Looking back on the last full year
in the Montrose campus

Build the Extraordinary: Make your mark on the new campus

Novelist and Pulitzer Prize finalist
Susan Choi (’86) honored as 2018 Distinguished Alumna
A Unique Partnership for a Unique School: The Impact of HSPVA Friends

Kinder HSPVA certainly offers a unique educational experience. Over 47 years, the custom curriculum has evolved for highly creative young Houstonians who possess an internal drive to succeed in creative writing, dance, instrumental music, theatre, visual arts, or vocal music. To deliver that unique education, the school relies on a unique partner: HSPVA Friends.

HSPVA Friends is the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fills the gap between the severely limited HISD budget and the requirements of a vigorous, well-rounded arts education.

In the 2017-2018 school year, we disbursed more than $700,000 toward the following goals:

- Ensuring that all Kinder HSPVA students have access to exceptional learning opportunities and are not limited by their families’ financial circumstances.
- Ensuring that teachers spend more time teaching and less time wading through administrative tasks like managing the box office system, communicating with vendors, and guiding more than 200 first-rate volunteers.
- Ensuring that Kinder HSPVA offers the best arts education in the country by delivering one-of-a-kind experiences that push students to think even larger than they already do – and by providing the supplies, equipment, and specialized faculty that allow students to turn their ideas into reality.
- Ultimately, Kinder HSPVA graduates emerge as leaders in their fields. Together, the 189 members of the Class of 2018 were offered more than $32 million in college scholarships.

In 2018, HSPVA Friends awarded $32,500 in summer program scholarships to Kinder HSPVA students. Thank you to our donors for making a difference in the lives of our young artists!

In 2017, HSPVA Friends organized the John E. Guida Foundation funded two $5,000 scholarships to juniors in the Vocal and Instrumental Music Departments: Matilda Smolij and Tyler Henderson. Pianist Tyler Henderson attended two acclaimed programs: the Skidmore Jazz Institute and Lincoln Center’s Jazz Academy at Bard College. The intensives included private lessons, masterclasses, small group ensembles, and performances by the top jazz performers in New York City. Tyler said the award made a huge difference in his musical and personal growth this summer. “Words cannot explain my incredible joy to be selected for the Guida Scholarship. Thank you!”

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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After decades of waiting, the new Kinder HSPVA campus is a dream come true for students, teachers, and alumni. We need your help to finish the art area and common spaces and to ensure that the highly specialized facilities can be operated to their full potential.

HSPVA Friends’ Build the Extraordinary campaign has raised $8.6 million of our $10-million goal. Your contribution to the campaign will be commemorated on one of two stunning art installations designed by acclaimed sculptor and alumnus Patrick Renner (Visual Arts ’00).

Secure your place in HSPVA history by donating to the campaign and having your name featured in one of these installations:

**XYLEM**
Recognizing donations of $10,000+
This organic wall, reminiscent of a mountain range, will greet guests at the entrance to the school and welcome them into the Denney Theatre. The surface will be a hand-crafted veneer comprised of narrow strips of naturally-colored exotic woods. An undulating metal ridgesnaking horizontally across the curve of the wall embodies the biorhythm of the school’s creative energy.

Your name will appear in brushed stainless steel letters, crafted to echo the curves of the wall behind them, and will contrast strikingly with the fine-furniture finish of the wooden landscape.

For information about pledges and installment plans, email Matthew Jamison at mjamison@hspvafriends.org.

**LILT**
Recognizing donations of $100-$9,999
Multi-colored wood strips will be woven together to form a cascade of leaf-like shapes suspended over the grand staircase, inviting patrons up to the second-floor performance venues and gallery spaces. The leaves will flow together into a dense ribbon that eventually transitions from overhead to flow down the length of the second-floor wall.

Your name will appear on an individual clear plaque, allowing the artwork’s vibrant colors to shine through. Every wood strip has been painted by alumni, current students, and families, making this one-of-a-kind installation a true product of the Kinder HSPVA community.

