- **35%** entered 9th grade reading below grade level
- **14%** have documented learning challenges that require instructional accommodations

**STUDENT RECRUITMENT**

BAA travels to schools, community organizations, and religious institutions across the city to recruit students while also giving multiple presentations for interested students and their families at BAA.

More than 700 students auditioned for **120 available spots at BAA for the 2018-19 school year—a 17% admission rate.**
**Student Profile Tyler Luong** Class of 2018 Valedictorian

Tyler Luong attended Boston Public Schools his whole life. From kindergarten through eighth grade, he attended the same school where he learned to study, do well on tests, answer questions and more.

When he arrived at BAA, he was a 14-year-old freshmen, wide-eyed and anxious to be immersed in everything Boston Arts Academy had to offer. He’d never been in an environment where different thought processes simultaneously existed.

“**BAA has shaped who I am today, and I will be forever grateful. BAA is unique—its faculty, programming, supporters—and nowhere else in the City of Boston could the BAA students have received such an education.**”

Each school morning, Tyler climbed the stairs up to the second and third floor and was struck by a quote in the hallway, “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

“At BAA, I learned that every individual is a genius. There were kids who did well at taking in information from lectures, others who excelled at hands-on experiences, and there are students who have the Beethoven, Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci kind of brilliance.”

While at BAA, Tyler gave up many hours of sleep to complete his assignments and projects, sacrificing a little bit piece of himself in the process

“I took every opportunity I had to further my knowledge.”

But he didn’t work as hard as he did only just himself. He strived to be supportive to his fellow classmates and peers. This fall, Tyler headed off to Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, fully aware and appreciative of how valuable BAA’s college-preparatory education has been in building his skills as a future leader.
YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

Boston Arts Academy continues to outperform public high schools in the state when it comes to the rate of graduates who are accepted to college. **97% of the Class of 2018 was accepted to college.** Many of these students are the first in their family to head toward higher education.

The Class of 2018 received more than $2,500,000 in scholarships and financial aid, an increase of more than $500,000 over the prior year.

**Graduation 2018**

Boston Arts Academy held its 18th commencement ceremony on June 11, 2018 at the Boch Center’s Shubert Theatre. The heroes and heroines of the day were the 71 graduates who worked for four years to reach this milestone. They were inspired by 30-year Hollywood veteran Malik Yoba, an actor, musician, author, and activist who used performing and visual arts to educate and promote social change. Valedictorian Tyler Luong introduced the Honorary Award recipients. Dr. Lisa Sussman, Boston Arts Academy Foundation Director, was honored for her philanthropic commitment to BAA. Chandra Méndez-Ortiz was recognized for her visionary artwork and for creating Massachusetts College of Art and Design’s Artward Bound program. Tracey Booth’s tireless work to make her community a better place for all was celebrated. The audience was treated to highlights of student work: Visual Arts major Demauni Sankey showed a film he’d created. Dance major Sydnie Cooper performed a solo choreographed by Nathan Trice. Music major Correia Podolske sang, David Asturias performed Chopin’s Fantasie Impromptu Opus 66, and Theatre major Isabella Silva presented a monologue from *Blood at the Root.*

71 Students from the Class of 2018 graduated on June 11, 2018.

8 Elma Lewis Graduation with Distinction Award winners These students successfully completed their Senior Grant Projects, had a solid academic and artistic track record, and embodied the BAA Habits of the Graduate: Refine, Invent, Connect, Own.

27 Honors in the Arts were given to students who achieved Proficiency in their Sophomore Reviews, maintained a 3.5 GPA in the arts during their junior and senior years, demonstrated evidence of personal discipline and a fierce commitment to the arts outside of class.

6 National Honor Society Inductees demonstrated outstanding character, scholarship, leadership, and a commitment to service.

9 Graduates earned two of the three above awards.

3 Graduates earned all three above awards.
Students from the Class of 2018 graduated on June 11, 2018.

Elma Lewis Graduation with Distinction Award winners successfully completed their Senior Grant Projects, had a solid academic and artistic track record, and embodied the BAA Habits of the Graduate: Refine, Invent, Connect, Own.

