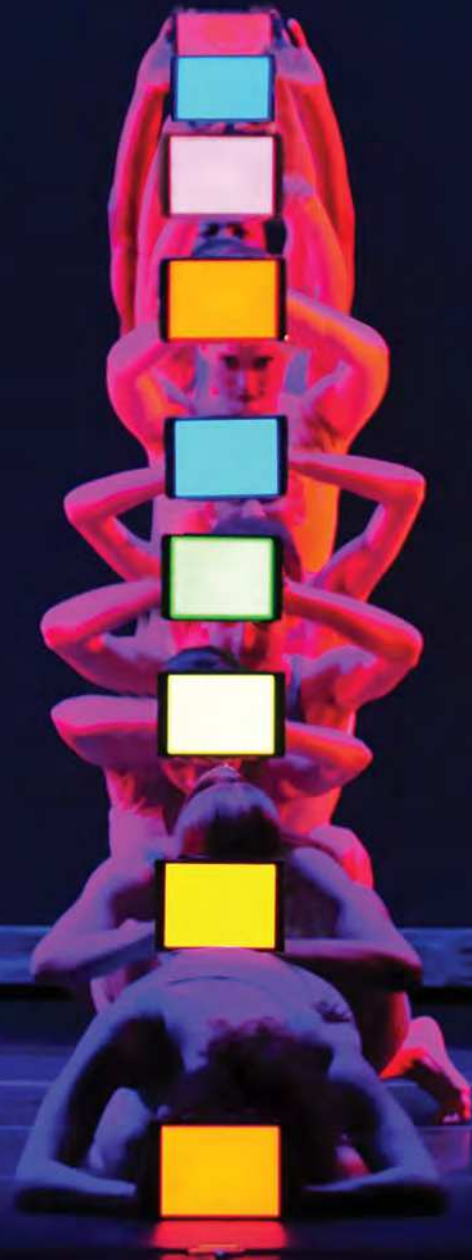


epiphany

The community magazine for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, published by HSPVA Friends
2014-2015



HSPVA Breaks Ground
on New Campus

"HSPVA ROCKS" Raises
Record-Breaking Funds

Masterclasses Inspire
Students Across Art Areas

Epiphany
2014-2015

ON THE COVER HSPVA dancers perform *SKITTLES*, choreographed by LuAnne Carter. Photo by Jann Whaley.

Epiphany is published annually by HSPVA Friends and distributed to alumni, parents and supporters of HSPVA and HSPVA Friends.

The mission of HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to cultivate support and appreciation for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts locally, nationally, and internationally in order to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for current and future students of HSPVA.

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HSPVA Friends Board President Jean Brackendorff, Executive Director Alene Coggin, and HSPVA Principal Dr. R. Scott Allen at the Groundbreaking Ceremony
Photo by David DeHoyos (Media '81)



Your Gift at Work: The Impact of HSPVA Friends

A Report from the Executive Director

The 2014-2015 fiscal year was our most ambitious yet. I am extraordinarily proud that HSPVA Friends helped HSPVA reach important programming milestones: more teaching personnel, increased availability of technology in every art area, high production values, a record number of scholarships, and exciting new community connections. Under the visionary leadership of our Board of Directors, led by President Jean Brackendorff, HSPVA Friends has sustained substantial, strategic growth.

Our budget has more than doubled in three years, and I can feel the momentum on campus. Between August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2015, HSPVA Friends disbursed \$517,000 for programs and services at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (up 42% over last year). In addition, we have already allocated \$116,000 for specific planned programs during the 2015-2016 school year.

In keeping with our mission to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for HSPVA students, we provided the building blocks of an arts education. HSPVA Friends does not just add the luxuries; it must also equip HSPVA students and faculty with the necessities. This year, those necessities included more than \$120,000 worth of sets, costumes, art supplies, furniture, textbooks, sheet music and script royalties, as well as pianos, double basses, and a bass drum.

HSPVA has always been fortunate to have brilliant and dedicated full-time faculty. In order to maximize their effectiveness, we must also be able to give students highly specialized and individualized class time. To that end, this year HSPVA Friends dedicated more than \$135,000 to personnel in the form of masterclasses, guest artist residencies, consultants, and The Lynne Murray, Sr. Educational Foundation Fellow for Technical Direction. We welcomed professional working artists from around the country, like the vocal ensemble Cantus, trumpeter Tim Hagans, conductor Dennis Glocke, and choreographer Nina Watt. We also welcomed local artists onto our campus for extended residencies. These consultants become mentors for our students by teaching semester-long classes and producing shows.

Across campus, HSPVA Friends has procured state-of-the-art technology and equipment prevalent in colleges and professional arts organizations. To be competitive, our students must be fluent in current artistic trends. Therefore, HSPVA Friends has invested more than \$250,000 in technology and specialized equipment in the last three years, and every art area has benefited. For example, the Theatre Department is showing audiences the latest developments in set design, using AutoCAD software to design and build welded set frames and incorporating digital projections to immerse the audience into the world of a play. The Creative Writing Department has laptops, iPads and online publishing software to easily share written work, as well as video equipment for digital storytelling. Upon seeing our studios, a masterclass artist visiting the Visual Arts Department this year exclaimed that our students had access to even more equipment than he did! Indeed, the 2015 HSPVA graduates are not just current—they're ready to lead their artistic industries into the future.