Donors will be recognized in 30 characters. Donations between $1,000-$9,999 may add a second line of text to honor a loved one, special student, or favorite teacher.

“My experience at HSPVA was incredibly formative, so it’s a thrilling opportunity to contribute something back to this wonderful program, which will continue shaping the creativity of our youth and growing the culture of our great city.”

- Patrick Renner (Visual ’00)

December 2017: Patrick Renner and his team begin installing lilt over the grand staircase in the new Kinder HSPVA commons.
May 2018: Current Kinder HSPVA students, alumni, and their families help Patrick Renner paint wood slats for lilt at the Montrose Campus Block Party. (Read more about the Block Party on the back cover!)
July 2018: xytem under construction at the Flying Carpet Creative studios.

TO GIVE, VISIT WWW.HSPVAFRIENDS.ORG/DOWNTOWN.
Some of the final products are shown to the right.

Poetry onto the image, creating a new, cohesive artwork.

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CREATIVE WRITING COLLABORATIONS

This year marked the seventh school year for the Creative Writing Department, Kinder HSPVA’s

youngest art area. Today, it’s hard to imagine the school without the Creative Writers—they connect all of the departments in innovative ways, creating interdisciplinary works of art and forging new paths between different mediums and styles.

In their first two years, students learn the fundamentals of playwriting, screenwriting, poetry, and fiction, as well as ancient texts, photography and acting for writers, and techniques for constructive criticism. As juniors and seniors, they build a portfolio of work in the field of their choice. Their creativity knows no limits!

The students write plays and films for Theatre students to perform. They write lyrics for Music students’ original compositions. They work with dancers to create spoken-word movement pieces.

This year, collaboration kicked off when freshmen Creative Writing and Visual Arts students teamed up to make poetry broadsides. First, the artists created an image, designed in such a way that text could be incorporated onto the artwork. The writers then chose an image that spoke to them and, using the image as inspiration, wrote a poem. Their challenge was to write a poem that complemented the image, as if the visual and textual elements were created in tandem with the same objective in mind. Using InDesign, a publishing software they learn as a precursor to designing their own books, the writers superimposed their poetry onto the image, creating a new, cohesive artwork.

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CONGRATULATIONS, VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT!

The vocalists had quite a year! Not only did the Madrigal Singers perform for Barbara and George H.W. Bush at the Museum of Fine Arts’ Piezzi Collection and open for Renée Fleming’s performance at Society for the Performing Arts, but several ensembles won prestigious national awards:

• Mixed Chorus, Girls Choir, Tenor-Bass Choir, and Chorale all received Sweepstakes at the UIL Concert and Sight-Singing Contest.

• Girls Choir dazzled at the Winter Park Ski Music Festival’s Festival di Voce, winning Best Treble Choir and Reserve Grand Champion.

• The Madrigal Singers won First Division and were granted Performance of Distinction at the American Classic Music Festival’s Madrigal and Chamber Choir Festival. They were also named the third-place winner of the American Prize in Choral Performance – Youth and High School Division.

• Chorale won first place at the American Classic Music Festival’s Celebration of Excellence and will perform at next year’s festival as the 2019 Honor Choir. The ensemble was similarly honored as the 2018 Performance Choir at the American Choral Directors Association Southwestern Division Conference.

It is important for choral students to participate in these conferences and competitions because they learn from seeing their peers perform, make connections with other young artists, and see world-class performances and demonstrations from leaders in their field. Many students cannot afford all of the travel expenses, however. Your donations make it possible for all students to participate, not only ensuring that Kinder HSPVA is represented with complete ensembles, but also providing equitable access to excellent educational opportunities.

KINDER HSPVA AT LINCOLN CENTER

74 students traveled to New York with conductor Dr. Brad Smith to perform in the Orchestra Cup National Orchestra Championships at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Thanks to your donations, HSPVA Friends was able to offer more than $25,000 to help students in need make the trip to learn and perform with their peers! Hurricane Harvey added undue financial burdens for many families, and your support went a long way to help the symphony travel together.