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National Honor Society Inductees demonstrated outstanding character, scholarship, leadership, and a commitment to service. 63% of BAA Alumni, 43% of BPS Alumni, and 44% of MA Alumni graduated from college at a rate that exceeds both the district and state averages.

Boston Arts Academy's Black, Latino, and low income alumni graduate from college at a rate that exceeds both the district and state averages.

Class of 2018 College and Career Choices

Attending 4 year college
63%

Community College
34%

Career Training
3%

Colleges That Accepted the Class of 2018

Becker College
Berklee College of Music
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Bucknell University
California Institute of the Arts
Colby-Sawyer College
Columbia College
The Cooper Union
Cornish College of the Arts
Curry College
Dean College
Dillard University
Drexel University
Emerson College
Framingham State University
Gallaudet University
George Mason University
Goucher College
Hamilton College
Hampshire College
Hofstra University
Holland College
Hunter College
Johnson & Wales University
Keene State College
Lasell College
Lesley University
Maine College of Art
Manhattanville College
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Montclair State University
Montserrat College Of Art
New England College
The New School
Northeastern University
The Ohio State University
Plymouth State University
Quincy College
Regis College
Rhode Island College
Roger Williams University
Russell Sage College
Rutgers University
Salem State University
Suffolk University
Temple University
Towson University
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Southern Maine
The University of the Arts
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wheaton College
Woodbury University
Students in Each Major
2017-18 School Year

78  Dance
84  Instrumental Music
106 Vocal Music
91  Theatre
96  Visual Arts
14  Fashion Technology

Dance
By studying classical ballet, jazz, modern, and West African dance, students gain a strong foundation in technique and broad exposure to different dance forms. Courses in choreography, dance history, healthy living, dance production and technologies help students develop discipline, build technical skills, physicalize different modes of expression, and understand the basics of dance creation.

Dance students enjoyed master classes with choreographer Sean Curran; Robert Garland of the Dance Theatre of Harlem; three dancers from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre including, BAA alumna Belén Pereyra-Alem; Nathan Trice; Larry Keigwin; and Danzabierta.

In January, 4,000 audience members enjoyed four performances of BAA's Dancing in the Streets at the Strand Theatre in Dorchester. The Dance Department showcased nine different choreographers, including BAA alumni, and for the first time, the lighting, staging, backdrops, and visual effects. Conceived by Bill McLaughlin, Dance department director, the program brought 65 students to the stage as dancers, singers, and instrumentalists. Half as many were behind the curtain providing a Motown revue.

Dance major Aurora Arntz performed with the Boston Ballet in Mikko Nissinen's production of The Nutcracker in December, 2017.

Music
Vocal and instrumental immersion in classical and jazz genre forms helps students develop musicality, technical skills, timing, and discipline—requirements for further studies at post-secondary institutions. Each week, students receive between 10 to 12 hours of instruction in woodwinds, brass, strings, percussion, guitar, piano, or vocals from faculty who are practicing musicians. Students study technique, musical technology, music theory and history, and participate in one of 14 ensembles ranging from Spirituals to Advanced Instrumental Jazz, to R&B and Strings.

Music students benefitted from master classes with composer and singer/songwriter Kathryn Bostic and Vocal Synergy, an all-female a cappella group.

Music students performed around the city. The BAA Rock Ensemble gave a lunchtime performance at Assembly Hall; the Jazz and Contemporary Voice Concert performed at the Ryles Jazz Club in Cambridge; Opera students performed at Emmanuel Church on Newbury Street; and the Spring Choir Concert took place at the Roland Hayes School of Music in Roxbury. Vocal music, theatre, and dance majors presented Wear Your Coat! in Roxbury. This original production used songs from diverse genres to tell the story of one student’s journey through the stages of coming out.

Two students were finalists as part of a national talent search conducted by a new PBS show called Celebration of Music.
Visual Arts
Studying drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, digital art, design, visual communications, and mixed media prepares students for a liberal arts, technical, or arts-focused college. Those who complete the four-year sequence of courses in BAA’s Career and Technical Education program use industry-standard equipment, often have internships in creative industries, and receive technical certifications that can open the door to careers.