As we strengthen the school's daily operations, we are also looking thoughtfully at HSPVA's long-term role as a vital piece of the Houston arts world. Behind the scenes, the Board and staff of HSPVA Friends continue to work alongside HISD and the downtown community to ensure that the new campus will provide the best home for public arts education in the country. We make significant investments in community engagement through media relations, corporate partnerships, and box office enhancements. By the time HSPVA moves downtown, my goal is to create a guest-centered experience mirroring that of a professional arts organization. After all, as our audience support increases, so does the number of artistic experiences for our students.

With only two staff members, HSPVA Friends relies on more than 200 volunteers, and their devotion to HSPVA cannot be matched. Thanks to their efforts, our operating expenses remain stable while our support for the school soars. I am profoundly grateful to our hundreds of donors, volunteers, and strategic partners for helping to advance the programs available at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The following pages show only a sample of our accomplishments this year. I invite you to join us for a performance or gallery opening to fully understand the magic that is HSPVA. Now, on with the show!

Alene Haehl Coggin
Alene Haehl Coggin
Executive Director, HSPVA Friends



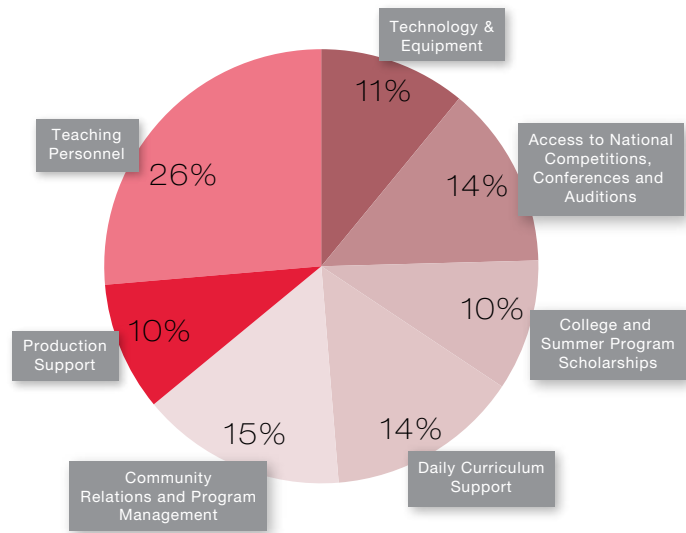
"Teardrop Down" (left)
Sofia Michaelides (Visual Arts '15)

"For this piece, I cut out teardrop shaped patches from ultrasuede material. I sewed these pieces together and added the cape in the back to make a full tunic. Then I created a tulle skirt to wear it over.

I made this piece in my conceptual concerns class sophomore year. When I was developing this piece, I was looking at a lot of natural images of bark and plants as well as traditional textiles such as those from India and the Middle East, and I was really inspired by the patterns and detail I found. In my work, I explore the relationships between people and their environment and the way atmosphere can affect a person. I create clothing as a way of expressing this by showing the emotions felt in terms of the body and seeing the clothing as a type of second skin. I also spend a lot of time exploring different mediums and ways to manipulate textile materials when making my dresses. I am very inspired by traditional textile techniques and styles from around the world as well as creating my own techniques to produce a certain effect."

Sofia will attend the Rhode Island School of Design in the fall of 2015.

2014-2015 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



FUNCTION OF EXPENSES

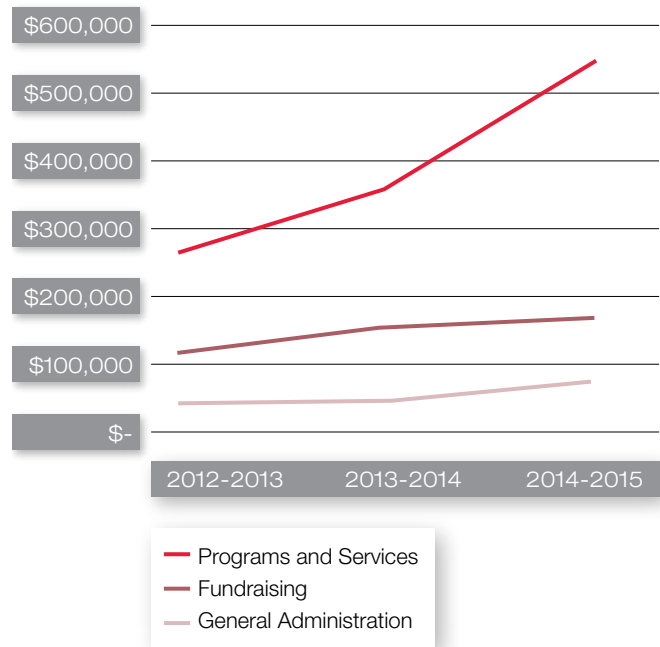


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Scholarship Spotlight

The John E. Guida Foundation awarded two \$5,000 scholarships to HSPVA juniors in the Instrumental Department: Anthony Tovar and Nina Pitts.

Full of ambition and talent, cellist Nina intends to pursue a career in music and hopes to play in a first-class orchestra. This summer, Nina attended the Bowdoin Festival, a world-renowned six-week classical music program in Brunswick, Maine. The Bowdoin Festival arranges for 250 gifted young musicians to work with 60 outstanding artists from all around the world. "I have found that the summer months are when I am able to fully focus on my art area and make huge improvements," said Nina.



