



Brooklyn High School of the Arts

Newsletter

Mission Statement

Brooklyn High School of the Arts (BHSA) is a unique place to learn about the built environment, through historic buildings and landmarks while concentrating in one of the schools five strands including Preservation Arts; Fine Arts; Choral; Band; and Dance. BHSA is a place to:

- Collaborate with future preservation artisans, architects, artists, historians, dancers, and musicians.
- Learn from and study with visionaries, creative thinkers and innovators.
- Meet spirited students working alongside skilled artisans, conservators, architects, preservationists, dancers and musicians.
- Join a creative community filled with vitality, inspiration and enthusiasm for the arts.
- Celebrate a rich and diverse heritage.
- Build a bright and productive future.

Principal's column—Robert Finley, Principal

With the year well underway, I'd like to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to making the BHSA so successful in a relatively short time. We are very proud of our achievements to date and will continue to strive for excellence. Our successes would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our faculty, staff, the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Center for Architecture and Building Science Research, the World Monuments Fund, former Councilman Ken Fisher, and the generosity of the extended preservation community. Recent highlights include:

- Receiving national press coverage in [Forum News](#), newsletter of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in the November/December 2002 issue. Call the office for copies.
- Awarding BHSA with the Certificate of Merit from the Municipal Art Society of New York, one of the City's premier arts organizations.
- Forming an alliance with the Fashion Institute of Technology (part of the State University of New York), enabling BHSA graduates in the Preservation Arts program to enter FIT in a two-year Associates Degree program, leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Objects Conservation. Scholarship funds will be available to those meeting the criteria.

These are just some of the exciting programs we are working on, and you'll find details in this newsletter.

Top 10 Reasons to sign up and study Preservation Arts Technology at BHSA:

1. Invest in your future by studying an exciting combination of art and technology, as taught by expert professionals.
2. Sign up for paid summer internships.
3. Qualify for the Fashion Institute of Technology's (FIT) "Saturday Live Program," a weekly learning laboratory in the preservation arts.
4. Receive preferred enrollment at FIT's new Associate Degree Program, "Craftsmanship for Restoration", leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Objects Preservation.
5. Become part of the Preservation Trades Network, a professional network for job leads and other opportunities among likeminded artisans.
6. Learn about scholarship funding available for these academic programs.
7. Go on regularly scheduled field trips to architecturally significant places and historic sites.
8. Experience and learn hands-on techniques with stone, brick, iron, wood, plaster and glass materials.
9. Learn how buildings are designed and built, why they stand up and why they fall down.
10. Give something back to your community that will last a lifetime and improve our City.

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Inside this issue:

<i>What's New</i>	2
<i>Preservation Arts Technology</i>	3
<i>BHSA-FIT Alliance Formed</i>	3
<i>BHSA Students in the Field</i>	3
<i>Field Trips</i>	4

Summer Internship Program 2002

The BHSA Summer Internship program expanded to over 20 site sponsors and students ranging in work from stone works to architects, the municipal archives and historic house museums.

A wrap up session was held in November to discuss the summer 2002 and prepare for summer 2003.



Student Intern, Kenny Rivera, cleaning mortar at City Parks Foundation Monuments Restoration as part of his summer internship in 2002



Robert Finley, Principal (2nd from left) and Kate Burns Ottavino, Dir. Preservation Tech. NJIT Center for Architecture & Bldg. Science Research (4th from left) accept Certificate of Merit from

What's New

BHSA Receives Award from Municipal Art Society of New York

The Board of Directors of the Municipal Art Society (MAS) of New York awarded the Brooklyn High School of the Arts (BHSA) the Society's Certificate of Merit, on June 19, 2002, in Lower Manhattan. The Award was presented to Robert Finley, BHSA Principal, and Kate Burns Ottavino, Director, Preservation Technology at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Center for Architecture and Building Science Research.