Exhibitions at the Sandra and Philip Gordon Gallery engage students with professional artists. During weeklong residencies, local and international artists serve as role models and coaches in the studio. They lead critiques of student work and help 11th and 12th grade students prepare artist statements. Naoe Suzuki’s show *Lost and Found* incorporated images of magic spells along with the current scientific information. Ms. Suzuki worked with visual arts students and a math class.

The Crossing/Borders exhibition examined the personal perspectives on immigration and included three BAA alumni. It was shown in tandem with the juniors’ presentation: *Metamorphosis/Creative Differences*.

Guy-Michel Telemaque and BAA alumni Rocky Cotard curated *Past(s) & Presence*, which showcased works by five emerging Haitian artists, offering a rare look at Haitian contemporary art.

Thirteen film students submitted work to the Film Festival at the Paramount Center. These filmmakers took on big ideas, multiple locations, high quality post-production work, and pushed themselves beyond their own expectations. Their original films were recognized for “Best Cinematography,” “Best Editing,” and “Best Execution of a Concept.” Their film *Rotten Roots* received the “Best Overall Film” award.

The Boston Music Awards nominated a film by BAA students for a Music Video of the Year Award.

Theatre
Training in acting, film, production, technical theatre, directing, and playwriting prepares students for post-secondary conservatory programs, college, or professional careers in the theatre. The rigorous curriculum fosters cross-cultural understanding, emphasizes the collaborative nature of theatre arts, and engages students in theatre as social change.

Students worked with visiting director Jackie Davis who directed Lynn Nottage’s *Ruined*. Their timely black box theatre production of *Blood at the Root* examined the miscarriage of justice and racial double standards.

Senior Theatre majors performed at the Wellesley High School Theatre Festival and presented at the Massachusetts High School Collaborative Theatre Festival.

Fashion Technology
BAA’s Fashion Technology program—the first of its kind offered within the school district and possibly in the state—increases access to fashion careers for underrepresented populations, introduces students to relevant technologies, offers industry-standard certifications and credentials, and provides internships in Boston’s creative industries.

From 44 applicants, the first class of 14 students were selected. They studied fashion design, garment construction, merchandising, and entrepreneurship.

Jay Calderin, the founder of Boston Fashion Week, gave a master drawing workshop.

Students crafted 57 handmade toys, which were donated to children who are going through chemotherapy at Children’s Hospital during the Christmas season.

The *Intro to Fashion* exhibition showcased student creations in home décor, capes, half scale dresses constructed of ties; sketches, shoes constructed from paper and tape, and pattern drafts.

Six sophomores and juniors presented their work alongside college students and established Boston designers during the Boston Fashion Week “Open Runway.” The event, which welcomes designers of any age, took place on the outdoor steps in Downtown Crossing.
During interdisciplinary courses: Humanities, STEAM, World Languages, and Seminar students explore the relationship between arts and academic subjects. They strengthen their ability to think critically and creatively, solve problems, collaborate, and communicate their findings.

BAA’s academic curriculum is rigorous. Students are required to take the following year-long courses to graduate:
- 4 years of Humanities
- 4 years of Math
- 3 years of Science
- 2 years of a World Language
- 4 years of Seminar (Reading, Writing, and Research Skills)

Creating Opportunities for Student Success

Pathway to College and Career
BAA students have multiple opportunities to participate in activities that support work-related skill development. These Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs give students experience with industry-standard equipment and solving real-world challenges. Successful completion can translate into a decent-paying job. 31% of BAA students participate in a Career and Technical Education program, receiving training on industry-standard equipment and software. Participating CTE programs include: Design and Visual Communications, Fashion Technology, Filmmaking, Music Technology, and Technical Theatre.