Pianist Anthony Tovar spent three weeks studying alongside well known soloists and chamber musicians at the Schlern Music Festival in Italy. The summer program included intensives, private lessons, master classes, concerts, and the opportunity to learn in a unique environment. Anthony said the Guida scholarship played a significant role in his musical growth: "Thank you for making a difference in my life through your support and helping me to share what I love with others at a greater level."

In 2015, HSPVA Friends awarded a total of \$25,000 in summer program scholarships for HSPVA juniors and \$25,000 in college scholarships to graduating seniors. Thank you to our donors for making so many students' dreams a reality!

The New HeART of Downtown Houston

HSPVA BREAKS GROUND ON NEW CAMPUS

At the Groundbreaking Ceremony on December 14, 2014, the HSPVA community saw a long-awaited dream come true. More than 600 guests RSVP'd for the momentous occasion. Current students, parents, and teachers were joined by alumni, former faculty, HISD and City of Houston dignitaries, and members of Houston's downtown business and arts communities.

"Our students are what made the groundbreaking special for me," says Dr. R. Scott Allen, HSPVA Principal. "From the vocalists and mariachi to the original piece read by our creative writers, the ceremony was truly student-centered. Looking out at our guests and seeing their emotional responses to the kids' performance of "I Sing the Body Electric" reminded me how much HSPVA is loved and supported by the city of Houston. The new downtown facility puts us in the center of this great town and very near the arts district...a very exciting new chapter for 'PVA!'"

"We are thrilled to welcome HSPVA to the downtown community," stated Bob Eury, President of Central Houston, Inc. "Being in walking distance to the Theater District, Discovery Green and downtown employers, and having light rail connections to Midtown and the Museum District will foster partnerships and collaborations. A highly acclaimed, state-of-the-art HSPVA allows us to provide an increasingly impressive mix of educational options to the community."

Gensler is designing the new campus. Lead architect Lester Yuen told the *Houston Chronicle*, "It was not about making a grand space. It was more about making a space where students and faculty could run into each other and practice and learn and do projects."

At the groundbreaking, Jean Brackendorff, HSPVA Friends Board President, reflected on how exciting it will be to have a school that will meet HSPVA students' current and future needs. "We have outgrown our current campus in Montrose that was built in 1981," Jean said. "The new design is outstanding, offering a wonderful combination of academic and arts learning spaces."

The new campus is expected to open in the fall of 2018.

1 (L to R) Alene Coggin (HSPVA Friends Executive Director and 2005 alumna), Devyn Tyler (Theatre '09), Bob Eury (President, Central Houston), Jean Brackendorff (Board President, HSPVA Friends), Leo Bobadilla (Chief Operating Officer, HISD), Dr. R. Scott Allen (Principal, HSPVA), Paula Harris (HISD Trustee), Mike Lunceford (HISD Trustee), Diego Salazar (Visual Arts '18), Brooke Wyatt (Instrumental '18)

2 Jo and Jim Furr (Gensler), Phoebe Tudor (HISD Bond Oversight Committee), Jean Brackendorff, and Jerry Simon (HSPVA Friends Advisory Board) watch the ceremony.

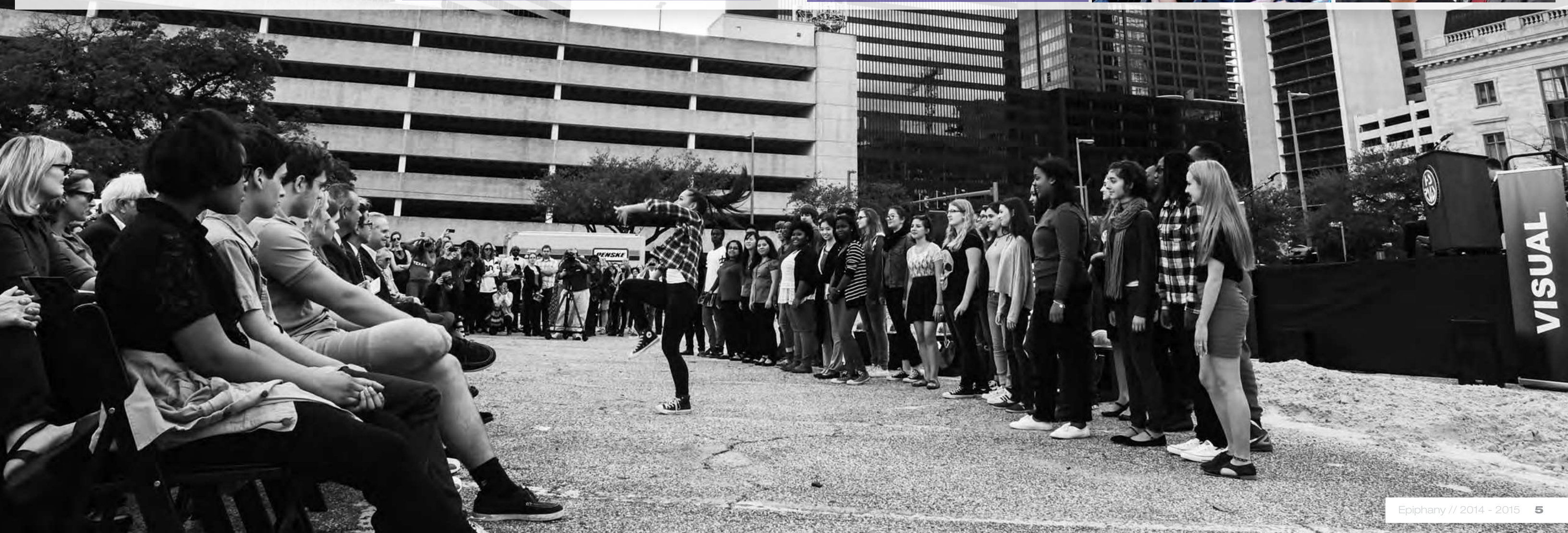
3 Pat Bonner (HSPVA Vocal Department Chair) and Bob Singleton (Retired HSPVA Theatre Department Chair) enjoy the festivities.