It was many students’ first trip to New York. In addition to performing in the Orchestra Cup, the group visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center, and Radio City Music Hall. They also saw Aladdin on Broadway and a performance by the New York Philharmonic. What an incredible week!

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"LIFE IS A CABARET, OLD CHUM!"

In November, the Black Box was transformed into a 1920s Berlin nightclub for Cabaret! The creative team featured free HSPVA alums Matt Hune (Theatre ’03) directed the production, and Abby Siebel (Voice ’07) served as musical director. Wiley DeLese (Instrumental ’10) led the band, fresh from his Broadway debut conducting the orchestra of Amaluna and later 2018 Best Musical Tony Award winner The Band’s Visit.

Cabaret revolves around the lives of Berlin’s expatriate artists and intellectuals as Germany slowly yields to the Third Reich. After one performance, Holocaust Museum Houston Director of Education Mary Lee Vekles joined dramaturg Eliza Pillsbury (Theatre ’19) and the company on stage for a conversation about the continued relevance of the musical’s themes.

Cabaret was Kinder HSPVA’s submission to Theatre Under the Stars’ annual Tommy Tune Awards. The production received three nominations: Best Choreography, Best Scenic Design (Ryan Ams ’16), and Best Supporting Actor (Ben Russell ’18).

Did you know the Theatre Department could not produce a single show without your support of HSPVA Friends? Productions like Cabaret require professional musicians, costumes, light and sound systems, and box office support. All of these features make the difference, propelling students to the top theatre programs at colleges around the country.
Specificty is one of the Visual Arts Department’s keys to success. With a wide variety of electives, students are able to study a medium or technique in depth and develop a body of work around their area of specialization. A few years ago, faculty member Isela Aguirre (Visual ’95) launched the Textiles Program, and student interest grows each year. This year, the department invited clothing designer and textile artist Isabel Wilson to teach new and advanced knitting, embroidery, cyanotype, and weaving techniques for upperclassmen. Ms. Wilson studied at the Rhode Island School of Design. She has designed textiles for several notable fashion designers, including Marc Jacobs and Calvin Klein, and created custom performance outfits for artists such as Kesha and Lady Gaga.

As part of the course, students designed and built a final project utilizing their new skills. “My goal is for every student to walk away with a piece of textile art—whether it be functional design, fine art, or some combination of the two—for their portfolio,” said Ms. Wilson. Several students designed their own garments and presented them in a fashion show at the end of the semester. others experimented with the sculptural and abstract, like in the works pictured here. In the future, Ms. Wilson hopes to teach students how to work with textiles in Photoshop. The weaving machines were purchased with donations to HSPVA Friends. With your support, the Visual Arts Department can continue to bring in experts like Ms. Wilson and purchase specialized equipment to enrich and strengthen the curriculum.

This spring, the Concert Dancers and the Chamber Orchestra collaborated to present Appalachian Spring, one of the great masterworks of the 20th century! Blakeley White-McGuire, former soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company, set excerpts from Graham’s seminal choreography on the dancers. The Chamber Orchestra accompanied the dancers with Aaron Copland’s orchestral suite, which earned him the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for Music. In the early 1940s, Graham and Copland intended Appalachian Spring to be their contribution to the war effort. They wrote a series of letters to each other detailing their thoughts and inspirations. In Kinder HSPVA’s performance, Carson McHugh (Dance ’25) selected excerpts from these letters between movements to help the audience understand the full context of this quintessentially American ballet, a celebration of marriage, love, and American optimism and hope.

The Copland/Graham Project allowed the dancers and musicians to perform works by pioneers in their fields. It also provided essential practice dancing to live music and accompanying a live movement piece. HSPVA Friends provided the rights for the music and choreography, which included costumes from the Martha Graham Dance Company and Ms. White-McGuire’s residency. Donors like you continue to make multi-faceted professional experiences like this possible!

