



Regional Board Meeting
September 27, 2023

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approve Minutes: May 24, 2023
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Presentation from the Instrumental Music Department
- VI. Closed Session
- VII. Reports
 - a. Financial Report.....Dr. Cihak
 - i. Revenue
 - ii. Expenditures
 - b. School Report.....Dr. Cihak
 - i. Opening Day 2021 and Celebrations
 - ii. 2022-2023 Enrollment Update
 - iii. Recruiting and Audition Plan
 - iv. Performance Calendar
 - v. Introduction of New Staff
 - vi. Facility Update
 - c. Foundation Report.....Foundation Representative
- VIII. Unfinished Business
 - a. Ratification of Financial Report from the May 24, 2023, Meeting
- IX. New Business
 - a. Actions of Leadership Acting Between Meetings
 - b. Additional Overnight Field Trip
 - c. Approval of Foundation Board Member(s).....Foundation Representative
- X. Items by Board Members
- XI. Adjournment



REGIONAL BOARD MEETING May 24, 2023

MINUTES

The Regional Board of The Governor's School for the Arts met at SECEP offices and virtually on May 24, 2023. Attending the meeting were:

Regional Board Members In Person

Mr. Robert Holt	Franklin
Mr. Michael Cunningham	Isle of Wight
Mr. Carlos Clanton, Chair	Norfolk

Regional Board Members Virtual

Ms. Kim Melnyk	Virginia Beach
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Superintendents In Person

Dr. Jared Cotton	Chesapeake
Dr. Elie Bracy	Portsmouth
Dr. John Gordon III	Suffolk

Superintendents Virtual

Dr. Theo Cramer	Isle of Wight
Dr. Sharon Byrdsong	Norfolk
Dr. Lorena Kelly, Executive Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning	Virginia Beach

GSA Staff In Person

Dr. Shelly Cihak	Executive Director
Ms. Deborah Thorpe	Assistant Director
Ms. Kristen Outlaw Hartman	Office Manager

GSA Instructors and Students In Person

Mr. Steve Earle	Theatre & Film Department Chair
Ms. Shelly Milam Ratliff	Vocal Music Department
Jayden Adams-Ruiz (Norfolk)	Theatre & Film
Faith Woodberry-Crisp (Chesapeake)	Vocal Music
Mary Reins (Virginia Beach)	Vocal Music

Public Comment on Proposed FY24 Budget

None.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Clanton at 11:08 a.m.

Roll Call

Attendance was taken by Dr. Cihak.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections of the minutes for March 29, 2023. Mr. Clanton stated that the minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comment

None.

New Business

As Ms. Melnyk was virtual and may have had to leave, Mr. Clanton moved new business to insure a quorum.

FY24 Operational Budget: Dr. Cihak presented the proposed FY24 Operational Budget, explaining that is built on a state entitlement from 355 students (as anticipated enrollment is submitted a year in advance to VDOE) and local tuition amounts based on an enrollment of 382. If all accepted and current students attend in the fall, enrollment will be at 405, representing an increase in state entitlement funds from what is budgeted. The anticipated expenses were presented with step increase for staff, in line with the proposed budget of Norfolk Public Schools. Expenses also included the addition of a part-time security officer (approved by the Regional Board at the March meeting) and an additional FTE as associate chair for Visual Arts. The proposed revenue and expenses balance at \$3,336,406.00, with no money required from reserve funds. The Board of Superintendents recommended acceptance of the proposed budget.

Mr. Holt moved to accept the budget. Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Overnight Field Trips for 2023-2024: Dr. Cihak presented proposed overnight field trips for the 2023-2024 school year. The trips include an Instrumental Music east coast tour, Chantilly Jazz Festival, All-Virginia Orchestra events, NYC trips for Theatre & Film, Visual Arts, and Vocal Music. Dr. Cihak reminded the Board that they had previously approved the October 2023 goodwill tour to Japan for Musical Theatre. The Committee of Superintendents recommended approval of the proposed trips.