4 Riley McShanog (Dance '15) performs with HSPVA vocal and musical theatre students.

Photos 1, 3 and 4 by David DeHoyos (Media '81)

Once completed, the building will include:

- an 800-seat main theater with a balcony
- a 200-seat mini theater
- a 200-seat black box theater
- a 150-seat recital hall
- a recording studio
- dance studios
- music rehearsal studios and practice rooms
- art galleries
- a creative writing department
- multiple common areas
- indoor and outdoor dining
- a roof garden with an outdoor art studio



ART AREA NEWS

A Year of Firsts: The Inaugural Class of Creative Writers Graduates from HSPVA

The inaugural class of Creative Writing students graduated in May 2015, leaving behind an art area that has never existed without them. Looking back at this past year, it is clear that they truly left their mark on HSPVA.

When you're creating a department from scratch, you're not afraid to take your education into your own hands. One result of that gumption was the Department's **first guest-artist residency** with acclaimed poet and professor, Roger Reeves. The residency came about because our fearless Creative Writers sparked a conversation with Mr. Reeves when they spotted him at an Austin coffee shop during their annual trip to the Texas Book Festival. Proclaiming themselves true fans, the Writers persuaded Mr. Reeves to visit them in Houston. True to his word, Mr. Reeves led a week of writing classes at HSPVA while sharing his perspective on what it means to be an American poet. When Cyrus Pacht ('16) asked Mr. Reeves what he thought of HSPVA's Creative Writers, he replied, "I'm really quite impressed...these students are thinking at the level of sophomores and juniors in college, even graduate students."

This spring, grasping tightly to all they had learned from their faculty, consultants and guest artists, the Class of 2015 held the **first Creative Writing Senior Recitals** in HSPVA history. Without expectations or restrictions, the possibilities were endless. Each recital demonstrated the seniors' growth and dedication. They showcased a wide range of creative forms—from poetry to digital media, from dramatic writing to a radio talk-show.

To top off an incredible first four years of the program, two Creative Writing seniors ultimately led HSPVA's Class of 2015 with tremendous accomplishments in both their craft and academics. This year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Claudia Heymach and Steffannie Alter, were both members of the inaugural Creative Writing class.

The Creative Writing graduates have set a course that decades of HSPVA students will follow. We can't wait to see what they will do next!



A packed house waits for the first ever Creative Writing Senior Recital to begin.



Acclaimed poet Roger Reeves works with a small group of Creative Writers.



Kizer Shelton (Creative Writing '16) reads his work at Off the Page.



"Homecoming Residency" Brings Jason Moran Back to Campus

Houston native and acclaimed jazz pianist Jason Moran (Instrumental '93) is finding himself back in the Bayou City and at HSPVA a lot these days! Through his multi-year "Homecoming Residency" commissioned by Da Camera, Moran is collaborating with students at the Houston schools he attended in an effort to create original works that combine a range of mediums.

As he explores his roots, Moran is inspiring HSPVA musicians to let their creative energy, personal identity, and the life that surrounds them show as the basis of their compositions. HSPVA's jazz students weren't the only ones on campus who got to learn with, play alongside, and receive critiques from Moran. Moran and his trio, the Bandwagon, are also spending time in the Creative Writing Department, talking to students about the relationship between music, poetry, and creativity.

To wrap up the first year of the Residency, Moran performed at Da Camera JAM at Discovery Green on April 30, 2015. HSPVA's Jazz Ensembles opened for him. Of course, Moran couldn't resist joining them on stage for a few songs! It was clear to the audience of more than 1,500 people that Jerome Gillespie (Instrumental '16) took Moran's Homecoming lessons to heart when he led the combo in an original song he had composed in memory of his grandmother.

Unique Dance Photography Program Continues to Develop

Each year, the Dance Department offers students the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and view dance from another perspective—looking at their art from behind a lens. Dance Photography began at HSPVA in 1974 and has continued to grow over the years. Professional photographer Gerard Vacca began teaching Dance Photography at HSPVA in 2007. His instruction helps students achieve a better understanding of composition, lighting, contemporary trends, construction and deconstruction of photographic meaning, and aesthetic choices. To assist the department in modernizing the course, HSPVA Friends purchased a suite of twelve professional-grade digital cameras and lenses for the 2014-2015 school year. Dance photography is an art of its own, taking a great deal of patience, time, and perseverance. By the end of the course, students have learned how to capture the expressions dancers display while performing. Kirby Townsend (Dance '15) excelled in these areas and was chosen by *Dance Magazine* to have one of her photos (shown right) published in their November 2014 edition.