Dual Enrollment
BAA juniors and seniors can take college level courses for credit at nearby colleges. Last year, 30 students took individual instrument lessons and courses including Psychology of Music, World War I, Ear Training, and Perspectives in World Music to Music Business at Berklee College of Music, Emerson College, New England Conservatory, and Bunker Hill and Roxbury Community Colleges. These opportunities further our students’ academic and artistic training and shed light on the demands and expectations of the college experience. These students gain a competitive edge as they navigate life beyond BAA.

Master Classes
Guest artists give students opportunities to work with professionals in the field and develop professional habits while receiving artistic coaching from professionals. Whenever we can, we bring guest artists as teachers, lecturers, choreographers, directors, conductors, and collaborators. Sometimes, connections to guest artists have led to opportunities beyond Boston Arts Academy.

Imbuing an Ethos of Striving
Boston Arts Academy’s assessment and graduation process prepares students for the level and intensity of work at institutions of higher education and workplaces. For arts coursework, students must successfully demonstrate their skills and knowledge through portfolios, exhibitions, and performances. Ninth- and tenth-grade students must earn a weighted average of C or above for all arts courses and eleventh- and twelfth-grade students need a weighted average of B- for required arts courses. Students also must meet specific academic benchmarks to be promoted to the next grade. For example, the Humanities 3 course requires a 10-page paper. To be promoted to Humanities 4, students must earn a proficient grade on that paper and pass the course.
2018 MCAS Results

In ELA and Math, BAA students outperformed their peers who attend other Boston Public Schools. BAA students performed better in English/Language Arts than other students in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts requires all 10th grade public school students to pass the MA Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam in English/Language Arts, Math, and Science and Engineering in order to graduate. MCAS scores measure specific content knowledge and how well we are teaching our students and providing the necessary supports for them to succeed.

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Scholars section continued on page 14.

Faculty Spotlight Chris Flaherty Math Teacher

Chris Flaherty came to Boston Arts Academy in 2011 while pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at Tufts University.

“From day one, I was in love with the energy at BAA.”

What makes teaching at BAA different?

“We build our own curriculum to be arts-based. Without textbooks, I rely on my colleagues as creative partners. I love thinking about student learning with other professionals.”

What motivates you to return each day?

“Teaching is about surprises. Using similar lessons, it’s easy to imagine getting similar responses. But that’s not what happens at BAA. I am constantly surprised by my students.

BAA students are engageable. Passionate.

Two students made a big impression on me. I had a junior in an Advanced Algebra class who was a visual artist. In class, he tended to be checked out. It would have been easy for me to assume that he didn’t care about anything. When I saw his art, it was evident that this young man was passionate, observant, and had enormous perspective. I changed my assumptions about him, which made it easier to find ways to engage him.

I had a dance student who is now dancing professionally. He couldn’t sit still. He had to move. I had to figure out how I could be the best teacher for this student. I was forced to grapple early on with my approach and I learned to be flexible.

Teaching is the best possible career for me. I’m always reflecting, surprised, and responding. These students keep me on my toes, and I am always striving to be better and better.”

Chris Flaherty used to play the saxophone, and his interests are wide ranging. Last year, he and Humanities Teacher Dan Sullivan traveled to Japan to film a documentary on Tetsuya Miyamoto, inventor of the KenKen logic puzzle. When finished, their documentary will be used to document for fellow educators the concepts of lesson structures and cognitive load.
BRING ART INTO SCIENCE AND MATH
STEAM AT BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY

Our students need you to keep BAA at the forefront of STEAM Innovation.

BAA expects students to connect what they are studying to their lives and their work as artists. This approach is effective: when arts are the center of their education, low-income urban youth commit to learning and expand how they understand themselves and their world.

When art is an entry point, students who tend to struggle with math or science can
- Question like a scientist
- Design like a technologist
- Build like an engineer
- Create like an artist and
- Deduce like a mathematician

BAA was once a leader in integrating art into science, math, engineering, and technology (STEAM) education. Our young artists learned chemistry to create dyes and paints for their artwork. They used geometry and trigonometry to design lighting for performances. Students developed innovative Senior Grants Projects such as one that examined light pollution integrating circuitry and music. The school’s math and science scores rose and for the first time BAA attained the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s highest rating. When funds for the program decreased, some of the innovative STEAM offerings were discontinued.