Mr. Holt moved to approve the overnight field trips and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Meetings for 2023-2024: Dr. Cihak shared the dates approved by the SECEP Board for 2023-2024 meetings.

September 27, 2023

March 27, 2024

January 24, 2024

May 22, 2024

Dr. Cihak requested to keep the GSA meetings aligned with SECEP. The Committee of Superintendents recommended the proposed meeting dates.

Mr. Holt moved to approve the proposed meeting dates and Mr. Cunningham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Foundation Board Member(s): None

Presentation by Dance and Visual Arts Departments

Dr. Cihak introduced Jayden Adams-Ruiz, a fourth-year Theatre and Film senior from Maury High School in Norfolk. Jayden performed two monologues from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In the fall, Jayden will be pursuing a BFA in Stage and Screen Acting at University of Southern California. He described his time at GSA as being surrounded by passionate students, driven teachers, an artistic community, and family.

Dr. Cihak introduced Faith Woodberry-Crisp. Faith is a Vocal Music second-year senior from Deep Creek High School in Chesapeake. Faith sang "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*. Faith will be attending UNC School of the Arts on a full scholarship.

Dr. Cihak introduced third-year senior from Virginia Beach, Mary Reins. Mary spoke of her time as a Vocal Music student. She said that the GSA community made it hard to fall through the cracks. The Vocal Music department provides a level of instruction that has produced alumni that have sung at the Metropolitan Opera. She noted that GSA students receive professional-level instruction provided with public school funding. Mary will be attending Eastman School of Music.

Mr. Holt commented, "Wow! Congratulations."

Closed Session

None

Reports

Financial Report

Revenue: Referring to the May 16, 2023, revenue report, Dr. Cihak noted that it reflects the additional state entitlement funds allocated at the March 29, 2023, meeting, and reminded that Board that the report reflects an additional \$31,218 of unbudgeted funds to support the one-time bonuses to staff.

Operational Budget Expenditures: Dr. Cihak shared that the May 16, 2023, expenditure report includes encumbrances carried over from FY2, representing the differential between the original appropriations for FY23 and the estimated revisions, and that these encumbrances have been paid out. Additionally, Dr. Cihak explained that an error was found in an employee's salary from when they were entered into the system, resulting in approximately \$11,000 of back pay from the last three years.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the financial report, which was seconded by Mr. Holt. The report was accepted unanimously. Mr. Clanton noted that this decision will need to be ratified at the September meeting, as Ms. Melnyk needed to leave the meeting prior to the vote.

School Report

Fourth Quarter Review and Celebrations: Dr. Cihak shared that students are participating in numerous master classes through partnership with the Virginia Arts Festival. Dr. Cihak also shared the success of Theatre & Film's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Film Festival, and delivery of documentary films to NOVA at PBS. Dance had their Spring Concert in which all 86 students participated. Vocal Music produced their senior capstone recital. Also, Alan Fischer, former Vocal Music Department Chair, came in to stage their opera scenes. Visual Arts opened the 35th Annual Juried Art Show which features 2D, 3D and digital art. Also, Visual Art students swept the Emerging Artists awards at the Stockley Gardens Spring Art Festival. The Instrumental Music Jazz students were showcased at the Chantilly Jazz Festival and had their Spring Jazz Concert at the Zeider's American Dream Theatre. Musical Theatre will be opening *Into the Woods* on May 25th. They will perform a cross for their fellow students on May 26. Also on May 26, students from Dance, Theatre & Film, and Visual Arts will be heading to New York. Upcoming events include the Instrumental Music Spring Concert on June 1st, GSA Graduation on June 8th and New Student Orientation on June 12th.

Mr. Clanton asked what summer events are planned. Dr. Cihak shared that there will be Instrumental Music Woodwinds Camps, Visual Arts Camps, Vocal Music Workshops, and drop-in dance classes. Additionally, GSA will be hosting VSC theatre camps, TRS Kids, Coastal Broadway Collective, and a Richmond Ballet Intensive.

