

Boston Arts Academy
2021 ANNUAL REPORT



The Boston Arts Academy Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1999 to raise essential funds for Boston Arts Academy. Each year, Boston Arts Academy Foundation must bridge the gap between the school's allocation from Boston Public Schools, including a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 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 crucial to the school's ability to offer a comprehensive arts and academic education.



Boston Arts Academy, a pilot school within Boston Public Schools, prepares a diverse community of aspiring artist-scholars to be successful in their college or professional careers and to be engaged members of a democratic society. As the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, Boston Arts Academy's competitive arts education and college preparatory curriculum creates opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Founded in 1998, Boston Arts Academy has been recognized as a leader in arts education by the President's Council on the Arts and Humanities, the GRAMMY Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the National Education Policy Center.

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This Annual Report is produced by Boston Arts Academy Foundation and is dedicated to the Class of 2021.

Denella J. Clark, Editor-in-Chief • Anne R. Clark, Editor-in-Chief • Laura Alpert, Senior Editor • Annie Hayes, Writer Graphic Design: Survival By Design

On the cover: architectural rendering of new school building from Wilson Butler Architects

Photos: Craig Bailey/Perspective Photo: (p. 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21); Julie Cordeiro (p. 16, 25); Dan Jentzen (p. 6, 8, back cover); Don West (p. 10); Wilson Butler Architects (front cover, p. 14)

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

DEAR FRIENDS,

BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY STUDENTS ARE CREATIVE AND RESILIENT, BUT OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES.

BAA staff initiated more housing support for families in the last year than in the past three years combined. More than half of our students reported food insecurity. More than one-third had to work outside the home or care for younger siblings. After two years of remote and hybrid learning, students reported a great increase in anxiety and depression, leading to a greater need for the school's Health & Wellness programs. Your donations help our students access life-changing opportunities, achieve success, and make the world better.

We gratefully ended the school year by celebrating Commencement at Fenway Park. In the Class of 2021, 97% of graduates were accepted to college, and some were able to enroll in college with scholarships funded by friends like you.

Now Boston Arts Academy is looking forward to a brighter future. In September 2022, the school will mark its 25th academic year and, for the first time in the school's history, we will have a purposebuilt facility that will accommodate up to 600 students. We are grateful to former City of Boston Mayor and current U.S. Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh; State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, who chairs the Massachusetts School Building Authority; Lee Kennedy Co.; Perkins Eastman; Wilson Butler Architects; the entire—past and present—Boston Arts Academy community; and donors like you for helping us turn this dream into reality.



(left to right) BAA Trustees Chair Myran Parker-Brass, Head of School Anne R. Clark, BAA Foundation President and CEO Denella J. Clark, and BAA Foundation Board Chairman Jeff Rosica on the terrace of BAA's new school building.

According to a 2019 report by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a properly designed, maintained, and operated school building positively impacts the academic, social, and physical development of its students. From arts faculty to programs, technology, and equipment, Boston Arts Academy's new school building will optimize students' learning environment. Donors like you help to ensure that generations of Boston Arts Academy students have the resources they need to achieve their full potential.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY'S NEXT 25 YEARS!

BAA is still the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, accepting students solely based on artistic passion and talent. From learning about chemistry by mixing paint, to mastering geometry and trigonometry by setting up lighting for performances, the arts keep our students active in school and engaged in their education.

We invite you to join us in investing in and helping to secure the future of Boston Arts Academy's diverse, hardworking, and talented students—our future leaders. What greater opportunity could there be?

With gratitude,

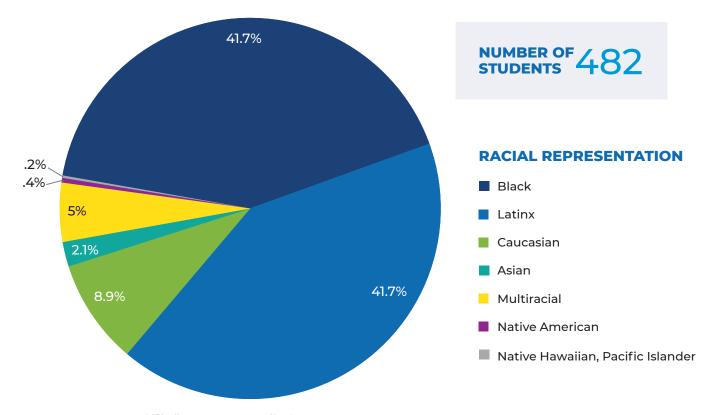
Anne R. Clark Head of School Boston Arts Academy **Denella J. Clark**President and CEO
Boston Arts Academy Foundation

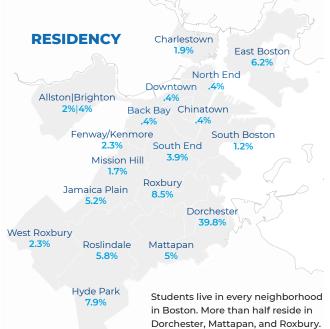
Jeff RosicaChairman, Board of Directors
Boston Arts Academy Foundation

Myran Parker-Brass Chair, Board of Trustees Boston Arts Academy

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OUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2020-2021





FULL INCLUSION AT BAA

Since its founding in 1998, Boston Arts Academy has been a Full Inclusion school. This means that at Boston Arts Academy, students with learning differences are educated alongside their peers. BAA's admissions process is also academic-blind. The school only reviews students' prior grades and learning or behavioral challenges after they have been accepted.

IN 2020-2021:

56%	of BAA students came from economically disadvantaged families
35 %	entered 9th grade reading below grade level
33%	spoke a language other than English at home
17%	had documented learning challenges that require instructional accommodations





JULY 26, 2020

Juanita Rodrigues, Department Chair and Theatre faculty, participates in New Repertory Theatre's *In the Wings: Artist Salon* featuring Black arts educators

WE ARE RESILIENT



Mariella Murillo (BAA '21) played Kristine Linde in BAA's November 2019 production of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House".

