



2019 AIDS Benefit, Thomas Mohr Photography

Dear Families and Friends,

As we near the end of 2019, I'm reflecting on what an amazing journey the last several months at The Academy have been.

After the extraordinary success of our Gala last May, we have made enormous physical and cosmetic upgrades to our home, from building a new science lab and a new computer lab, to overhauling one of the Theatre/Musical Theatre studio spaces (lovingly called "The Rusk") with a new lighting system and new floor. Nearly every classroom has had some amount of cosmetic work completed on it, and the school has never looked better since we moved to this building in the early 90's!

In August, I had the privilege of giving a TED Talk called *Life at the Intersection of Excellence, Purpose, and Passion*. In it, I tell the story of an Academy student's film that inspired me to advocate for the arts and an arts education in a different way. The talk is inspired by the countless Academy students who have shown me that we live our best lives when we reject mediocrity, defy our limits, dream audaciously, and love the journey. I hope you'll take a look and let me know what you think.

In September, we formally launched our new Photography curriculum, a collaborative project between the Visual Arts and Media Arts Departments. Made possible by a generous gift from photographer Tom Fiske, the program includes a new photography studio space, an arsenal of computers, cameras, lenses, and lighting gear, and a photography teacher. Our first exhibit, *Light and Line: An Exploration*, debuted a formidable collection of new work.

The AIDS Benefit continues to be one of The Academy's most important traditions, and this year's event did not disappoint. Raising more than \$8000 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, director Grania McKirdie and her crew sold the entire run of shows and delighted audiences with work from across the school.

Finally, we look ahead to *Showcase* on Saturday, February 8. *Showcase* is The Academy's premiere community event, when we highlight top work from each of the school's arts departments in front of our largest audience of the year. This year, we will present the Faculty Legacy Award to Visual Arts Department Chair Margy Stover. A master artist and teacher, Stover has — among numerous other accolades — received the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program Grant and a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad in China, and we hope that you will join us for this special evening at the Athenaeum Theatre.

Happy Holidays from all of us at The Academy!

Jason Patera
Head of School

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Back to School Teacher Parade



[Click here to see the video!](#)

Visual Arts Figure Drawing Exhibition



23rd Annual AIDS Benefit



Halloween at The Academy



Pirates of Penzance Musical Theatre Fall Production



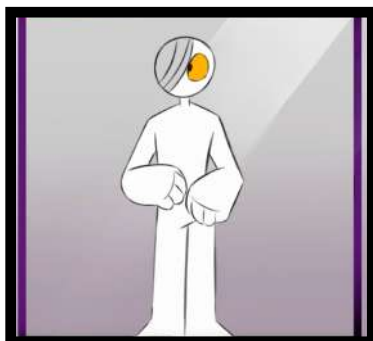
Everybody Theatre Fall Production



Classical and Jazz Concert Series



In Between the Lines Media Arts Fall Show



Boys Take on Ballet

A candid, in-studio performance with the men of the Dance Department



Photography Program Launch

Whether for filmmaking, graphic design, animation, or mixed media, digital photography is an essential skill for any contemporary art-maker. With that in mind, The Academy launched a formal photography curriculum in the fall.

The new photography course of study is a collaborative program between the Visual and Media Arts departments. These two departments are excited to add this course to other historically shared curricula like drawing and animation. Photography is required ninth-grade study for students in both departments, and students in all grades will have access to equipment and guided studio time as an integrated part of other coursework and practices.