Your investment in STEAM opens worlds. You can help our students discover cutting-edge approaches to their art-making, discover new fields of study, and grapple with big questions.
STEAM aligns completely with BAA’s values and mission. There are concrete benefits to incorporating the arts into science and engineering. STEAM:

• Removes idea inhibition
• Focusses on process that drive innovation
• Teaches the power of close observation, and
• Hones spatial awareness and computational thinking

Your generosity will invest in a new generation of problem solvers and innovators. Please give generously using the enclosed envelope or make a secure contribution online.

You can:

• Make it possible for BAA faculty to learn how to incorporate art into core science and math methods
• Help arts, math, and science teachers create new STEAM units assisted by local artists, engineers, and scientists.
• Support students exploring the artistic potential of coding, pushing the limits of technology for art-making, and building their math thinking.

BAA’s STEAM offerings prepare students to break new ground as artists and open paths to well-paying careers in STEM fields, which will diversify the STEM workforce, which remains stubbornly white and male.

You can donate using the enclosed reply envelope or make a secure contribution online:
bostonartsacademy.org/givetobaa

Thank you in advance for your generosity!
Scholarships to Summer Programs
Thanks to $31,566 in scholarships from the BAA Foundation, 31 students attended rigorous arts experiences over the summer. These intensive programs allowed students to focus wholly on developing their skills and talents in music, visual arts, dance, opera, or theater skills alongside peers from around the world. Among the programs that hosted BAA students were Tanglewood Music Center, the Pennsylvania Ballet, Earl Mosley’s Institute of the Arts held at Hofstra University, the Assisi Performing Arts Program, as well as the Four Strings Academy, Snow Farm, and Putney School Summer Arts Program.

Summer Reading
As an inclusion high school, BAA has innovative and effective ways to build reading skills. Its award winning Summer Reading Program targets students who have learning disabilities, who are English Language Learners, and those who struggle with literacy. During the four-week program, students developed strategies and skills to build comprehension, tackle longer words and make sense of difficult texts. For the first time, they were empowered as learners. Of the students who completed the program, 47% improved their comprehension level by 1 or 2 grades and 29% improved by 3 to 6 grade levels. The remaining students maintained their comprehension skills. These students now have strategies and tools to help them read and understand with greater fluency. For the first time, they found validation for their efforts, which motivated them to read more. What had been a negative feedback loop is now positive.

Faculty Spotlight Jean Binjour Biology Teacher
Jean Binjour just finished teaching a unit in microbiology. Freshmen explored the relationship between bacteria and antibiotics. They used computer models to simulate bacteria growth, and examined what happened when antibiotics were added to bacteria in a petri dish. They watched a Frontline documentary investigating the alarming rise of a deadly type of bacteria that modern antibiotics can’t stop. Students grappled with the meaning of these different experiences using their observations, analysis of data they collected, and computer models. As the final project, they created a presentation for the Boston Public Health Commission describing the importance of taking the full course of prescribed antibiotics.

Mr. Binjour is in his 14th year as a teacher, half of that time with Boston Arts Academy.

How did you first come to BAA?
I used to teach in the same building as [Dean of Students] Edgar Vasquez, and he suggested that I look into an opportunity to teach biology. He thought I would fit in pretty well, because I’m a bit eccentric. I taught a demo lesson about the Bernoulli Principle—how when faster fluids move over other fluids, the pressure drops. I showed students how this principle is at work with airbrushes.

The kids were so diverse, but all of them were into art. I thought: this place is really great.

I had a student who was really disorganized as a freshman and sophomore. It was especially clear in my class because if an experiment is going to work, you must do things in the right order. In junior and senior year, I saw him start to change. He was truly motivated to get into Cooper Union, and he asked for my help. I believed in him. When he was accepted to Cooper Union, we celebrated together. I’m proud that I played a role in helping him become more organized and more responsible.

What do you love about BAA?
I love that individuality is respected. There is nothing cookie cutter about this school. When I look at my students – I see them as masters in their field.