YOUR DONATIONS = HELP + HOPE

In January 2021, Theatre major Mariella Murillo (BAA '21) shared her story with *The Boston Globe*: "Life right now is hard. Six kids in one apartment is hard. Waking up every day to stare at a screen is hard. My classmates aren't sitting in the same room, and we don't have the same resources."

In December 2020, Mariella and everyone in her household tested positive for COVID-19. Left in charge after her aunt was hospitalized, Mariella emailed her teachers: "I am not asking for special treatment, just consideration."

From financial support to grocery deliveries, Mariella's teachers made a difference. Touched by her story, a community member joined other BAA Foundation donors in providing college scholarships to Mariella and her classmates.

SADLY, MARIELLA'S EXPERIENCE WAS NOT UNIQUE.

Thankfully, your donations to BAA Foundation have helped to fund essential people and programs, including additional teaching assistance in online classes, more clinical support for school-based mental health services, greater faculty emphasis on addressing academic gaps exacerbated by physical isolation and stress, and significantly increased food and housing assistance for struggling students and families.

Head of School Anne R. Clark said, "I am very proud of the enormous perseverance that our students have demonstrated to, not only finish the year, but finish the year with some extraordinary successes. I am also proud of the school staff... [for] building and re-building a school during a pandemic, with an overlay of fear and uncertainty."

DEDICATED COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATE: PETRINA MARTIN CHERRY

Boston Arts Academy and BAA Foundation are blessed with the unmatched support of remarkable leaders, including BAA Foundation Board Member Petrina Martin Cherry. Petrina, the Vice President of Community Engagement and External Affairs at Boston Medical Center, recently joined BAA Foundation's Board of Directors and serves as Co-Chair of the Advisory Council. Former City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh appointed Petrina to the COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force, which guides the city in addressing health disparities experienced by Asians, Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans and Indigenous people, and immigrants.

To help achieve health equity and address challenges, Petrina spearheaded Boston Medical Center-run vaccination clinics at Boston Arts Academy. In May and June 2021, these clinics provided students, their families, and Fields Corner neighbors ages 12 and older with COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of their insurance status.

"You can walk out of your door, out of your classroom and into a facility to get vaccines where you feel comfortable," Petrina said. "We want to make sure we are reaching out to kids and parents, answering their questions, and giving them access to the vaccine."



(left to right) Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH) Head of School Robin Lee, BAA Foundation Board Member Petrina Martin Cherry, and Boston Arts Academy Head of School Anne R. Clark participated in BAA's COVID-19 vaccination clinic on May 24, 2021.

"Petrina's dedication to community engagement is inspiring," said **Denella J. Clark**, President and CEO of BAA Foundation. "Her leadership is a tremendous asset as we work together to build a brighter future for artist-scholar-global citizens at Boston Arts Academy."

"Boston Arts Academy is one of our city's most remarkable institutions," Petrina said. "I'm proud to be part of the work to strengthen arts education in Boston and enhance the character and culture of our city."



AUGUST 2020

Head of School Anne R. Clark and Dean of Student Achievement Joy Bautista continue to deliver diplomas to Class of 2021 graduates



SEPTEMBER 21, 2020First Day of School

"BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING."

FROM STUDENT TO FACULTY: GREGORY GROOVER, JR. (BAA '11, MUSIC DEPARTMENT CO-CHAIR)

Roxbury native **Gregory Groover, Jr.** was raised with a devotion to music. In 2011, he was Boston Arts Academy's Elma Lewis Graduate with distinction and recipient of the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award. He earned a full tuition scholarship to Berklee College of Music and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Performance Studies through the Global Jazz Institute. Gregory has shared the stage with Philip Bailey from *Earth, Wind, and Fire* and Solange Knowles for fashion brand Moncler Genius. As a bandleader and sideman, he has performed in music festivals worldwide. In 2017, Gregory returned to Boston Arts Academy as a faculty member and was recently appointed co-chair of the Music Department. He continues to perform live and recently released his second album, *Negro Spiritual Songbook Volume II – "The Message"*.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST ABOUT BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY?

Consistently, it's the students. They're funny, creative, and keep me challenged. Many of our students play on a professional level, so they really keep us on our toes! I enjoy working with our students on and off the bandstand. It's rewarding to see their progression as musicians and people. Knowing you play some role in that, as Boston Arts Academy's faculty did for me, is so meaningful. The faculty are great. I come in every day feeling grateful for the opportunity to work with such a passionate and creative group. We're all invested in the arts and many of us—including the academic teachers—actively create and perform outside of school. It's a wonderful community.

WHAT IMPORTANT LESSONS HAVE YOU LEARNED AT BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY?

Boston Arts Academy is the gift that keeps on giving. As a student, I created a documentary about jazz in Boston for my senior grant project. I traveled all over the city for research and to conduct interviews, and while it was challenging, I learned how to build a project from the ground up. I may not have realized it then, but through that project, I developed a really important set of skills that are incredibly useful professionally and personally. As an educator, I'm challenged daily in a way that allows me to grow. When I'm teaching, I think about my own practice in ways that I wouldn't otherwise. Although I might have less time to focus on my personal practice, I know that I'm progressing because of the things I'm learning through my students and their practice.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR YOUR STUDENTS?

I am just as invested in our students creatively as I am in supporting them to become good members of society. Not all of my students will become concert musicians, but they can learn important lessons through their music practice. When they collaborate and perform as part of an ensemble, our students learn about community, give and take, and respecting people's differences. I hope that their art informs how they interact with others and that they learn how to use their art for the greater good. This year, I'm looking forward to seeing the leaps our students take, especially now that school is in-person. Many haven't had day-to-day training during the pandemic, and the playing field is essentially level for everyone right now. The students continue to show up incredibly eager and ready to do their thing.



While at BAA, Gregory benefited from his participation in Fidelity's FutureStage, a community arts education program created to teach students unique skills they can use beyond the classroom.





OCTOBER 4, 2020

BAA students and alumni present nine films at the 2020 Roxbury International Film Festival.