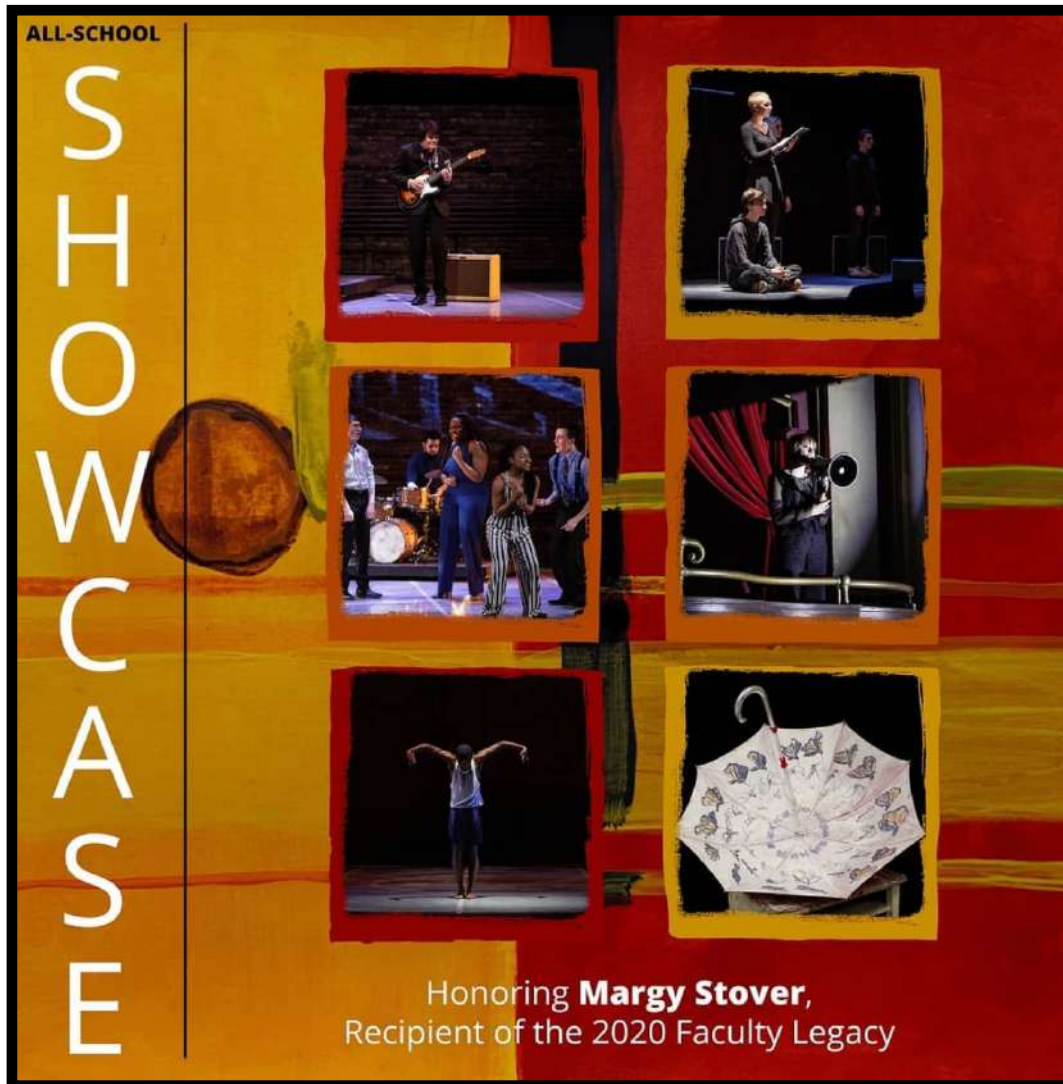
Our new guided focus on photography at The Academy is made possible by a generous gift by Tom Fiske. A lifelong artist and virtuosic photographer, Mr. Fiske attended Kendal School of Design in Grand Rapids, pursued illustrative photography at Rochester Institute of Technology, and studied advanced advertising at Northwestern University. His professional career began as a photographer for Arthur Andersen in Chicago, and in the subsequent decades he worked as a photography director, art director, executive producer, and associate partner at Andersen Consulting. As an artist, Mr. Fiske's interests range from abstract work, to landscape and sports photography. The Academy is deeply grateful for his support.



Jason Patera (Head of School), Tom Fiske, Jessi Meliza (Media Arts Chair), and Margy Stover (Visual Arts Chair)

Showcase Honoring Margy Stover

[Buy Showcase Tickets Here](#)



Saturday, February 8 | 7:00 p.m. | Athenaeum Theatre



Margy Stover - Visual Arts Chair

Each Showcase, The Academy recognizes a long-serving faculty member for their enormous contribution to our community and culture with the **Faculty Legacy Award**. This year, we are delighted to announce that Visual Arts Chair Margy Stover will accept our fourth annual award. Margy has been a fixture in the Academy community since 2003 and has led the Visual Arts Department since 2008, and we look forward to honoring her at this year's event.

Applications for 2020-2021 School Year

The Chicago Academy for the Arts application deadline is January 10 and our final audition is January 11! We invite you to submit your application and schedule your audition for enrollment during the 2020-2021 school year. Audition spots are filling up quickly! Click below to begin.

To learn more about The Academy, please consult our Admissions Calendar for visiting dates, including Academic Nights and department open houses. You can also register for our [2020 Summer Program](#).

Please note that the application is only open to students in the 8th, 9th, or 10th grades. For families outside of those grade levels interested in The Academy, please contact the Admissions Office directly.

We look forward to hearing from you! Happy Holidays from the Admissions Office!

Kitsana Salyphone

Director of Enrollment Management

The Academy Admissions Office

Start Your Application

Full Admissions Calendar

2020 Spring Saturday Program

The Academy offers five-week Saturday programs for students currently in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Each program is part of Session One (March 14 - April 11) or Session Two (April 18 - May 16). Each program begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 12:00 p.m. We encourage students to enroll in both sessions of the program to get the full experience! Please contact Jessie Phelan, Assistant Director of Summer and Saturday Programs, at jphelan@chicagoartsacademy.org with any questions, and see below for more information about each program.

Who: The Academy Saturday Program (spring session) is for students currently in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The program is for students serious about the arts.

What: The registration fee for each session is \$250. The registration fee for enrollment in both sessions is \$475.

Where: The Chicago Academy for the Arts at 1010 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60642.

When: Session One (March 14 - April 11) and/or Session Two (April 18 - May 16). Programs run 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays.