For Vocalists, High-Tech Practice Makes Perfect

Vocalists at HSPVA have transformed the way they practice this year with the help of technology, including specialized SmartMusic software. Historically, HSPVA music students could be found rehearsing in practice rooms or in the hallways with sheet music, which made it difficult for singers to accurately measure their own development. Thanks to the new software, students now get immediate feedback on their rhythms and pitches.

In preparation for performances and competitions, vocalists were able to use the SmartMusic software to supplement work being done in the classroom. Voice specialist and HSPVA choral director Julia Hall (Vocal '77) said, "SmartMusic software is an excellent tool to enhance student learning. We've been using it in our choral and vocal production classes. It does not replace the work students do with teachers and accompanists, but it helps students improve their skills and self-monitor their progress. Our students are using their practice time more efficiently and improving quickly with the help of this software." The practice paid off! HSPVA's Vocal Department won four coveted Sweepstakes trophies at this year's UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest.

HSPVA Friends was proud to update technology across the music departments this year, including new printers, a digital metronome/tuner, digital projectors, and screens, as well as SmartMusic software and iPads for the Vocal Department.

Mike Grady Helps Students Identify Their Artistic Vision

Mike Grady opened the spring semester in the Visual Arts Department with his annual weeklong residency, known at HSPVA as Grady Week. Grady Week provides students with the opportunity to investigate universal archetypes found in the visual language of art, while exploring the idea of personal art ancestors and influences that affect the art making choice.

Towards the end of their time with Grady, students transition from a technical skill level to a conceptual skill level in their artwork. At this level, students begin to identify important issues, learn to work independently as artists, and have a better understanding of what motivates them to create. Although Grady isn't with us all year, the topics taught during his time at HSPVA are elaborated on throughout the remainder of students' junior and senior years.



Stage Makeup Helps Bring Characters to Life

Theatre students instinctively bring characters to life in their productions throughout the year using unique costumes, scripts, sets and a tremendous amount of creativity.

To further students' abilities to take the elements of design to the next level, the Theatre Department hosts professional special effects makeup artist, Eric Zapata. During Mr. Zapata's time at HSPVA this year, students explored the theory and techniques used in a variety of makeup applications and learned how to execute these new skills within their own productions, including the 2014-2015 Black History Production, *The Wiz*, and All School Musical, *The Sound of Music*.

- 1 Eric Zapata teaches a makeup masterclass.
 - 2 Adriana Scamardi (Theatre '15) as Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*
 - 3 & 4 Mia Heckler and Savanna Lim (Theatre '17) show off their fantasy makeup skills for a design class.
 - 5 Olly Sholotan (Theatre '15) as the Scarecrow in *The Wiz*
- Photos 1, 2, 3, and 5 by Savanna Lim

HSPVA ROCKS!

THE 9TH ANNUAL ENCORE FOR EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON

Guests set a new record by raising \$200,000 at the annual HSPVA Friends luncheon on February 24! The rock-inspired event honored HSPVA's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus, world-renowned photographer Mark Seliger (Media '77). Chairs Gina Fish and George Lancaster packed River Oaks Country Club with more HSPVA student performers than ever before. Emcees Fernell Hogan (Theatre '15) and Shelby Nunn (Dance '15) surprised guests by leading them into the ballroom past a parade of musical theatre students performing the high-energy mashup "We Built This City/We're Not Gonna Take It" from *Rock of Ages*. Then, nearly fifty vocalists filled the stage to perform a Bon Jovi Medley.

Mark Seliger wowed the audience as he shared extraordinary stories behind some of his most iconic portraits. With the help of special guest Anne Wilkes Tucker, Mark discussed his unique career trajectory—from auditioning for HSPVA to spending a decade as the lead photographer for *Rolling Stone*.

After the luncheon, Mark visited HSPVA for a masterclass in the Denney Theatre. As the go-to photographer for celebrities ranging from Keith Richards to Barack Obama, he offered students insights into a world few get to see. Mark encouraged students to go after their dreams, saying: "Being a part of this incredible place, you can have those dreams and enjoy living them every single day."

- 1 The HSPVA band brought down the house!
 - 2 Cass McNinch, Carey Jordan, Donna Oakley
 - 3 Evelyn Angelle, Frank Angelle
 - 4 Luncheon Chairs Gina Fish and George Lancaster
- Photos by PWL Studio



SAVE THE DATE!
2016 ENCORE FOR EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 23
Chaired by Kris & Neil Thomas and
Austin Thomas (Theatre '05)
HONORING HSPVA'S 2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS,
9X GRAMMY WINNER BRYAN-MICHAEL COX (VOCAL '96)

Community News

CURRENT FACULTY/STUDENTS

The HSPVA Madrigal Singers earned a Superior Rating and were the only choir in the region to be named a “Performance of Distinction” at the San Antonio Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival.

Claudia Heymach (Creative Writing ‘15) earned a perfect score on the SAT.

Emily Robison (Dance ‘15) was named one of the “100 Creatives of 2014” by *Houston Press*. Her first film, *Repercussions*, was accepted into The Third Coast Dance Film Festival.

HSPVA’s **Mariachi Los Pasajeros** won best violin and trumpet sections at the 3rd Annual Viva el Mariachi Extravaganza in May.

Kyle Legacion (Theatre ‘15) was awarded the Ruth Denney Scholarship at the Tommy Tune Awards.

Cyrus Pacht (Creative Writing ‘16) was awarded a Silver Medal from the 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for his personal essay, “Down the Vista of Years: The Story of an Education.”