OCTOBER 22, 2020

BAA holds a virtual version of the traditional Step-Up Ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2021

YOU CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

CLASS OF 2021 BAA SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED TO MORE THAN 90 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING:

Bard College

Berklee College of Music

Boston University

Carnegie Mellon

Drexel University

Fashion Institute of Technology

Fordham University

Howard University

Lesley University

Loyola Marymount

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

New York University

Northeastern University

Pace University

Sarah Lawrence

Savannah College of Art and Design

The New School

University of California Los Angeles

Vassar College

Wentworth Institute of Technology

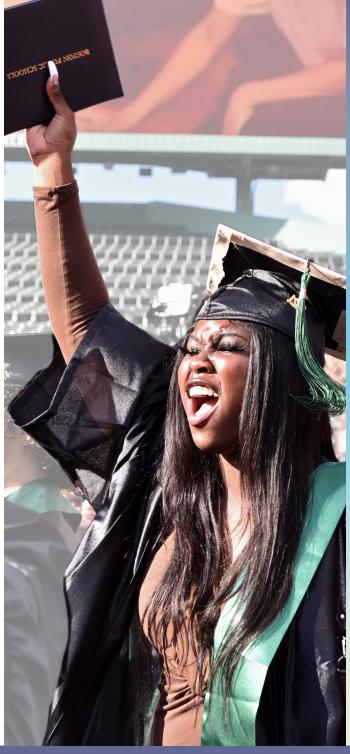
Wheaton College



For the seventh straight year, 97% of the graduating class was accepted to college



1,666 graduates are supported by the BAA Alumni Board & Network





NOVEMBER 19, 2021

BAA participates in a virtual college fair with the ProArts Consortium colleges



NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Audition Workshop for students auditioning to attend BAA

YOU HELPED OUR ARTISTS GROW: 2020-2021 ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

BAA STUDENT PERFORMANCES FEATURED TWICE BY THE BOSTON POPS

On February 12, 2021, BAA's Melody in Motion choral ensemble joined **Keith Lockhart** and the **Boston Pops** for an exclusive livestreamed concert celebrating love. Directed by BAA classical music faculty member **Molly Jo Rivelli** and accompanied by a faculty instrumental ensemble, students performed *Seasons of Love* from the Broadway musical *Rent*. While the Boston Symphony Orchestra streamed live from Symphony Hall, our students performed virtually from their homes.

During the July 4, 2021 Boston Pops LIVE broadcast, BAA students (pictured at right) performed *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson which is often referred to as "The Black National Anthem".



US, NOW

For one week in January 2021, BAA's students experienced the transformative power of the arts through *Us, Now.* This virtual arts symposium was inspired by the late U.S. Congressman and civil rights leader, John Lewis, quoting Hillel the Elder: "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" *Us, Now* included musical theatre, choir, and band pieces; solo and ensemble dance performances; and a film that captured stories of heroes and "sheroes" from the students' communities. Facebook Live and Boston Neighborhood Network featured our students' interpretations of political unrest and social movements while creating new worldviews where the stories of people of color are at the center of the narrative. *Us, Now* demonstrated BAA's investment in the young artists who will bring change now—not later.

BATTLECRY

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL STARS RESIDENCIES

Thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's STARS Residencies program, in spring 2021, Boston Arts Academy's Dance majors worked with renowned dancers Adrienne Hawkins, Artistic Director of Impulse Dance Company, and Russell Ferguson (BAA '07), winner of season 6 of the FOX reality dance competition, So You Think You Can Dance. Our Dance majors explored civil disruption through non-violent movement and reflected on past and present civil rights movements. Hawkins, who attended the 1963 March on Washington, creates choreography that challenges the status quo and confronts oppression, while Ferguson uses dance to bring communities together and protest peacefully.

Students created short motifs, filming their work during virtual sessions, which was then compiled and presented during Boston Arts Academy's June 2021 Virtual Arts Symposium.







BAA students performing to "To Do Nothing" choreography by Adrienne Hawkins and Joe Gonzalez (BAA '07)





DECEMBER 3, 2020

Leaders in public policy, community activism, education, and the arts participate in BAA Foundation's *Race,*Art, & Hope to explore the role of art as a catalyst for change and hope



DECEMBER 10, 2020 Students participate in third annual poetry slam

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS: THEN AND NOW

HOW IT STARTED VS. HOW IT'S GOING



ZAKIYYAH SUTTON (BAA '08)

How It Started

- · Class: BAA '08
- Major: Music
- · Hometown: Dorchester

How It's Going

- · Post-Secondary: Wellesley College '12
- · Occupation: Singer/Racial Equity Consultant
- Voice Teacher at Harvard University's Holden Program
- Accomplishments: Performed at House of Blues and United Nations
- · Working on an album called "African Import"

"BAA taught me the importance of balancing my passion for the arts with my desire for social change, a lesson that remains vital to who I am and the work I do today."

— Zakiyyah Sutton (BAA '08)



Zakiyyah Sutton (BAA '08), Singer/Racial Equity Consultant



JOHN BEDER (BAA '04)

How It Started

- · Class: BAA '04
- Major: Music
- · Hometown: West Roxbury

How It's Going

- · Post-Secondary: Boston University '08
- · Occupation: Documentary Filmmaker
- Accomplishments: Documentary published in the New York Times
- Nominated for 2021 News & Documentary Emmy Award

"[BAA] was the first place
I realized I might be able
to spend my life in the
arts. I was allowed to be
curious, and look back
fondly knowing how many
students aren't given that
opportunity. As an adult
I also understand how
rare it is to find a group
of people who so fervently
believe the world needs
a space for young artists."

— John Beder (BAA '04)



John Beder (BAA '04), Nominated for 2021 News & Documentary Emmy Award



JANUARY 14, 202

Student M'Zariah Robinson is awarded the MLK Mountaintop Civic Service Award by the Boston Mountaintop Committee. Past recipients of this award include Congressman John Lewis and Actor Danny Glover



JANUARY 25-29, 2021

BAA's first Winter Arts Week
"Us, Now" features the work
of student artist-activists, who
answer Congressman John Lewis'
call to action to confront injustice

2020-2021 **CAREER+TECH**

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Fashion Technology and Design and Visual Communications are BAA's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. BAA is now developing a Multi-Media Engineering CTE program. Once certified, the four-year program will integrate the school's multi-disciplinary curriculum with lighting, film, video production, set design, virtual platforms, marketing and branding, stage management, and the production of live, recorded, and virtual performances.