HSPVA Friends hosted its 12th annual Encore Luncheon, American artist, on Friday, March 2, 2018. Each year, this event honors an alumnus who has achieved extraordinary success. This year, guests celebrated the 2018 Distinguished Alumna, Susan Choi (Theatre ’86). Choi is the author of four novels, including American Woman, which was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize. In 2010, she was named the inaugural recipient of the PEN/W.O. 1962, while her most recent novel, My Education, received a 2014 Lammey Award. An alumnus of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, she currently teaches fiction writing at Yale and NYU.

Andrea White, novelist and member of the Houston Chronicle editorial board, interviewed Choi about her career and the workshop she helped foster. Choi also stopped by school for a masterclass with freshmen and sophomore Creative Writing students.

Event Chairs Julia and Thomas Pascal Will Robinson filled the ballroom of the Marriott Marquis—just two blocks away from Kinder HSPVA’s new downtown campus—with student performances from the 1st Broadway musical, Hamilton, and Dear Evan Hansen and a bevy of Kinder HSPVA supporters. Houston’s 2017 Youth Poet Laureate, Fareena Arif (Creative Writing ’18), shared inspiring words about her poetry and her school: “HSPVA, like most of America, is a beautiful melting pot. There are kids from all over Houston who come here to practice their art. We’re all very different, but we’re united by this idea that we all want to create something new.”
CURRENT FACULTY/STUDENTS: The YoungArts Foundation recognized 14 Kinder HSPVA students and alumni this year. Joshua Green (Instrumental ’18), Tyler Henderson (Instrumental ’19), Nicholas Yoser (Visual ’18), and Joshua Wyatt (Theatre ’18) represented Kinder HSPVA at YoungArts Week in Miami. Gus Allen (Instrumental ’19), Christian Burga (Instrumental ’17), Benjamin Byrd (Instrumental ’18), Jonathan Jalbert (Instrumental ’19), Kate Kortum (Instrumental ’19), Cathy Le (Visual ’19), and Mogi Taylor-Shieman (Instrumental ’20) received honorable mentions. Herman Carvajal (Visual ’18), Bryant Hunter (Instrumental ’17), and Elena Negron (Creative Writing ’18) received merit awards. Mogi Taylor-Shieman (Instrumental ’20) and Gus Allen (Instrumental ’18) were selected to the 2018 GRAMMY Camp Jazz Session Big Band. Theatre students were Theatrical Design winners for the 2018 GRAMMY Camp Jazz Session Big Band. Theatre students were Theatrical Design winners, including Hunter (Instrumental ’19), and Harry O’Donnell (Theatre ’13) joined the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre as a company member.

ALUMNI OF THE 90S

Stephanie Wittlete Wach (Theatre’99) was shot in the head by a deranged Emmett Till impersonator in 1998. Wach was a founding member of the Chicago branch of the Southside Community Cultural Center, and she was also featured in the HBO documentary “The Central Park Five.” She went on to become a successful film and television actress, known for her portrayal of Kathleen彩 (Vocal ’93) was featured in the main show at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center. Chandra Wilson (Theatre ’87) performed the opening number of Houston’s Houston Grand Opera. She was named Outstanding Female Television Performer by the Hollywood Radio and Television Society in 2018.

ALUMNI OF THE 80S

Dionne Steenman (Theatre ’88) premiered her new play, “In the Plex,” at the NXavirus theater festival in New York City. She later joined the cast of “Hedwig and the Angry Inch” on Broadway.

ALUMNI OF THE 70S

Mark Siskind (Media ’77) released a book—“Mark Siskind Photographs”—featuring some of his most iconic images. Sue Schroeder (Dance ’75), a founder and artistic director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, was named to the National Advisory Board of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

IN MEMORIAM

Ronald Byars (Visual ’79), Chayna Tinterow (Visual ’78), and Samantha Wiggins Banks (Theatre ’77) are also featured in this section.