Foundation Report

Ms. Thorpe shared that the GSA Foundation had raised \$300,000 and awarded 85% of it to the departments. These funds have been used to purchase, lighting, curtains, a harpsichord, a harp, a clarinet, and two trumpets. A grant has been submitted for building expansion and we are waiting to hear back.

Mr. Clanton said that the new budget should be well-received at the upcoming Foundation meeting.

Unfinished Business

None.

Items by Board Members

Mr. Clanton inquired if the door security upgrades were included in the FY24 budget. Dr. Cihak explained that they were allocated from the additional FY23 state entitlement, as approved at the March Board meeting.

Mr. Clanton noted that he has signed on to three Virginia Opera productions and is looking forward to speaking with the GSA Vocal Music department.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m. by Mr. Clanton

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

**FY24 Operational Budget
Summary of Revenue**

September 19, 2023

Revenues	FY23	YTD
Anticipated State Entitlement for 355 students*	\$1,571,542.00	\$259,315.16
State Technology	\$26,000.00	\$0.00
Fund Transfer	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuition**	\$1,738,864.00	\$0.00
Education Stabalization Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$3,336,406.00	\$0.00

*Based Upon Anticipated Enrollment Submitted September 30, 2022.

**Funding 382 students for FY24.

**The Governor's School for the Arts
Operational Budget Expenses for FY24
Financial Report As Of September 19, 2023**

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY24 BUDGET ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	ENCUMBERED TO DATE	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% EXPENDED ENCUMBERED AS OF 9/19/2023
1110	Administrative Salary	\$ 238,201.00	\$ 238,201.00	\$28,297.52	\$0.00	\$209,903.48	11.90%
1120	Teachers: Contracted	\$ 695,238.00	\$ 695,238.00	\$33,200.36	\$0.00	\$662,037.64	4.80%
1121	Teachers: Hourly Salary	\$ 637,000.00	\$ 637,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$637,000.00	0.00%
1150	Clerical Salary	\$ 83,112.00	\$ 83,112.00	\$10,408.46	\$0.00	\$72,703.54	12.50%
1621	Stipends	\$ 11,300.00	\$ 14,800.00	\$291.66	\$0.00	\$14,508.34	2.00%
2100	Social Security	\$ 127,382.00	\$ 127,382.00	\$5,549.34	\$0.00	\$121,832.66	4.40%
2210	VRS Retirement	\$ 89,748.00	\$ 89,748.00	\$7,779.94	\$0.00	\$81,968.06	8.70%
2220	VRS Retirement - Hybrid	\$ 81,091.00	\$ 81,091.00	\$4,281.10	\$0.00	\$76,809.90	5.30%
2300	Health Insurance	\$ 154,393.00	\$ 154,393.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$154,393.00	0.00%
2400	VRS Group Life	\$ 13,779.00	\$ 13,779.00	\$967.44	\$0.00	\$12,811.56	7.00%
2510	VLDP Disability-Hybrid	\$ 4,802.00	\$ 4,802.00	\$119.34	\$0.00	\$4,682.66	2.50%
2750	VRS Retiree Healthcare	\$ 12,443.00	\$ 12,443.00	\$873.60	\$0.00	\$11,569.40	7.00%
2800	Terminal Leave Payment	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
3000	Contracts	\$ 298,800.00	\$ 329,710.00	\$33,777.83	\$138,092.30	\$157,839.87	52.10%
3117	Equip Maint Contract	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$7.48	\$0.00	\$492.52	1.50%
5110	Electricity	\$ 33,400.00	\$ 33,400.00	\$4,091.07	\$25,417.81	\$3,891.12	88.30%
5120	Natural Gas	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 2,950.00	\$103.25	\$778.49	\$2,068.26	29.90%
5130	Water	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$810.28	\$1,521.69	\$1,868.03	55.50%
5250	Postage/Courier	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$27.84	\$0.00	\$772.16	3.50%
5260	Telephone	\$ 22,700.00	\$ 22,700.00	\$3,571.00	\$18,100.00	\$1,029.00	95.50%
5300	Insurance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$7,437.00	\$0.00	\$563.00	93.00%
5400	Leases/Rentals	\$ 620,568.00	\$ 620,568.00	\$267,949.46	\$319,309.46	\$33,309.08	94.60%
5501	Local Travel	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$555.50	\$0.00	\$25,444.50	2.10%
5550	Staff Development	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$135.23	\$0.00	\$2,864.77	4.50%
6000	Supplies	\$ 119,999.00	\$ 116,499.00	\$3,908.18	\$0.00	\$112,590.82	3.40%
6040	Technology	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$83.40	\$0.00	\$17,916.60	0.50%
8200	Equipment Additions	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,676.98	\$5,323.02	79.50%
		\$3,336,406.00	\$3,367,316.00	\$414,226.28	\$523,896.73	\$2,429,192.99	27.90%