Isabella Bernal (Vocal ‘16) was selected for the Houston Symphony Youth Singer Program and performed as a member of the Houston Symphony Chorus in *Carmina Burana*.

Mia Heckler (Theatre ‘17) starred as Elle Woods in HITS’ *Legally Blonde: The Musical* at Miller Outdoor Theater in April.

Theatre Design teacher **Paul Davis** was awarded a National Artist Teacher Fellowship from the Center for Arts in Education.

ALUMNI OF THE 00S

Tre Garrett, known at HSPVA as **Declois Beachman** (Theatre ‘00), received the DFW Critics Forum Best Director Award for *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Dallas Theatre Center and *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* at the Jubilee Theatre.

Alan Hampton (Instrumental ‘00) released his second album, *Origami for the Fire*.

Jamila Glass (Vocal ‘01) premiered her short film, *To the Moon*, at the Glass Half Fulton Film Festival.

Justin Simien (Theatre ‘01) won the Independent Spirit Award for Best First Screenplay for *Dear White People*.

Stephcynie Curry (Vocal ‘03) released her first EP and music video, “Free to Love.”

Marlon Taylor-Wiles (Dance ‘03) was profiled by LFANT in “Classic Man, Modern Dancer.”

Stephanie Lohmann Fallon (Visual Arts ‘04) was named to the list of Best New Poets 2014.

Reigen Miller (Theatre ‘04), a songwriter, singer, and producer of synthpop, has released several singles and videos to high praise.

Dustin Kaufman (Instrumental ‘05), the drummer for St. Lucia, spent the year on a world tour.

Jennifer May Reiland (Visual Arts ‘07) held her first U.S. solo exhibition, *Veronicas*, at Redbud Gallery in Houston.

Chelsea Conwright (Dance ‘10) was featured in the Taylor Swift music video for “Shake it Off.”

Jacob Perkel (Theatre ‘12) received a Best Supporting Actor nomination from Broadway World Houston for his role in *Sixty Miles to Silverlake* presented at the Obsidian Art Space.

Frank Sartain (Instrumental ‘12) wrote a piece for piano and trombone titled “Epic Journey” that was performed at the London New Wind Festival.

Carlos Womack (Visual Arts ‘12), currently attending RISD, presented a show at the Paul Fisher Gallery in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Jasper Snow (Instrumental ‘14) performed on National Public Radio’s “From the Top” program.

ALUMNI OF THE 90S

Mireille Enos (Theatre ‘93) will star in Shonda Rhimes’ new ABC drama, *The Catch*.

Drummer **Eric Harland** (Instrumental ‘94) was on the cover of the November issue of *JazzTimes* magazine.

Rachel Cook (Visual Arts ‘95), associate curator at DiverseWorks Artspace, was named one of “25 Women Curators Shaking Things Up” by *artnet News*.

Bianna Golodryga (Theatre ‘96) moved from *Good Morning America* to become a news and finance anchor at *Yahoo News*.

Robert Glasper (Instrumental ‘97) took home his second Grammy, winning for Best Traditional R&B Performance.

Patrick Kelly (Instrumental ‘97), **Jon Durbin** (Instrumental ‘97), and **Cory Wilson** (Instrumental ‘01) of Houston band, The Suffers, performed on *Late Show with David Letterman*.

Robert Hodge (Visual Arts ‘98) opened his first solo museum exhibition, *Destroy and Rebuild*, in the Zilkha Gallery at the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston.

Anthony Suber (Visual Arts ‘98) opened *Anthony Suber: Archaic Habit* at Dormalu Project in Houston. The installation opened in conjunction with *Cabinet of Curiosities*, by **Patrick Renner** (Visual Art ‘00).

Composer and trumpet player **Leron Thomas** (Instrumental ‘98) released his *Role Play* EP.

ALUMNI OF THE 80S

Drummer **Doug Roufa** (Instrumental ‘80) performs with fellow alumni **Keith Vivens** (Instrumental ‘80) and **Larry Diaz** (Instrumental ‘81) in the group Jazz Dish. Larry Diaz also recently established the Soirée Smooth Jazz Band in Houston.

Janie Carothers (Dance ‘84) will serve as HSPVA’s Dance Department Chair and **Courtney Jones** (Dance ‘99) will join HSPVA as a full-time Dance faculty member.

Brett Deubner (Instrumental ‘86), a violist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, was featured in *RGV Beyond Arts & More* Magazine in December.

Chris Walker (Instrumental ‘86) and **Ashley Tamar Davis** (Vocal ‘98) held the first annual DocFest in honor of retired HSPVA Director of Jazz Studies and Music Department Chair **Doc Morgan**. DocFest supports the Helen and Bob Morgan Jazz Scholarship at The New School.

Chandra Wilson (Theatre ‘87) won a Women’s Image Network Award for directing “Do You Know,” *Grey’s Anatomy* episode 1017.

ALUMNI OF THE 70S

Geoffery Baskir (Instrumental ‘74) authored and co-edited a book that was published by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Actress **Brenda Isaacs Booth** (Theatre/Dance ‘76) appeared in critically-acclaimed film *The Doo Dah Man*.

Leticia Rodriguez (Dance ‘76) was awarded a 2015 Texas Music Museum Distinguished Musician Award for her contributions to music history.