This may be corny, but I like not having to wear a tie. I can be me 100%. Everyone here has a wealth of knowledge. You see people doing their work.

What have you learned at the school?
I’m a first-generation immigrant. In my family, art was never more than a hobby. I’ve learned that art is central. I am a good painter, but I had no idea until I studied anatomy and had to draw part of the body.

I help students see that their art can help them with science.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

To ensure that every enrolled student has the support she or he needs to learn and grow, Boston Arts Academy offers on-site mental health services. Vulnerable students can access free individual and group counseling from licensed clinicians, family counseling, crisis assessments, and case management. The program integrates clinical staff into certain classes to help students who struggle academically get additional support while they are learning.

Incoming students completed BAA's screening tool to assess their risks. Clinical staff met with students who identified as being vulnerable for a further assessment and to offer services.

- A record 63 students (compared to an average of 23 students for the past 3 years) met the criteria for high risk.
- Nearly half struggled with depression or anxiety.
- 32% had experience with community violence.
- 27% identify their sexual orientation as other than "straight."
- 25% seriously considered harming themselves in the past year.

The Bridge Program helped 13 of BAA's most high-needs students successfully re-integrate into the school after a significant crisis and extended absence. These students spend part of the day in a classroom within the Health and Wellness area, taking academic courses while receiving clinical services from a licensed social worker. Bridge reduces the likelihood of a psychiatric hospitalization and helps students ease back in to school.

We are all extremely grateful to partner institutions that help us support our most vulnerable students.

- Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnership provides a part-time clinician.
- Boston College School of Social Work provides an intern.
- Boston Public Health Commission provides health educators.
- Brookline Center for Community Mental Health assists with the Bridge Program.
- Harvard Graduate School of Education Prevention Science program provides a clinical intern.
- South Shore Mental Health provides a part-time clinician.
- Tufts Medical Center Department of Child Psychiatry provides consultation services.
- University of Massachusetts, Boston School of Nursing provides two nursing interns.
- William James College provides a clinical intern.

[Image of a student smiling at a desk]
BAA students are emerging artists who are active and engaged members of their community. Their work to make their neighborhood, city, and world better takes forms that are as individual as the students. Here are some examples:

As a result of a letter writing assignment in Humanities 3, three students were invited to meet with Boston officials. One student discussed gender bias and sexual assault with the Director of Compliance. Another met with City Council Representative Mike O’Malley to discuss existing race issues in West Roxbury and how to improve the situation. Brenna Callahan of Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement heard from a BAA student about her experiences as a young woman in Boston.

**SENIOR GRANT PROJECT**

At Boston Arts Academy, we believe that community accountability is essential to student growth.

As a capstone project and graduation requirement, juniors develop a concept for a community service project that uses their arts training to address a community need. As they develop their project, they consider their artistic process, issues that matter to them, and how to creatively respond to those issues. They work with a community partner to refine their project and then prepare a Letter of Intent and a presentation. During Senior Grant Night, 100 community volunteers evaluated all the proposed projects and selected 35 to proceed to the final round.

Students developed a full grant proposal, including making a request for the funding they’ll need to complete their project within six months. Funded projects included a film Inadequacy of Infatuation, which exposed stereotypes of the LGBTQ community. Another film explored the vicious cycle of youth violence in Boston. A Latino Heritage Awareness project celebrated and shared typical dances from eight Latin American countries to help Latinos connect with and honor their own culture for its beauty; and another brought music to Alzheimer’s patients to create a pathway to strengthen memory. Each project demonstrated that BAA students have taken their role as artists and as citizens to heart, and their work is making the city a better place.

**INTERSESSION**

**A Laboratory and Beacon for Innovation**

Research shows that to teach creativity, students must choose their learning experiences, direct their own process, experiment, and play. For one week in January, BAA looked and felt different from the rest of the school year. Classes were suspended while students and faculty co-designed 35 student-centered experiences—ranging from carpentry to ceramics, from ukulele to poetry in parks. The week—when BAA is most like a laboratory—honored play, exploration, and trust in the creative process.