GSA Demographic and Gender Comparisons 2023-2024

Division	Asian	Black/ African American	White	Hispanic	American Indian	Two or More	Pacific Islander	Grand Total	Total POC	% POC	Self Identifies Female	Self Identifies Male	Self Identifies Non-Binary
Chesapeake*	1146	12870	17627	4469	106	3369	3369	42956	25329	59%	60.20%	31.18%	8.60%
GSA Chesapeake	6	22	60	6	1	7	0	102	42	41%	72%	25%	3%
Isle of Wight*	60	1365	3299	280	12	371	9	5396	2097	39%	58%	29%	13%
GSA Isle of Wight	1	4	15	1	0	1	0	22	7	32%	73%	27%	0%
Norfolk*	562	16,312	5,785	3,275	97	1,844	80	27,955	22,170	79%	60.32%	28.57%	11.11%
GSA Norfolk	1	12	39	2	0	8	0	62	23	37%	73%	24%	3%
Portsmouth*	94	9,736	2340	558	52	567	48	13,395	11,055	83%	76.19%	14.29%	9.52%
GSA Portsmouth	0	13	6	0	0	3	0	22	16	73%	82%	18%	0%
Southampton*	5	1,050	1418	47	3	77	10	2,610	1,192	46%	33.33%	50%	16.67%
GSA Southampton	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	7	2	29%	71%	29%	0%
Suffolk*	213	7,801	4120	826	40	848	826	14,674	10,554	72%	64.86%	24.32%	10.81%
GSA Suffolk	1	21	13	2	0	4	0	41	28	68%	66%	32%	2%
Virginia Beach*	4,150	15,412	30,284	8,445	152	6,836	333	65,612	35,328	54%	69.34%	21.90%	8.76%
GSA Virginia Beach	6	18	82	9	1	22	2	140	58	41%	74%	24%	3%
TOTAL GSA	15	92	220	20	2	45	2	396	176	44%	72%	25%	3%

*Division demographics based upon 2021-2022 data from VDOE. Per VDOE, they are unable to provide 2022-2023 data at this time.

Enrollment Date with Comparison					
Locality	2022-23 Enrollment	2022-2023 Allotment		2023-2024 Enrollment	2023-2024 Allotment
Chesapeake	91	80		102	90
Franklin	2	1		0*	1
Isle of Wight	23	22		22	23
Norfolk	60	54		62	60
Portsmouth	19	24		22	24
Southampton	6	7		7	7
Suffolk	37	27		41	35
Virginia Beach	134	140		140**	142
TOTAL	372	355		256	382

*Franklin student withdrew during second week of school.