The Certificate of Merit declares: "Brooklyn High School of the Arts (BHSA): *As the first high school in the country to include historic preservation in their curriculum, BHSA is shaping a new generation of artisans, architects, contractors, artists, historians and preservationists. The preservation-based curriculum is presented by the study of buildings and landmarks-from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Bronx Zoo. We salute the opportunity BHSA gives students to work and learn under the guidance of experts, using the entire city as their classroom.*"



Senator Hillary Clinton speaking at Weeksville Groundbreaking in Fall 2002

BHSA Students Perform at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Historic Hunterfly Road Houses Restoration (Weeksville)

On October 19, BHSA students sang the "Stars Spangled Banner" at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Historic Hunterfly Road Houses Restoration (Weeksville). "Weeksville" is the benchmark that 9th grade students are studying at BHSA in the Preservation Arts 9th grade class taught by Linda Littlefield. Notables in attendance at the groundbreaking included Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Joan Maynard, Executive Director Emeritus, The Weeksville Society; Hon. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President; Hon. Lewis Fidler, Chair, Brooklyn Delegation, NYC Council; Dr. Arlee Griffin Jr., Berean Missionary Baptist Church; Chris Owens, Chair, Board of Trustees, The Weeksville Society; and Weeksville Executive Director, Pamela E. Green. Mrs. Lydia Irby, Community Liaison arranged for the students to attend.



BHSA students sing under direction of Ms. Charlene Corbett at Weeksville Groundbreaking Ceremony in October 2002.

Weeksville is an historic settlement of free African Americans. It was founded in 1838 in Brooklyn, New York and rediscovered in the 1960's. Four small farmhouses dating from 1840 to 1883 are all that remain of a once vibrant and self-sufficient community which served as home to craftsmen, laborers, ministers, teachers, and others, including the first woman African American physician in New York State and the first African American police officer in the 9th Ward of Brooklyn. During the violent draft riots of 1863 the community served as a refuge for hundreds of African Americans who fled Manhattan. The houses were designated as New York City landmarks in 1970 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Weeksville Society has a special program with the BHSA and numerous outreach programs in the community. For those who would like to learn more about Weeksville you may visit to their website at www.weeksvillesociety.org.



Craftsman demonstrates woodworking to participating BHSA students at Preservation Trades Network in Spring 2002

Preservation Trades Network (PTN)

The Preservation Trades Network invited BHSA 10th graders participated in an event held at Floyd Bennett Field in Spring 2002. Students took part in the timber framing demonstration and helped restore the Floyd Bennett Field Tower. The school band participated in the opening ceremonies, held in a large airport hangar.

The Preservation Arts Technology Major at BHSA

In Fall 2002, 75 students signed up for a double major at BHSA, one of which is in the Preservation Arts. These students will take a four-year sequence of Preservation Arts Technology (PAT) courses in addition to the Preservation Arts interdisciplinary curriculum and internship program followed by all students. The PAT courses include:

- Ninth and tenth grade courses focus on an overview of historic preservation, including what, why and how we preserve our built environment.
- Eleventh and twelfth grade Preservation Arts Technology (PAT) courses cover building trades, materials and technologies used in America from the 1600's until World War II

At the end of the four-year PAT program, students will have gained an understanding of the materials and methods used to build and preserve historic buildings, monuments and objects. This will be achieved through academic classroom work, hands-on exercises, field trips to significant architectural and historic sites, and through internship opportunities. These courses were developed by NJIT for the NYC Dept. of Education and were funded in part through the generous support of the World Monuments Fund. The four-year internship program in PAT is only open to students enrolled in the PAT program. This is a six-week summer program sponsored by the Youth Employment Program, allowing students a paid opportunity for working in the historic preservation field. Enrolling in the Preservation Arts Program is the first step on this path to success. Forms are available through the BHSA administrative office.

BHSA-FIT Alliance Formed: Provides long term college, internships, and career Enhancements for PAT majors

In June 2002, Dr. Joyce Brown, [President of the Fashion Institute of Technology \(FIT\)](#), announced the design of a new college degree program at FIT, available to BHSA graduates who complete all four years of course work in the BHSA Preservation Arts Technology Program. The [new FIT](#) program, a Manhattan-based campus of the State University of New York (SUNY), will offer a two year Associates Degree leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Objects Conservation. As an added benefit, scholarship funds will be made available to BHSA graduates with a Career Technical Education (CTE) endorsement in Preservation Arts Technology (PAT) on their diploma. The PAT program (one of five strands in the school), extends from the high school classroom, college, to internships and beyond. To be eligible for admissions to FIT's new associates program, students must have completed and passed the ninth and tenth grade Preservation Arts classes, as a prerequisite to taking the eleventh and twelfth grade CTE/PAT course sequence.