■ FASHION TECHNOLOGY



On June 10, 2021, during BAA's "This is Who We Are" Arts Symposium streamed through Facebook Live, Co-Salutatorian Cady Malkemes (BAA '21) announced that two 11th grade students studying Fashion Technology were working with Puma's Athletic Apparel line on activist designs to be sold in retail sites. Cady also noted that BAA's freshman, sophomore, and junior Fashion Technology (FT) majors were "creating and refining sketches, developing multi-purpose bag designs, creating shoe designs, and learning how to drape—which I didn't even touch upon until late in my junior year! They've been doing embroidery, hand sewing...and learning how to market themselves, their brands, and their products." BAA's FT students and graduates are ready to diversify the industry. "I can't wait to see where you take this program and yourselves!" Cady said.

DESIGN AND VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS



Students in this CTE program master fundamental concepts of art and graphic design while exploring the power of visual messages with images, forms, and colors. On Tuesday, May 18, the Class of 2021 presented their Senior Art projects through YouTube. Rafael Perez Abreu (BAA '21) explained, "My art... makes people think about the true meaning of shading and texture, using digital." Rafael was one of 13 BAA students whose artwork was auctioned at BAA Honors on Saturday, May 1, 2021. The artists received partial proceeds from auction sales, and their artwork was featured in a 2021 calendar produced by BAA Foundation.

30% of our students participate in these state-certified programs, preparing to use their talents in high-demand and well-compensated industries.







FEBRUARY 12, 2021
BAA's Melody in Motion
ensemble perform "Seasons
of Love" for the Boston Pops
In Love virtual concert



FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The placement of the final steel beam on BAA's new building is celebrated during the February 23, 2021 Topping Off ceremony

DUAL ENROLLMENT AND READING AND MATH SUPPORTS

DUAL ENROLLMENT



Each year, approximately 30 juniors and seniors take courses at BAA and at local colleges, earning high school and college credits—for free—while being exposed to the college experience. BAA offers its **Dual Enrollment** program in partnership with the **ProArts Consortium**, seven local colleges and universities that co-founded Boston Arts Academy and remain deeply invested in the school's development and success. For seven straight years, 97% of BAA's graduating classes have been accepted to college, and some BAA alumni become first-generation college graduates.

BAA'S FOUNDATION FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS



BAA is a full inclusion school that accepts students solely based on artistic passion and talent through an academic-blind process. To help all students achieve grade-appropriate reading levels and math proficiencies, BAA offers the Summer Reading Program and Summer and Saturday Math Program. Through these programs, students are placed in small groups and participate in skill building. Many BAA faculty participate, ensuring that students receive consistent support. Students excel in these effective and confidence-building programs. One student voluntarily participated in the program for the third time and encouraged others to join him because "it really helps." Another shared his transformation from struggling with reading to being comfortable with reading in front of others.



WE'RE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF OUR BRAND-NEW WEBSITE: BOSTONARTSACADEMY.ORG!

Thanks to a **generous anonymous donor**, we had the opportunity for the first time to professionally build our website, in partnership with **Artists For Humanity**. We were proud to engage **Adam Ross** (**BAA '02**) as the Website Project Manager and applaud the vision and expertise of teen designers and their mentors from Artists For Humanity's Creative Technology and Graphic Design Studios.

Now it's easier than ever to learn about Boston Arts Academy and BAA Foundation! Visit www.bostonartsacademy.org for the latest information on events, performances, and ways to get involved and support the next generation of artists, scholars, and global citizens. You also can connect with alumni and stay up to date on news from the school and Foundation.



BAA Foundation Board Member and BAA pro-bono counsel Richard Rudman wears BAA gear to celebrate the "topping off" of BAA's new school building on February 23, 2021.

JOIN US IN SHOWING YOUR BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY PRIDE

Shop our online BAA merchandise store to buy customized T-shirts, hoodies, masks, water bottles, and more. Partial proceeds support BAA's Family Council. Visit www.bostonartsacademy.org and click *Shop* at the very bottom of the page to buy great gifts for birthdays, holidays, other special occasions, or just because!



FEBRUARY 24, 2021

BAA Foundation media partner *NBC10 Boston* features a segment on Boston Arts Academy



MARCH 10, 2021

The BAA Wellness Council hosts its first virtual session of a Family Night Series to connect BAA families and provide resources for physical and emotional wellness



MARCH 22, 2021

Students return to the school building for hybrid learning and are pleased to practice art in person again

SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT

BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY HELPS ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

As a full inclusion school, BAA has always accepted students solely based on artistic passion and talent demonstrated through an arts audition or art portfolio submission. Award-winning faculty and Health & Wellness clinicians help students acquire knowledge, skills, and support. "As a sibling of a sister who had learning disabilities, there's nothing better than watching a whole community come together to try to lift someone up," said **Sean Curran**, Secretary of BAA Foundation's Board of Directors and co-producer of the award-winning documentary *Best Kept Secret* (2013).

"As a parent, you want to feel like your child's school believes in your student's potential—what they can do, not just what they can't do."

— Anne R. Clark, Head of School

Today, 17% of Boston Arts Academy's artist-scholars have a documented disability, which may include a specific learning disability, emotional impairment, health impairment, communication, or sensory challenges. Up to 35% of BAA's freshmen enter BAA reading below grade level. Many students struggle with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.

To enhance funding for full inclusion services, BAA Foundation launched the Full Inclusion Fund in honor of Boston Arts Academy, **Anne R. Clark**, and **Sean Curran** in July 2020. Donors have contributed \$377,931 to the \$500,000 goal. Chaired by **Pamela D.A. Reeve**, members of the fund's Host Committee commit to donating or securing \$10,000 or more and will be recognized on a plaque outside the Head of School's Suite in the new building. Funding will be spent over 10 years to provide targeted interventions, professional development for faculty and clinicians, and classroom-based support.





BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY FOUNDATION ENDOWED FUND FOR FULL INCLUSION

—— in honor of —

ANNE ROGERS CLARK AND SEAN QUINN CURRAN

FULL INCLUSION FUND HOST COMMITTEE

Donations and Pledges of \$10,000+

Anonymous (2)

American Tower Foundation

The Boger Family

Charles and Virginia Clark

Denella J. Clark

The Curran Family

Delta Dental

Thomas J. Dunlap

Joseph Flynn

Joseph Hanley

Liberty Mutual Foundation

Paul Melvin

The Monks Clark Family

Frances Sykes Moyer

Betsy and Gary Nabel

Peter Palandjian and Eliza Dushku

Ellen M. Poss

Pamela D.A. Reeve

Richard Rudman

Katherine Chapman Stemberg and

William J. Schnoor, Jr.

Jim Supple

Tyrone Sutton

To learn more or to donate, visit https://e.givesmart.com/events/hPO/ or contact the BAA Foundation at giving@baafdn.org or (617) 510-0582.





MARCH 29, 2021

BAA's Humanities 1 team and freshmen launch "Afrika Lives A–Z! A Web-Based Exhibition of African Countries: Algeria to Zimbabwe"

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

BAA FOUNDATION CELEBRATES LEE PELTON AND WELCOMES JEFF ROSICA AS BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jeff Rosica, CEO and President of Avid Technology was elected to succeed Lee Pelton as Chairman of Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Board of Directors on Tuesday, June 1. "It is with great honor that I follow in the footsteps of Lee Pelton," Jeff said. "Boston Arts Academy Foundation engages private donors in funding programming and opportunities that allow young artists to find their voices, express themselves, and achieve their dreams. I am grateful to serve Boston Arts Academy's students and faculty during this critical time in our city and school's history."

Jeff has served on the BAA Foundation Board since 2018, helping to raise awareness and support for the school from the media and entertainment industries. That same year, Avid Technology licensed all Boston Arts Academy students to use its music and audio creation software, Pro Tools, and in late 2020, donated state-of-the-art equipment to help outfit BAA's new school building.

Jeff served as Chair of *BAA Honors 2019*, which raised a record-breaking \$1.3 million. Avid has also invested \$1 million toward the school's technology, training, and *Building Our Future* Campaign.

"The Foundation will be forever indebted to the visionary leadership of Lee Pelton. His commitment and contributions to BAA and the Foundation are singular in the 24-year history of the school and the Foundation."

— Denella J. Clark, BAA Foundation President and CEO

Denella continued, "Jeff is deeply committed to the mission of the BAA Foundation. His understanding of Boston Arts Academy and the unique challenges facing our students make him an exceptional Board Chair for the Foundation. His acumen as a business leader will further elevate the operations of BAA Foundation and ensure that the school and our students continue to receive critically important resources."



— Anne R. Clark, Head of School

DR. M. LEE PELTON BOARD ROOM

Lee is the only person in the history of the school to have served as Chairman of Boston Arts Academy and Boston Arts Academy Foundation. His leadership has been exemplary, and we look forward to celebrating Lee's tremendous leadership with the ribbon cutting of the Dr. M. Lee Pelton Board Room in Boston Arts Academy's new school building.

To make a gift in honor of Lee Pelton or Jeff Rosica, please contact BAA Foundation at giving@baafdn.org or (617) 510-0582.



BAA Foundation Board Chairman Jeff Rosica and BAA Foundation Board Lifetime Chairman Emeritus Lee Pelton attend the Topping Off ceremony on February 23, 2021.



BAA Foundation Board Chairman Jeff Rosica signs the steel beam at the Topping Off ceremony on February 23, 2021.



BAA Foundation Lifetime Chairman Emeritus Lee Pelton speaks with Nalany Guerrier (BAA '20, Emerson College '24).



MARCH 31, 2021

BAA Theatre Majors competed in the Boston Regional Finals of the August Wilson Monologue competition. Three BAA students moved onto National Finals



APRIL 13<mark>, 202</mark>1

BAA launches the BAA Food Pantry Initiative for students and families

CLASS OF 2021 COMMENCEMENT







BAA Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Student Body President Anya Edwards (center), who is now studying at Carnegie Mellon with fellow BAA alum Antione Gray (BAA '20); and co-Salutatorians Keishona Weekes (left) and Cady Malkemes (right). Many thanks to our friends at the Boston Red Sox, Red Sox Foundation, and Fenway Sports Management for hosting Commencement and Homecoming.

FENWAY PARK COMMENCEMENT CAPS OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Thursday, June 17, 2021 was a day to remember as Boston Arts Academy's Class of 2021 celebrated a much-anticipated inperson Commencement at Fenway Park, thanks to our friends at the **Boston Red Sox**. During the ceremony, **88 students** received their diplomas. "You have faced challenges that no other class at BAA has ever experienced, but you have also demonstrated extraordinary strength," said BAA Head of School **Anne R. Clark**. "I know what you will do because I have seen who you are. You are young people who persevere. You are young people who overcome. You are young people who not only find a way, but lead the way."

Legendary music icon and philanthropist Darryl "DMC" McDaniels captivated the crowd during his Commencement speech. "I'm not lying when I say that this is better than being at the Grammys! With the gifts you have, you can change the world." (photo at top right)

Students, families, and faculty also enjoyed a musical performance by members of the graduating class and features on dance, music, fashion, theatre, and visual arts. More than 100 donors generously contributed to college scholarships and other critical funding for the Class of 2021. Four members of BAA's Class of 2011 joined with the family of Sabrina Saint Louis (BAA '11) to raise \$10,000 towards a four-year college scholarship, awarded to Ashley Alexandre (BAA '21). Ashley is now majoring in theatre arts at New York University. The Sabrina Saint Louis (BAA '11) Arts Award honors the life and legacy of a young actress and fashion designer who passed away in 2019. Sabrina's sister Jahmeeliah Sydney presented Ashley with the award, marking what would have been Sabrina's 10-year BAA reunion (photo at top left).