**Two VB students withdrew during second week of school. One Suffolk student is moving to VB in October.



Audition Timeline 2023-2024

Tuesday, September 26, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 7:00pm (Suffolk)
Thursday, September 28, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 7:00pm (Chesapeake)
Tuesday, October 3, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 6:30 pm (Virginia Beach)
October 4, 2023	St. Patricks' Catholic School Fair 6pm -7:30pm
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 6:30 pm (Norfolk)
Thursday, October 12, 2023	Administrator, Counselor, GRT Open House 1:30p-3:30p
Thursday, October 12, 2023	VB Academy Night, 5pm to 8pm
Tuesday, October 17, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 6:30pm (Portsmouth)
Wednesday, October 18, 2023	The Williams School Fair 7pm
Wednesday, October 18, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 7:00pm (Isle of Wight)
TBA	In person visit to Franklin MS/Southampton
Thursday, October 19, 2023	Virtual Meet GSA 7:00pm (Southampton/Franklin)
Wednesday, October 25, 2023	Open House 6:00pm- 8:00pm
Friday, December 8, 2023	Application Deadline
Wednesday, January 3, 2024	Send Intent Form to Current 9 th -11 th students
Thursday, January 11, 2024	First Round Decisions Completed
Saturday, January 20, 2024	<u>Second Round auditions (No VBCPS):</u> Visual Arts 9am-5pm (15 min per/2-3 rooms) Instrumental Music 9am-5pm (15 min per) Dance 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm (organize by District- 30 max per)
Saturday, January 27, 2024 (Dance has a concert this day)	Visual Arts 9am-5pm (15 min per/2-3 rooms) Instrumental Music 9am-5pm (15 min per) Jazz 9am-12pm (15 min per) Musical Theatre 1pm-5pm Theatre Acting 9am-12pm (10 min per) Film 1pm-5pm (15 min per) Tech Theatre 9am-12pm (15 min per) Vocal Music 9am-5pm (5 per hour, each group stays one hour) Dance (for VBCPS) 9am to 12pm
Saturday, February 3, 2024	Visual Arts 9am-5pm (15 min per/2-3 rooms) Dance Call backs 1p-5p Theatre Call Backs Design/Tech Call Backs General Back up day/outlying candidates
Saturday, February 10, 2024	General Make up Day
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	Final Selections due to Shelly & Deborah
Thursday, February 29, 2024	Decision letters sent



Felecia Baker grew up in Chesapeake, Va and began her dance training at Academie de Ballet. She continued her training throughout high school with the Governor's School for the Arts in Norfolk, Va. She spent her summers training with American Ballet Theater and Richmond Ballet. Felecia spent three seasons with the Charlottesville Ballet and moved to Memphis in 2017, where she danced with Ballet Memphis. While at Ballet Memphis she danced principal roles such as Clara in the Nutcracker and Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. She also performed George Balanchine's Square Dance and original work choreographed by Trey McIntyre. Felecia is currently teaching ballet and pointe at Academie de Ballet and the Governor's School for the Arts. She is a certified GYROTONIC® Trainer and uses this methodology to aid in students' training. While teaching, she has performed Peasant Pas from Giselle and guested with Ballet Ashani under the direction of Iyun Harrison.



Jennifer Buchheit started dancing in the Hampton Roads area at the age of three with The Virginia Ballet Theatre and Eva May Morris School of Dance. Later she moved her dance studies to Tattercoats School of Dance. In high school she continued her training with the Governors School for the Arts, performing roles in many ballets including *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Jennifer received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Dance from Old Dominion University, where she was a recipient of the Eva May Morris Gregory dance scholarship. After moving to San Antonio, Jennifer became a company member with Ballet San Antonio and San Antonio Jazz Ensemble, performing in various productions, including *The Nutcracker* where she had the privilege of performing the role of Clara. Jennifer served as Artistic Director for Insight Dance Ensemble and Ballet Director for Trilogy Dance Center. Upon returning to Hampton Roads, she began teaching for various local studios. Currently, Jennifer lives on a Lavender Farm in Suffolk with her husband and their four boys. She looks forward to continuing her journey of mentoring and training young dancers in the Hampton Roads area



Ashley Carson is from Alabama, but has called Hampton Roads home since 2019. She received her BFA in Painting in 2007 and is currently exploring the crossroads of fine and applied art as a local sign painter and muralist. Heritage crafts passed through generational knowledge are disappearing and Ashley serves as an educational link in the chain of sign painting knowledge. Her passion for historical preservation and storytelling come together with custom hand drawn, hand painted signs. She assists as a community resource and technical sounding board for other public artists through local artists groups, community engagement projects and arts education. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, birdwatching, biking, and camping.