Johannes Milson (Theatre ’10) made his Broadway debut as a swing in A.B. BCF: The Musical. Laura Gutierrez (Dance ’05) performed her new site-specific work, “Center Stage,” at a Fiesta supermarket in Houston as part of Coalesce’s 10th Annual Spaghetti Supper. Julia Kosin (Theatre ’00) starred in No Shit at Houston’s Miller Outdoor Theatre. The show also featured Logan Kester (Dance ’05) and Tobias Rittling (Dance ’23).

ALUMNI OF THE 00S

Maurice McGarvey’s “Theatre” (2002) short film, shot in New York City, was selected for the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. The film was featured on the Today Show and was later distributed by Peabody Award-winning production company, Elephant Pictures. The film was also featured in the 2003 San Francisco International Film Festival and received critical acclaim. In 2006, McGarvey was named a Fellow at the Sundance Institute. In 2008, he was appointed as the artist-in-residence at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where he continues to teach and perform.

2018-2019 HSPVA Friends Community Events

OCTOBER 13
Visual Arts Middle School Workshop

OCTOBER 19
47th Annual Spaghetti Supper

OCTOBER 30
Visual Arts Middle School Workshop

NOVEMBER 3
Vocal Middle School Workshop

NOVEMBER 10
Dance Middle School Workshop

DECEMBER
Creative Writing Middle School Workshop

DECEMBER 2
Theatre Middle School Workshop

FEBRUARY 11
 Encore Luncheon

APRIL 6
Art Guild Print Show

APRIL 18
Theatre Guild Gala

All proceeds benefit the Kinder HSPVA curriculum. Visit www.hspvafriends.org for more information!
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You have helped give Kinder HSPVA students an exemplary artistic experience.

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Epiphany // 2017 - 2018
12

Epiphany // 2017 - 2018
13
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Read more about the design process and watch the reveal video created by Alexa Halim (Dance ’23) and Elena Marra (Theatre ’18) at hspvafriends.org!
A Fond Farewell to 4001 Stanford Street

On Sunday, May 20, 2018, alumni, current students, faculty, and families past and present, reunited for the Montrose Campus Block Party, a farewell celebration to HSPVA’s home for almost four decades. HSPVA Friends unlocked every classroom and closet door, and guests took an emotional trip down memory lane! Renowned faculty members Pat Bonner, Mary Martha Lappe, Eileen Montgomery, Dr. Bob “Doc” Morgan, and David Sheard recounted the move from the original campus to Montrose and their favorite classroom memories. Barry Moore, the architect of the Montrose campus, and Kimberly Hickson, one of the architects of the new downtown campus, compared designing an arts high school then and now. And HSPVA alumni who returned to work at HSPVA—Julia Hall (Vocal ‘77) and Warren Sneed (Instrumental ’78), pictured here, plus Isela Aguirre (Visual ’95), Alene Haehl Coggin (Theatre ’05), Matt Hune (Theatre ’03), Matthew Jamison (Theatre ’10), Courtney Jones (Dance ’99), Mekeva McNeil (Theatre ’96), and David Waddell (Visual ’99)—played a rousing HSPVA-themed game of Never Have I Ever!

Sculptor Patrick Renner (Visual ’00) was on site to help guests paint the wood slats that will form one of the art installations and donor recognition walls for Kinder HSPVA. HSPVA’s 2018 Student Council Art Committee also premiered their video “Montrose Memories,” featuring students, alumni, and faculty describing what makes the Montrose campus such a special place.

Watch the video at www.hspvafriends.org/montrosememories

HSPVA Friends Mission

The mission of HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to cultivate support for Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in order to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for current and future students of Kinder HSPVA. Each year, HSPVA Friends provides critical funding for the art areas and school-wide programs, as well as financial aid for students and faculty to attend workshops, national conferences, and competitions.