Ashley Webb Colleary, assistant at the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and BAA Foundation Board Member, and philanthropist Gail Flatto, were honored with BAA Foundation's SuperSTAR Award, in recognition of their leadership, generous philanthropic support, and tireless commitment to BAA's students and to advancing the mission of BAA. Additional honorary award recipients included Glenn Williams, General Manager of Boston Neighborhood Network, and Nubia Williams, Senior Designer at PUMA and Creative Director at BrandNUbia.



"Today we celebrate those who pushed through it— [those] who didn't let the virus prevent them from getting their diploma."

— Class Speaker Ezekiel Freeman-Fanfan





APRIL 202

BAA Film teacher John ADEkoje and faculty alum Sean LaCount co-direct the film version "Hype Man: Break Beat Play" with animation and illustrations by faculty alum Barrington Edwards

ROARING INTO HOMECOMING

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF BAA AND BAA FOUNDATION IN THE FENWAY

Immediately following Commencement on Thursday, June 17, our friends at the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Sports Management graciously hosted the inaugural Homecoming, presented by the BAA Alumni Network and BAA Foundation.

Featuring more than 100 guests and a festive Roaring '20s theme, Homecoming recognized Lee Pelton as BAA Foundation's Lifetime Chairman Emeritus and celebrated 20 classes of BAA alumni, including milestone anniversaries—2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016.

Valerie Becker-Nogueira (BAA '03, Emerson '08), chair of the Alumni Board & Network, planned and executed Homecoming and received the BAA Foundation President's Award for Excellence. Dr. Pelton, who recently transitioned from President of Emerson College to CEO & President of The Boston Foundation, dedicated more than nine years of leadership to Boston Arts Academy and BAA Foundation.

The unforgettable evening also featured Max DePaula (DJ Maxx, BAA '02), Tori Boyd (BAA'06) and the Maryknoll Terrace Band, featuring BAA alumni. Special Guest Darryl "DMC" McDaniels capped the night by performing the iconic "Walk This Way" (RUN-DMC featuring Aerosmith).



After expressing appreciation for James Perry's (BAA '01) remarkable portrait of him, Lee Pelton, **BAA Foundation's Lifetime Chairman Emeritus,** declared: "There is no achievement gap. There is an opportunity gap. What Boston Arts Academy does is provide students an opportunity that they might not have, so that the invisible becomes visible, including for those who do not sit at the table of bounty. There is no substitute for moral courage and authenticity. These are twin virtues that change the world."





1AY 1, 2021 **BAA Foundation hosts** Honors, its largest fundraising event in support of BAA



MAY 2021 BAA's Fashion Technology Program Director Elisabetta Polita is featured in Polished Magazine



1AY 17-21, 2021 Senior Art Projects Showcase honors the work of the talented

BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUPPORT BAA STUDENTS!

Now in its 24th academic year, Boston Arts Academy remains the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts. In December 2017, the city of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts unanimously approved funding to build a state-of-the-art facility at 174 Ipswich Street. Rather than requiring students to practice in hallways or faculty to share classrooms like the original school building, the new facility provides better rehearsal studios, high-tech fashion and fine art studios, a cutting-edge STEAM (STEM + Arts) laboratory, a rooftop recital hall, and professional theatres.

BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR STUDENTS' DREAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HOWEVER BEAUTIFUL, A BUILDING IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. IT'S THE PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS THAT MATTER MOST.

The new school building will not change Boston Arts Academy's funding formula. BAA Foundation will continue to turn to generous donors like you to augment the school's annual allocation from Boston Public Schools and build long term financial sustainability. Your donations support extended hours of instruction, the Health & Wellness Program, STEAM, and funding for the arts.

The *Building Our Future* Campaign ensures that as Boston Arts Academy's diverse and talented student body grows, they have the resources to become successful artists, scholars, and global citizens.

Visit bostonartsacademy.org/foundation/comprehensive-campaign

to learn how your donations make a difference!



Dorchester native Natalia Reyes (BAA '20) became very interested in graphic design, and, through the support of faculty including Gretta Olton, Natalia found her path and excelled. Through Studio M7, a design studio which Natalia co-founded at BAA, and in partnership with the new school building's architects, she created a bold five-story glass façade of the new school building.

Says Natalia, "I really wanted to capture the environment of the city. There's a lot of noise and moving parts. I wanted to have a lot of different components and perspectives on the different shapes and patterning. It all represents the culture and diversity of our school but also the city."

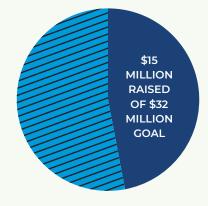
Natalia incorporated sensory images and captured different cultures through Japanese water patterns and Mayan symbols. The curtain wall provides glimpses of the process of becoming an artist, a scholar, and an engaged global citizen, and the words Boston Arts Academy can be seen from Fenway Park and during televised Boston Red Sox games. "If the light is coming [into the building], the people inside are actually going to look like part of a mosaic because of the shadow."

A first generation college student, Natalia received a full scholarships to Lesley's College of Art and Design and continues to pursue her passion for graphic design.



Graphic designer and Boston Arts Academy graduate Natalia Reyes (BAA '20) designed the curtain wall on the new building.

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE



To date, BAA Foundation has raised \$15 million towards the \$32 million goal of the comprehensive six-year Building Our Future Campaign.

There are many rewards to giving, but none as meaningful as positively impacting a young person's life.
Join us by investing in Boston Arts Academy! To learn more, visit bostonartsacademy.org/foundation.





MAY 24, 2021

Boston Medical Center hosts walk-in vaccination clinic for students and families



MAY 26, 2021
BAA Film students
interview Head of School
Anne R. Clark

TOPPING OFF CEREMONY



BAA CELEBRATES TOPPING OFF OF THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

On February 23, 2021, school officials and city leaders gathered outdoors for a socially distanced Topping Off Ceremony celebrating the placement of the final steel beam in Boston Arts Academy's new school building. With the beam in place, the structure of the building was declared complete, marking a significant construction milestone.