NEW GSA STAFF 2023-2024



Rita Addico Cohen immigrated to Norfolk, VA as a child from Accra, Ghana. She attended the University of VA on a full academic scholarship and graduated with a BA in Classical Music and received her Master of Music in Classical Voice Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She has fused her performing abilities, fluency in many languages, and innate fitness to become an international Zumba® and African Dance instructor, teaching thousands of kids and adults in her local Hampton Roads area and beyond. She is a multiple Presenter of the international Zumba Instructors Convention, where she was awarded Humanitarian of the Year in 2022. Ms. Addico Cohen has created several highly acclaimed avenues through which she shares her African culture with adults and children alike, using the arts, history, and language. She has created a 3-tier educational program that has placed her and the nonprofit she founded, Tidewater African Cultural Alliance (TACA), on the Teaching Roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Rita is excited to be joining the Dance faculty of the Governor's School of the Arts in the 2023-24 academic school year, and to broaden the students' Dance vocabulary through West African Dance.



Alexis Colner is the newly appointed principal harpist of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in Norfolk, Virginia. Before joining the ensemble in the 2023/24 season, Alexis appeared as guest principal harp with the Minnesota Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Omaha Symphony and has also performed in past seasons with the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Seattle Opera and Sarasota Orchestra. Alexis served as principal harpist of the Aspen Chamber Symphony in both the 2017 and 2018 summer seasons as a recipient of the Harp Fellowship. She has also spent summers at the Britt Music Festival, Artosphere, Spoleto Music Festival, Music Academy of the West and The Orchestra of the Americas. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from USC and a Master of Music in Harp Performance from The Juilliard School where she studied with New York Philharmonic principal harpist Nancy Allen.



Ashlyn Daniel started her dance training at a young age in Sitka, Alaska at Sitka Studio of Dance. Daniel left home for her senior year of high school to attend the contemporary dance program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). Ashlyn graduated from the high school program in 2018 and decided to stay at UNCSA for college to pursue her BFA. While training at school, she was given opportunities to explore choreography and perform several works such as Roaratorio by Merce Cunningham, A Choreographic Offering by José Limón, Chronicle by Martha Graham, and Battlefield by Robert Battle. Ashlyn's solo choreography, A Deal with Chaos, has been awarded the "Outstanding Choreographer Award" at the 2019 YAGP semi-finals in Winston-Salem. Since graduating in May of 2021, Ashlyn has performed with Todd Rosenlieb Dance for their past two seasons and has been spreading her love and passion for the art of dance with the next generation in both North Carolina and Virginia.



Justin Kauflin is an alum of GSA and is described by *The New York Times* as a “jazz pianist who favors a clarity of touch and ideas...his writing is balanced tempering post-bop intricacies with the assurances of the gospel church.” After losing his sight age 11, Kauflin gravitated towards playing jazz piano, despite having a background in classical violin & piano. He received top honors at jazz festivals across the U.S. and performing jazz professionally by age 14, most notably with the Jae Sinnett Trio. In 2008, he graduated summa cum laude from William Paterson University, NJ where he was taken under the tutelage of the legendary trumpeter, Clark Terry (winner of the 2010 Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement in Jazz) and performed in his ensemble. He continued to garner numerous awards such as the VSA International Young Soloist Award, selected as a semifinalist in the 2012 Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition, and voted “Jazz Artist of the Year” in VEER Magazine. Kauflin is featured in, as well as composed the film score for, the Oscar short-listed documentary, “Keep On Keepin’ On.” Justin Kauflin is signed for management by impresario and music icon, Quincy Jones, and is a Yamaha Artist.