BHSA students in Preservation Arts Technology 9th class's present at Weeksville for their final project



Example of student work in 10th grade Preservation Arts course. Students used Greenwood Cemetery as the benchmark and did cartoons as one of the assignments

Preservation Arts is the name for all the disciplines that comprise the preservation industry in the service of historic preservation, including building trade artisans for stone, wood, glass, metal, brick, etc., architects, conservators, engineers, historians, product manufacturers and material scientists. Quote by Kate Burns Ottavino, Director Preservation Technology, NJIT Center for Architecture and Building Science Research

Summer Intern Video: BHSA Students in the Field

A video documenting the summer 2001 experience of BHSA students has been produced. The film begins with an introduction from BHSA Principal Robert Finley and features segments with student interns in the field including



Kerry Paul who interned at the St. Ann's Center for Restoration in the Stained Glass Studio with St. Ann's Director, David Fraser



Chris DeLaCruz who interned at the A. Ottavino Corp. Stone Works



Filana Turner who interned at John D. Nakrosis Associates, Inc



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Field Trips

Visiting significant architectural landmarks is an integral part of learning about the environment around us. Students study about places and faces in the classroom, but walking the corridors where history was made makes the past come alive, and inspires dreams of new possibilities. Field trips this year included major New York landmarks:

- **United Nations** -The 9th grade class visited the UN as part of their interdisciplinary project. Students saw artwork and diplomacy on display in the historic halls where treaties and global accords have been negotiated and signed.
- **Green-wood Cemetery, 10th grade PAT class Benchmark**
As part of the 10th grade Preservation Arts Technology class, students used the Green-wood Cemetery as the benchmark. The use of Benchmarks in the curriculum allow the students to view traditional subjects through the lens of historic preservation by focusing on a specific historic structure or artifact through which to study the elements of its creation, preservation, and interpretation. These structures or artifacts serve as the benchmark for the study of all aspects of a particular period and place. In the spring there was a school-wide event at Green-wood Cemetery complete with musical performance and art show. Parents and students attended.



Cloisters, 11th grade field trip. In fall 2002 11th grade PAT students visited the Cloisters as part of their studies in Global History



9TH Grade students visited the United Nations, which is a benchmark in the Preservation Arts 9th grade curriculum



Kate Burns Ottavino, Director NJIT Preservation Technology demonstrates scale with student at one of the Green-Wood mausoleums

BHSA Faculty and Staff – Fall 2002

Robert Finley, Principal
 Jan Lattey, Principal's Secretary
 Ann Mary Vorvolakos, APO/Payroll Secretary
 John Reedy, A.P.O.
 Mauro Bressi, A.P.S.
 Denise Fagella, Esq. Coordinator of Guidance Services, UFT Representative
 David Kosoff, Guidance Counselor
 Lydia Irby, Community Liaison
 Helene Harris, CSW—Social Worker
 Sakal Abdekekazis, Teacher—Attendance
 Leonard Bennett, Teacher Res. Room
 Dana Ben-Ari, English
 Catherine Cabeza, Phys. Ed.
 Charlene Corbett, Music
 Gill Cornell, English
 Carol Covington-Hampton, Math
 Wendy DelValle, Biology
 Peter Duncanson, Science
 Jaime Fabara, Spanish
 Michael Fishenfeld, Math
 Lara Hill, Art
 Patricia King, Math
 Herman Kolender, English
 Jill Levine, Art
 Linda Littlefield, Preservation Arts
 Collin Marcus, Science
 Andrew Martir, Social Studies
 Salimah McCallum, English
 Deborah Olsen, Librarian
 John Scandone, Music
 James Tarangelo, Social Studies
 Melissa Vaughan-Tawfiq, Dance
 S. Aisha Vaughn, History
 Joseph Rottkamp, Custodian
 Esther Negron, Dietician
 Makrina Dekeles, Ed. Para
 Melissa Arellano, Aide
 Annette Beard, Switchboard Aide
 Liz Gamble, Health Aide
 Shelda Ray, Family Para
 James Moore, School Aide
 Anna French, Weeksville Archives
 Karen Millard, UFT Teachers' Center