Boston Arts Academy is inextricably tied to its community. When we began moving to Dorchester, we got to know the area and demonstrated that we were good neighbors. The annual April Day of Service was a perfect opportunity to introduce the school to neighbors and local organizations. 453 students worked at food pantries, painted murals, helped in pre-schools and offered arts and crafts workshops to senior citizens. BAA students volunteered at 13 community organizations:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester
- Catholic Charities
- Childcare Project-Au Co Viet Aid
- The City Schools
- Conservatory Lab Charter School
- Dorchester House
- Dorchester Youth Collaborative
- Friends of Franklin Park Zoo
- Haynes Early Education
- Kit Clark Senior Services
- Martin Richard Foundation: One Boston
- Orchard Gardens K-8 School
- West Zone Early Learning Center
The Boston Arts Academy Foundation is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to support Boston Arts Academy. When the school was founded, the city agreed to fund the academic program. The Foundation was created to raise the additional funds needed to provide a high-quality arts education, Health and Wellness, college preparation, additional academic supports, and quality summer arts experiences. Each year, the Foundation raises 40% of the school’s annual budget so students have in-depth arts education and much-needed mental health services.

This year the Foundation hosted the first annual BAA Honors, which raised more than $1 million for Boston Arts Academy.

This 20th Anniversary event was a sold out celebration of leaders in the arts and philanthropy who have changed the lives of Boston Arts Academy students. As part of a star-studded evening, BAA Honors Honorary Co-Chairs His Excellency Charles D. Baker, Governor of Massachusetts and First Lady of Massachusetts, Lauren Baker welcomed guests. Malik Yoba, three time NAACP Image Award winner, served as master of ceremonies. Six-time GRAMMY Award-winning gospel singer BeBe Winans was a special guest.

- Mayor Martin J. Walsh was honored for his Civic Responsibility.
- Liz Kelner Pozen, artist, poet, and psychotherapist, was honored for her visual art.
- Maura Tierney, Golden Globe winner for “the Affair,” was honored for her work in film and television.
- Michael Bivins, Music mogul and entertainer was honored for vocal music.
- Alumni David Davidson (’04), guitarist in Revocation, was honored as an instrumental musician.
- Jay Calderin, founder of Boston Fashion Week, was honored for his work in fashion.
- Alumni Belén Pereyra-Alem (’05) dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, was honored for her contribution to dance.

500 guests enjoyed a showcase of student work, dinner, silent and live auctions. The weekend began with a Kick Off Reception and was capped off with a Jazz and Spirituals Brunch that Sunday.

This summer, the BAA Foundation formally separated from Boston Arts Academy and became its own independent nonprofit organization that has fiduciary responsibility for the foundation and guides its strategic direction. Also this summer, the foundation moved to temporary offices at 45 Temple Place in Downtown Crossing.
Fiscal Year 2018
Statement of Financial Activities

July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Support and Other Revenue</th>
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<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
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<td>Other Program Revenue</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Net Assets, beginning of year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets, end of year</td>
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Established in 2003, BAA’s Center for Arts in Education does outreach and shares Boston Arts Academy’s best practices to highlight the innovative curriculum and culture that makes BAA a proven leader in arts and urban education.

School Visits
Educators from around the world visited BAA to gain insight into our best practices in arts and urban education. The Center hosted 17 delegations totaling 131 visitors who came from across Massachusetts and from countries around the world including Chile, China, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Australia, and Japan.

34 BAA Student Ambassadors led tours of the school throughout the year.

Audit of Boston Arts Academy Foundation
FY 2018 revenue and expenses was performed by Burke & Associates CPAs, Inc.

6-time GRAMMY Award-winning gospel singer BeBe Winans performing at the Saturday night BAA Honors dinner.

Boston Arts Academy Spirituals Ensemble performing at Sunday’s Jazz and Spirituals Brunch.

City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh addressing attendees at the BAA Honors dinner.
On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Boston Arts Academy, the BAA Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations that contributed to Boston Arts Academy between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Please contact us at giving@bostonartsacademyfdn.org or 617-594-7956 with any questions.
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