Jason Kypros is a working actor, co-founder of Plan B Improv and the current spokesperson for the VA Lottery. After graduating from VA Tech with a BA he moved to Los Angeles where he began performing Stand Up Comedy. There he also completed the performance track curriculum at the one and only “Groundlings Improv Theatre”. Jason loves performing and he has been fortunate to do so on the Big Screen, the TV screen and the stage. Some of his favorite performances include, Richard Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Lt. Kaffee in *A Few Good Men*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Mr. Applegate in *Damn Yankees*. Now with 10 years of improv experience, 13 years as a stand-up comedian and 8 years running his own production company, Jason is ecstatic to be a part of the GSA team and looks forward to the opportunity to share some of his knowledge with others.



Bethany Mayo is a theater artist and teacher who comes to Norfolk by way of Des Moines, Kansas City, and Baltimore. She is an experienced performer who has worked on stages of all kinds and across the full spectrum of educational, volunteer, professional, and union theater. Her primary areas of expertise are in analysis and performance of Shakespeare and the development and implementation of Creative Dramatics, a mythology which uses theater skills to support reading comprehension. Her undergraduate degree from William Woods University in Fulton, MO is in Musical Theater and her graduate degree in Theater Education was awarded from The Catholic University of America in Washington DC. She served as the Director of Education at Baltimore Shakespeare Factory from 2018 to 2021. From 2022 to 2023 she served Virginia Stage Company as Director of Education. She also teaches acting and scene study at the Governor’s School for the Arts. She is a founding member of the Black Classical Acting Ensemble at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore, MD. Most recently Mrs. Mayo was a presenter and panelist at *In and Out of the Closet* a conference focused on Early Modern dramatic literature sponsored by Sorbonne Nouvelle University and ENS de Lyon in Paris, France.



Donovan E. Mitchell joins GSA in a full-time capacity as Chair of the Theatre & Film Department. Mr. Mitchell is an alumnus of the school, having successfully graduated from the Musical Theatre and Theatre & Film departments in 2007. Mr. Mitchell went on to study acting at Carnegie Mellon University, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama/Musical Theatre in 2011. He was a member of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, performing a repertoire of Shakespeare's plays as well as leading different classes and workshops. He has experience as a teacher in both the New York City and Los Angeles school systems. Mr. Mitchell is a member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA, the Screen Actors Guild and Actors' Equity Association. He has had roles in many television shows including "City on a Hill", "FBI", "Wu-Tang: An American Saga", "Law and Order: SUV," and "NCIS: New Orleans," among others. Mr. Mitchell has also performed on Broadway at the Barrymore Theatre in the play "Six Degrees of Separation" and in various renowned regional theatre playhouses, including the off-Broadway Signature Theatre, The Geffen Playhouse and Center Theater Group, both in Los Angeles. Mr. Mitchell was a student at the Moscow Art Theatre School, The Groundlings, one of the leading improvisation training programs in the country, and Second City, one of the most prolific and influential comedy training grounds in the US.



Shane O'Hara has shared his movement art form with audiences throughout the United States and the world including concerts in Lisbon, Athens, Krakow, Rio de Janeiro, Chengdu, China, New York, and Washington, D.C. He has taught in residencies in Poland, Denmark, Portugal and Germany. He also was a guest instructor at Pro Danza Italia Summer Workshop in Tuscany, the Florida Dance Festival, and at the White Mountain Summer Dance Festival. O'Hara has received grants from the USIS/American Embassy, Pennsylvania Council for the Arts, the Arts Council of the Valley and the Virginia Commission for the Arts as well as a Fulbright Fellowship to Portugal. Currently he is on the roster of the Fulbright International Specialist program. O'Hara was named JMU's College of Visual and Performing Arts Madison Scholar in 2010 and received JMU's Provost Award for International Education in 2014. Mr. O'Hara is a Professor Emeritus of Dance at James Madison University and is also a RYA 200 / 500 hour certified yoga teacher.