In the weeks before the Topping Off Ceremony, students, faculty, administrators, families, alumni, donors, and Board members decorated the beam with art and wrote words of encouragement, which are forever embedded into the steel work for generations of students who will learn in the new building.

The Topping Off Ceremony was led by Student Body President Anya Edwards (BAA '21) and included speeches from former City of Boston Mayors Martin J. Walsh and Kim Janey, BPS Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Boston Arts Academy Head of School Anne R. Clark, and BAA Foundation President and CEO Denella J. Clark.

"Boston Arts Academy has a long tradition of cultivating amazingly talented students and providing them with an enriching and welcoming school community where they can express their creativity and showcase their incredible art."

— Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Boston Public Schools Superintendent



Former City of Boston Mayors Kim Janey and Martin J. Walsh write personal messages on the final steel beam of BAA's new school building that was put into place at the Topping Off Ceremony on February 23, 2021.



JUNE 10, 2021 Students participate in a virtual piano recital



JUNE 7-11, 2021

BAA hosts "This is Who We Are", a week-long virtual art symposium featuring original work from students and critical dialogue with leading artists

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS



(above) Lee M. Kennedy, co-chair of BAA Honors 2021, and member of the *Building Our Future* Campaign Cabinet, will be recognized with the BAA Honors 2022 in Civic Responsibility.

(below) Claire Mallardi, a legendary professional dancer and teacher, made a generous gift to BAA Foundation from her estate.



LEAD SUPPORTER: LEE MICHAEL KENNEDY

It's hard to imagine a more devoted champion for Boston Arts Academy and BAA Foundation than **Lee M. Kennedy**. Best known as President and CEO of **Lee Kennedy Co.**, founded by his father Lee Kennedy Sr. four decades ago and a premier construction management firm in the Northeast U.S., Lee also is an exceptional leader and investor in many regional nonprofit organizations and schools.

In addition to overseeing the construction of Boston Arts Academy's new school building in the Fenway, Lee served as co-chair of **BAA Honors 2021**, which raised nearly \$1.7 million to support BAA's students. As a member of the *Building Our Future* Campaign Cabinet, Lee helps BAA Foundation raise essential funding to augment the school's budget and build long term financial sustainability.

Lee tirelessly engages his colleagues, friends, and family in supporting BAA's students. BAA Foundation is delighted to recognize Lee M. Kennedy with the BAA Honors in Civic Responsibility on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

"There are a lot of beautiful school buildings in the Commonwealth," Lee M. Kennedy said. "But [the Boston Arts Academy school] building is focused on the arts as well as the academic programs. I get really jazzed up about the uniqueness of this building and what it means to the students. Other businesses could make a meaningful connection like I did with [Boston Arts Academy] and the Foundation."

CLAIRE MALLARDI'S LEGACY LIVES ON AT BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY

BAA Foundation recently received a generous gift from the **Estate of Claire Mallardi**. Claire was a legendary professional dancer and teacher who founded what is now Harvard University's Dance program and pioneered the recognition of dance as an academic discipline at universities nationwide.

Fernadina Chan, founding Artistic Dean and former Chair of Boston Arts Academy's Dance department, engaged Claire in supporting the school.

"She was my mentor and my friend," Fernadina explained. "I brought her to the school to look at students' work and participate in panels for the Senior Dance Project. Claire enjoyed seeing Boston Arts Academy's dancers perform and supported our student choreographers. Ultimately, she was everyone's teacher."

Planned or deferred giving provides everyone the opportunity to make a difference while receiving significant benefits. Visit bostonartsacademy.org/foundation/ways-to-give or contact BAA Foundation at giving@baafdn.org or (617) 510-0582.





JUNE 17, 2021
BAA's Class of
2021 celebrates
Commencement
at Fenway Park



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FISCAL YEAR 2021

FISCAL YEAR 2020

July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Support and Other Revenue

Revenue Total	\$ 4	4,314,042
Net Investment Gain	\$	829,684
Interest Income	\$	4,155
In-kind Contributions	\$	183,601
Other Program Revenue	\$	89,486
Contributions and Grants	\$	3,207,116

Expenses

Expenses Total	\$2,984,833	
Fundraising	\$ 635,087	
Management and General	\$ 490,194	
BAA Program Support	\$ 1,859,552	

Increase in Net Assets \$ 1,329,209

Net Assets, beginning of year \$9,328,035

Net Assets, end of year \$10,657,244

Support and Other Revenue

Pevenue Total	\$ 5 534 359
Net Investment Gain	\$ 126,235
Interest Income	\$ 6,951
In-kind Contributions	\$ 746,410
Other Program Revenue	\$ 8,900
Contributions and Grants	\$ 4,645,863

Expenses

Expenses Total	\$ 3,221,199
Fundraising	\$ 651,535
Management and General	\$ 335,078
BAA Program Support	\$ 2,234,586

Increase in Net Assets \$2,313,160

Net Assets, beginning of year \$ 7,014,875

Net Assets, end of year \$9,328,035

Audits of Boston Arts Academy Foundation's FY 2021 and FY 2020 revenue and expenses were performed by Burke & Associates CPAs, Inc.

"Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Boston Arts Academy Foundation team has done a remarkable job of engaging private donors and building financial sustainability for the school, its faculty, and students. As the new school building opens for a growing student body, Boston Arts Academy will have the people, programs, and equipment needed to provide the highest quality education and life-changing opportunities to its diverse and talented artist/scholar/global citizens." — David Felton, Treasurer, BAA Foundation Board of Directors

WITH GRATITUDE: OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Boston Arts Academy, BAA Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations that donated to support Boston Arts Academy and its students between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Please contact us at giving@baafdn.org with any questions.

CHAMPIONS

\$100,000 and above

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Jiaming International

Lee Michael Kennedy

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Steven Samuels and Ami Cipolla

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Fenway Music Company

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\$25,000 to \$49,999

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Boston Globe

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Myran Parker-Brass

Peter and Suzanne Read

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Jill Slosburg-Ackerman and

James S. Ackerman

Soep Painting Corporation Rosamond Vaule



(left to right) BAA Foundation Board Member and Advisory Council Co-Chair Petrina Martin Cherry joined Advisory Council Co-Chair Beate Becker and Lifetime Chair Emerita Pam Allara at Homecoming on Thursday, June 17 at Fenway Park.