JoDe Romano (Dance ‘76) released a CD of Spanish Classical Piano and Castanets with pianist Felix Ventouras.

Janice Freeman (Visual Arts ‘77) presented a retrospective of her work in the Lone Star College - Kingwood Fine Arts Gallery.

David Heymann (Visual Arts ‘77) released a new book, *My Beautiful City Austin*.

HSPVA’S ORIGINAL CAMPUS REUNION

Alumni and faculty who attended HSPVA’s first campus (1971-1985) will reunite for “United We Stand... The HSPVA Original Campus Reunion” in Houston, October 8-11, 2015. The weekend will feature celebratory events of art, HSPVA history, and performances by several of the alumni mentioned above.

As part of the festivities, all HSPVA alumni and friends are invited for the Saturday night gala, “Continuing Our Legacy: A Happening Future” on October 10th. Proceeds will benefit HSPVA. For tickets, visit hspvaocr2015.classquest.com and register as an alum, staff member, or friend!

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO THREE LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF THE HSPVA FAMILY!

LuAnne Carter, Dance Department Chair

Larry Trout, Assistant Principal

Terri Brown, School Store Chair

IN MEMORIAM

Lesa Dawn Arant Doyle (Vocal ‘74)
1956-2015

Sherry Ann Ridgway Munden (Theatre ‘74)
1956-2015

Gilbert Ibarra (Instrumental ‘75)
1956-2015

Lisa Hill Zochert Griffith (Visual Arts ‘77)
1959-2014

John Sweeney (Vocal ‘77)
1959-2015

Carolyn Hooker Crisp (Visual Arts ‘78)
1960-2014

Mark Hunker (Media ‘78)
1960-2014

Rudolph “Rudy” J. Lege (Instrumental ‘79)
1960-2015

Rory Glen Allee (Theatre ‘80)
1962-2015

Pamela Materanek (Dance ‘81)
1963-2015

Christine “Tina” Borja (Media ‘84)
1966-2014

Harris Wittels (Theatre ‘02)
1984 – 2015

Thank You to our Guild Volunteers!

Each year, HSPVA Friends’ three parent volunteer groups contribute countless hours and resources to their respective Departments. Altogether, the Art Guild, the Creative Writing Guild, and the Theatre Guild managed more than \$175,000 on behalf of their art areas during the 2014-2015 school year. As a result, HSPVA students had access to new equipment, inspiring guest artists, and special opportunities for college auditions and portfolio reviews. Thank you!



April Lloyd, Gayle Fisher, and Patricia Blackwell at the Art Guild's 2015 Print Show; Photo by Savanna Lim



Creative Writing students are able to attend the annual Texas Book Festival in Austin thanks to volunteer and financial support from the Creative Writing Guild



Students perform at the sold-out 2015 Theatre Guild Gala

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2016!

APRIL 2: The Theatre Guild’s Annual Gala

APRIL 9: The Art Guild’s Annual Print Show

REMEMBERING HARRIS WITTELS 1984-2015



The HSPVA community mourns the loss of actor, producer, comedian and musician Harris Wittels (Theatre ‘02).

The world knew Harris as an Executive Producer of NBC’s *Parks and Recreation*, the hunter of humblebrags, a staple of the comedy podcast scene, and a brilliant writer. At HSPVA, we knew him as a bold kid who created hilarious yearbook photos, an actor who had audiences howling during a production of Christopher Durang plays, and a generous alumnus who delivered masterclasses to star-struck students following in his footsteps. We were honored to know him and are honored to watch his legacy continue through The Harris Wittels Fund at HSPVA Friends.

The Harris Wittels Fund was established by the Wittels family—parents Maureen and Ellison Wittels, sister Stephanie Wittels Wachs (Theatre ‘99), brother-in-law Michael Wachs, and niece Iris. As of July 2015, more than 500 donors from around the world have contributed to the Harris Wittels Fund, with lead gifts made by Earwolf Media, Fremulon, and NBC Universal Media, LLC. The Harris Wittels Fund will support the Theatre Department and provide scholarships for HSPVA juniors and seniors who are pursuing careers in film, TV, or comedy.

This year, HSPVA Friends was honored to award the first Harris Wittels Scholarships to two young artists who work tirelessly on their crafts, Alicja Zapalska (Creative Writing ‘15) and Jakob Hultén (Theatre ‘16). To support The Harris Wittels Fund, visit tinyurl.com/HarrisHSPVA.

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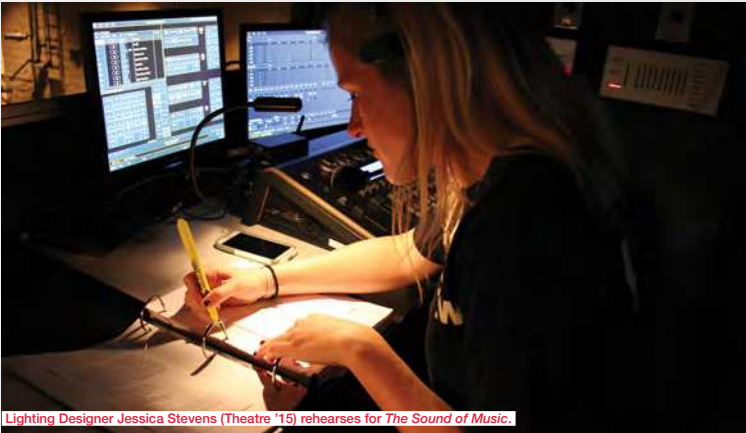
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LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015-2016

ALL SCHOOL MUSICAL: SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

OCTOBER 7-10, DENNEY THEATRE

Singin' in the Rain is splendid entertainment for fans of the golden age of movie musicals. Adapted for the stage, *Singin' in the Rain* parodies the panic surrounding the transitional period from silents to talkies in Hollywood during the late 1920s.

44TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER

OCTOBER 15, 5-9PM

Head over to HSPVA for an evening of entertainment featuring our exceptionally talented musicians! With four venues and dozens of shows, you'll have a chance to see student bands, jazz ensembles, choral ensembles, mariachi, symphony and chamber music groups, pianists, and harpists. Don't forget to grab a plate of spaghetti!

RED STUDIO AND GREY STUDIO SERIES

DECEMBER 2-4, APRIL 26-28, BLACK BOX

Student-conceived theatre works in one act from the Red & Grey Studio Program showcase the talents of our Level 3 and 4 theatre students.

"OFF THE PAGE" READINGS

DECEMBER 4 AND APRIL 15, ALESSANDRO RECITAL HALL

You don't want to miss "Off the Page," featuring the immensely talented students of HSPVA's Creative Writing Department. Come listen to readings crafted by the next generation of literary stars!

BLACK HISTORY PRODUCTION: AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

FEBRUARY 18-21, DENNEY THEATRE

A tribute to Fats Waller and the jazz music of Harlem Renaissance nightclubs, *Ain't Misbehavin'* is full of playful energy capturing the mood of an era!



Photo by Savanna Lim



MORE 2015-2016 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS!

THEATRE

Fall Main Stage Production:

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

November 12th-14th, Black Box

Spring Main Stage Production:

Clybourne Park

April 7th-9th, Black Box

INSTRUMENTAL

Fall Jazz Concert

November 6th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

Winter Band Concert

December 3rd, Denney Theatre, 7pm

Symphony Orchestra Concert

February 27th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

Spring Piano Recital

March 9th, Alessandro Recital Hall, 7pm

Spring Jazz Concert

April 1st-2nd, Denney Theatre, 7pm

Mariachi Spring Concert

May 17th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

DANCE

Fall Dance Concert

November 19th-20th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

Spring Dance Concert

March 10th-11th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

VISUAL ARTS

Drawing & Painting Show

September 24th, Gallery, 3:45pm

Collaborations Show

November 19th, Gallery, 3:45pm

Printmaking & Photography Show

January 14th, Gallery, 3:45pm

Performance & Installation Showcase

May 12th, Gallery, 3:45pm

VOCAL

Limelight Concert

September 11th, The Commons, 7pm

Winter Vocal Concert

December 10th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

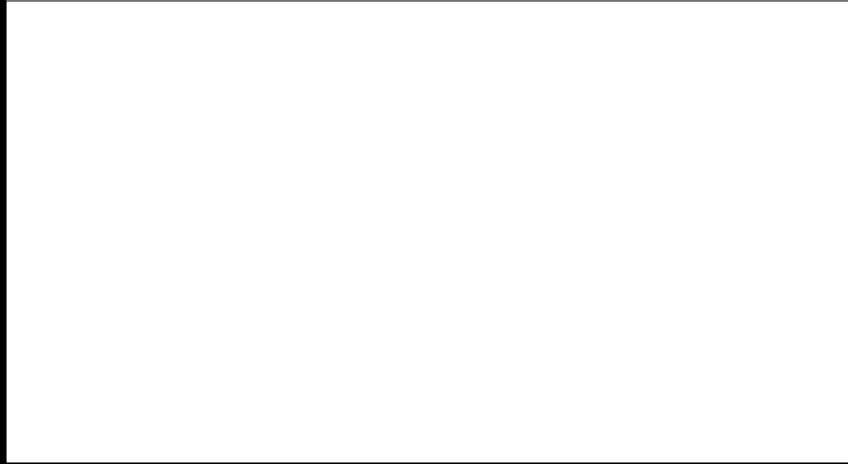
Spring Vocal Concert

April 14th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

Pop Concert

May 14th, Denney Theatre, 7pm

For the full calendar and box office information, visit www.hspva.org. All events listed here take place on the HSPVA campus.



“Pop Rats” (left)

Jennifer Ramos (Visual Arts '16)



“Pop Rats” was created in the summer of 2014 as an interactive piece. The process of creating these small popcorn pieces was rather tedious due to their small size and individual shapes. The popcorn pieces themselves are made of lightweight air dry clay and are painted with acrylic paint. The container holding them is a ceramic bowl I glazed and fired.

Small animals had been a recurring subject in my art pieces for a while. I thought that being able to mix a small animal and popcorn would allow the viewer to feel some sort of connection to the piece. Having formed this new creature would let the viewer experience familiar images and let them explore this creature as both food and animal. A theme in my art work is the fact that these edible creatures are associated with pets, so they are nurtured versus consumable or pets versus food.

Jennifer will begin studying illustration at Montserrat College of Art in the fall of 2015.

HSPVA Friends Mission

The mission of HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to cultivate support and appreciation for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts locally, nationally, and internationally in order to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for current and future students of HSPVA.

Each year, HSPVA Friends provides critical art area support and school-wide programs, as well as college and summer program scholarships. For more information, visit www.hspvafriends.org.