Angela Shipley graduated from The Governor's School for the Arts in 2018 and moved to Fairfax, Virginia where she attended George Mason University. During her time at Mason's School of Dance, she had the opportunity to work with many renowned dance artists such as Hope Boykin, Larry Keigwin, and Christopher d'Amboise, as well as choreograph and perform in a number of student works. She also became Co-President of the School of Dance during her senior year at Mason where she had the chance to work directly with the director of the School of Dance, Karen Reedy. She graduated in 2022 with a B.F.A. in Dance and has since worked professionally with Keigwin & Company on their summer project, *Rhapsody*, in both 2022 and 2023,



French horn player Stephen A. Slater is currently Assistant Principal/Utility Horn with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Horn Instructor of the New England Music Camp, and Adjunct Professor of Horn at Christopher Newport University. Mr. Slater was most recently Second Horn (one-year) with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Assistant Principal/Utility Horn (one-year) with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, and kept solo engagements with the Blue Bell Symphony in Pennsylvania and Manhattan Virtuosi in NYC, where he has performed concerti from Mozart, Britten, Gliere, and Glazunov. Stephen was Assistant/Utility horn of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Guest Principal horn with the Israel Chamber Orchestra of Tel Aviv, and Substitute horn of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also performed as Principal horn of the Daejeon Philharmonic Orchestra, Third horn of the Macau Symphony Orchestra, and Second horn of the Boulder Philharmonic. He received a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Institute, a master's degree at the University of Colorado, and undergraduate degree at the Manhattan School of Music.



A Michigan native, Maggie Wall first studied ballet under Lee Ann King in Ann Arbor, and later under Mr. Jacob Lascu in Bloomfield Hills and Detroit. While a student with Mr. Lascu, Maggie performed professionally with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Dance Detroit and The Michigan Opera Theatre. She spent summers studying at various ballet schools including BalletMet in Columbus, OH and The Kirov Academy in Washington D.C. While studying English at Central Michigan University, Maggie began teaching at a local dance studio and found that she loved sharing her passion with the younger generation. From there, she moved to Astoria, Oregon where she founded and directed The Astoria School of Ballet for 18 years. In 2009 Maggie spent the summer studying with Oregon Ballet Theatre School Director, Damara Bennett in Portland, OR, and in 2010 worked with Gelsey Kirkland during her inaugural Academy of Classical Ballet summer intensive in New York City. With her husband, daughter, and dog, Maggie moved to Norfolk, VA in the summer of 2022.



Ashley Whitlinger is a native of Virginia Beach and a graduate of the Governor's School for the Arts. She received her bachelor's degree in Dance from Old Dominion University while also dancing for Virginia Ballet Theatre, Todd Rosenlieb Dance, and dancers and mina estrada. Ashley has taught for the past 15 years at private studios, ODU, and the Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Salem High School. She is also certified to teach yoga (E-RYT 500) and has a passion for dance history.



Ben Wright holds a BS in Evolutionary Biology from Dartmouth College, a BFA in Glass from the Appalachian Center for Crafts, and an MFA from Rhode Island School of Design. While at Dartmouth, he explored forests from upstate New Hampshire to tropical Jamaica to record and map songbirds for the renowned ornithologist Richard Homes. His background in Biology figures strongly in his artwork, which delves deeply into the ever-evolving relationship between humans and their environment. Through work ranging from interactive visual installations to sonic landscapes he engages all of his viewer's senses and often bridges the gap between art and science. He has taught and exhibited his unique approach to art making at numerous schools including Pilchuck Glass School, Penland School of Craft and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and abroad in Germany, Turkey, Denmark, Japan, Belgium, Poland and Australia and until recently served as the Artistic Director of Pilchuck Glass school in Stanwood Washington. He is now the Associate Chair for Visual Arts at GSA.



Additional Proposed
Overnight Trip
2023-2024

Date	Department	Location	Description
January 4-7, 2024	Theatre/Film	McLean, Virginia	Virginia Thespian Festival - One-Act Competition, Workshops, and College/Scholarship Auditions