Caroline and Mark Weld Cora Yamagata

ADVOCATES

\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Dana and Mark Allara

Pam Allara

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Carmelo Aresco, Jr.

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Marc Seiden



Alumni Board Member Rosemary Onofri (BAA '11), Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, Alumni Board Secretary Bobby Perry (BAA '11), and D-Son at Homecoming on June 17, 2021 at the Dell Technologies Club at Fenway Park

Karen Shine

Ronald and Mary Skates

Ginni and David Spencer

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Betty and Paul Francisco

Stefan Frey

Nicole Fyvie and Karin Gemeinhardt

Yvonne Garcia Ayla Gavins Hugh Gelch Nadine Gerdts



Leila Cohan (BAA '01) received an Emmy Award nomination in the Outstanding Drama Series category for her work as the co-executive producer on Shonadaland's Netflix series, Bridgerton. She is pictured here with Bridgerton actor Regé-Jean Page at the 2021 Emmy Awards.

Melissa Giannotti

Joseph Giso

Michelle Golden and Helen Onthank

Marisela Gomez Erika Gonsalves Jasmine Gonsalves Skip Gonsalves

Jack and Kathy Gontero

Daniel Gonzalez Jenise Gonzalez Shonnese Grant Allan Gray

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BAA Foundation is grateful for the support of Jay Fee, partner at law firm Nelson Mullins, who provides pro bono legal support and counsel on a variety of business, financial, governance, and operational matters. "Soon after I was introduced to [BAA] and its remarkable students, I couldn't resist the opportunity to get involved in this unique and innovative school," says Fee. "Our partnership with the Foundation helps accomplish its mission of ensuring a high-quality, arts-intensive education for all Boston students who desire it." Says Fee, "I take pride in knowing our work plays a small role in helping those students realize their creative aspirations."

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BAA FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER MAGGIE BAXTER SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON THE SCHOOL

Maggie Baxter and Denella J. Clark forged a new partnership between NBCUniversal Boston and BAA Foundation, starting with BAA Honors 2021. Maggie is VP of Programming for NBC10 Boston, NECN, NBC Sports Boston, and Telemundo Boston. She and Chris Wavland. President and GM of NBC Universal's Boston-Owned Properties and Regional Sports Networks, inspired their talented team to promote, produce, and broadcast BAA Honors 2021. NBC10 Boston News Anchors Latoyia Edwards and JC Monahan narrated and interviewed pre-taped and live BAA Honors segments. Maggie's leadership helped BAA Honors 2021, held on Saturday, May 1, to raise nearly \$1.7 million for the school and engage more than one million readers, viewers, and guests.

"BAA Honors celebrates our honorees, students, alumni and teachers, who uplift the soul of our community," said BAA Foundation President and CEO Denella J. Clark. "NBCU Boston viewers had the opportunity to share in that passion and connect with our community."

Denella also noted, "Maggie and her team pulled off what some people said was impossible. While nonprofit organizations were not broadcasting events during the pandemic, Maggie made it happen. She is an ardent advocate for Boston Arts Academy's students. As a BAA Foundation Board Member, she will continue to raise the bar for the Foundation and school's visibility, relationships, and revenue."

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2021 Honorees Steve Samuels (Civic Responsibility), Eve S. Rounds (Dance), David Ortiz (Television & Film), Scott Wilson (Visual Arts), Ernie Boch Jr. (Music), Ruth E. Carter (Fashion Design & Technology), and Scott Butler (Visual Arts)

BAA HONORS 2021 SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

Thank you for making BAA Honors 2021 a huge success! More than **350 donors and sponsors** contributed nearly **\$1.7 million** to support Boston Arts Academy's students. After the pandemic interrupted BAA Foundation's signature annual fundraising event twice, we were thrilled to welcome millions of people via livestream on NBC10 Boston and NECN on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Many thanks to Latoyia Edwards and JC Monahan for co-hosting the broadcast, Lee Michael Kennedy and Sue Brady Hartigan for co-chairing BAA Honors, Ashley Webb Colleary for serving as auction chair, and Ernie Boch Jr. for hosting a small in-person event with the Honorees featuring the BAA Honors All Star Alumni Band.

BAA HONORS 2022

More information is coming soon!

BAA Honors is Boston Arts Academy Foundation's signature annual event and largest single source of annual funding for BAA. Join us to celebrate the grand opening of BAA's new school building with honoree awards, entertainment, student and alumni performances, and an exciting auction! Visit bostonartsacademy.org/foundation/event/baa-honors for updates.

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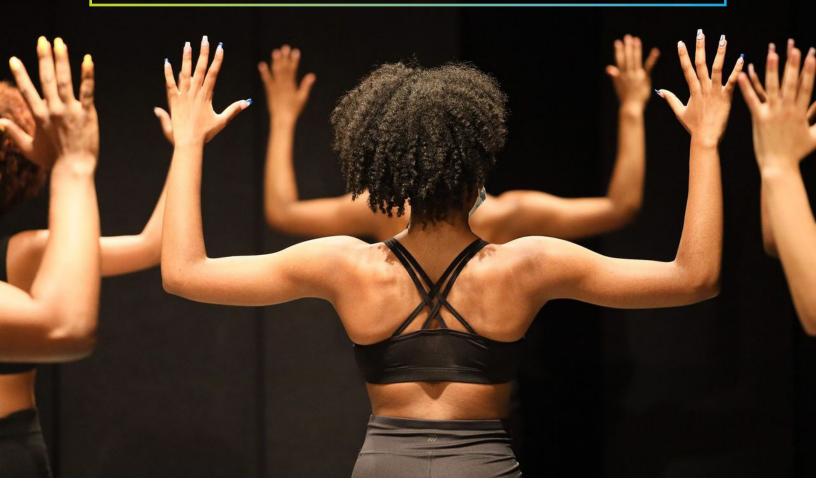


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