Register for Spring Saturdays

Winter Newsletter

Summer Program 2020



The Chicago Academy for the Arts

SUMMER PROGRAM

Monday, June 22 - Thursday, July 2 • 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For students entering the 7th, 8th, or 9th grades in the fall of 2020

Summer intensives in **Dance** (Ballet and Modern), **Media Arts** (Film, Animation, Photography, and Writing), **Music** (Jazz, Music Recording, and Production), **Theatre & Musical Theatre**, and **Visual Arts** (Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, and Sculpture)

Register at chicagoacademyforthearts.org/summerprogram



Register for The Summer Program

Winter Newsletter
Alumni Updates



Alumni Party Tomorrow!

It's not too late to attend our Annual Alumni Party! Tomorrow, December 22nd, Alums from the 80's, from 2019, and everyone in between will be gathering to celebrate The Academy!

Saturday, December 22nd | 6:00 pm

Chicago Academy for the Arts
1010 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60642

Justin Tranter

This fall, songwriter Justin Tranter (Musical Theater, 1998) received ACLU's Bill of Rights Award for "redefin[ing] what it means to be an advocate through music". They were the first gender non-conforming person to receive this award for their activism.



Maisie Schloss

Maisie Schloss (Visual Arts, 2009) was recently named one of Forbes' *30 Under 30* in their Art & Style section. Maisie left her job as head womenswear designer for Yeezy to start Maisie Wilen, her own label backed by Kanye West.

In the past year, we've seen her in Vogue, W Magazine, WWD, Marie Claire, LA Times, Interview Magazine, Wall Street Journal, and so much more.

Art Matters Gala

SAVE
THE
DATE



The Chicago
Academy for the Arts

ART MATTERS GALA

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel
221 North Columbus Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Cocktails & Silent Auction: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program immediately following

Thank you to everyone who made last year's gala the most successful gala in the school's history! We greatly appreciate all of the love and support you have provided The Academy. Please save the date for our 2020 **Art Matters Gala**, where we will be honoring Academy friend and advocate **Sarah Mirkin**. If you are interested in getting involved, please do not hesitate to email me at evivas@chicagoartsacademy.org.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Vivas

Director of Development

Gala Info Here

The Academy in the Media

Jason Patera's TED Talk

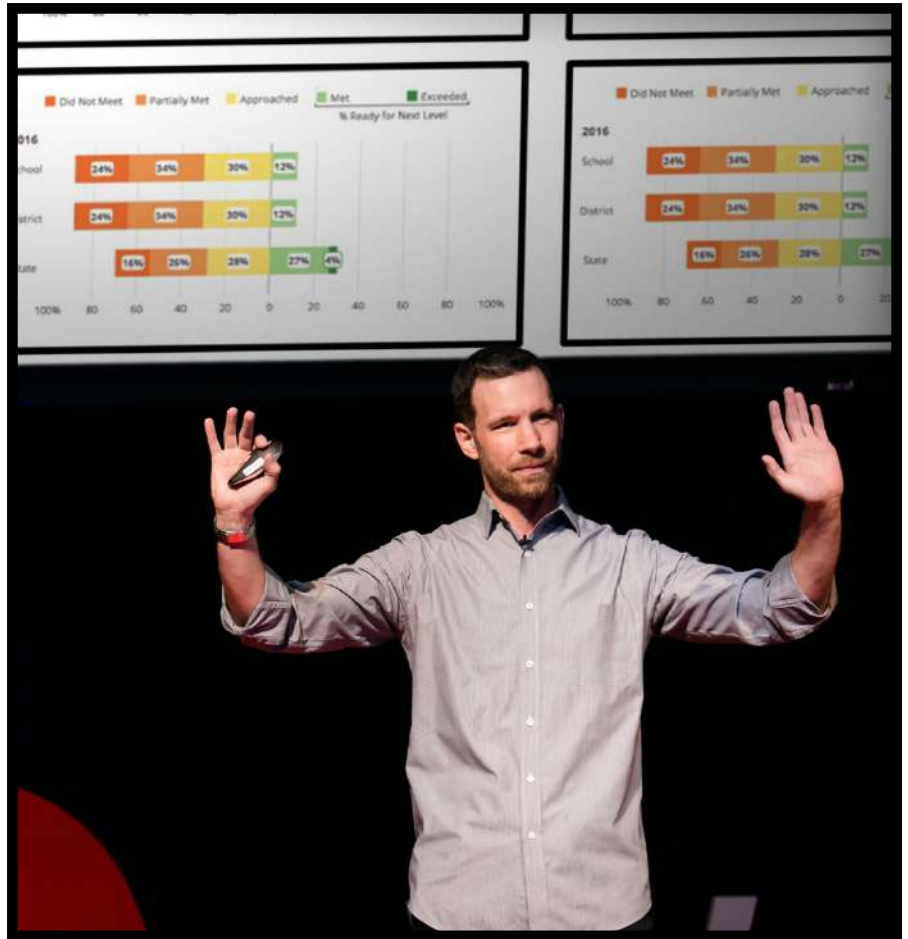
Life at the Intersection of Excellence, Purpose, and Passion

In August, I gave a TED Talk at TEDxYouth@Wrigleyville entitled *Life at the Intersection of Excellence, Purpose, and Passion*.

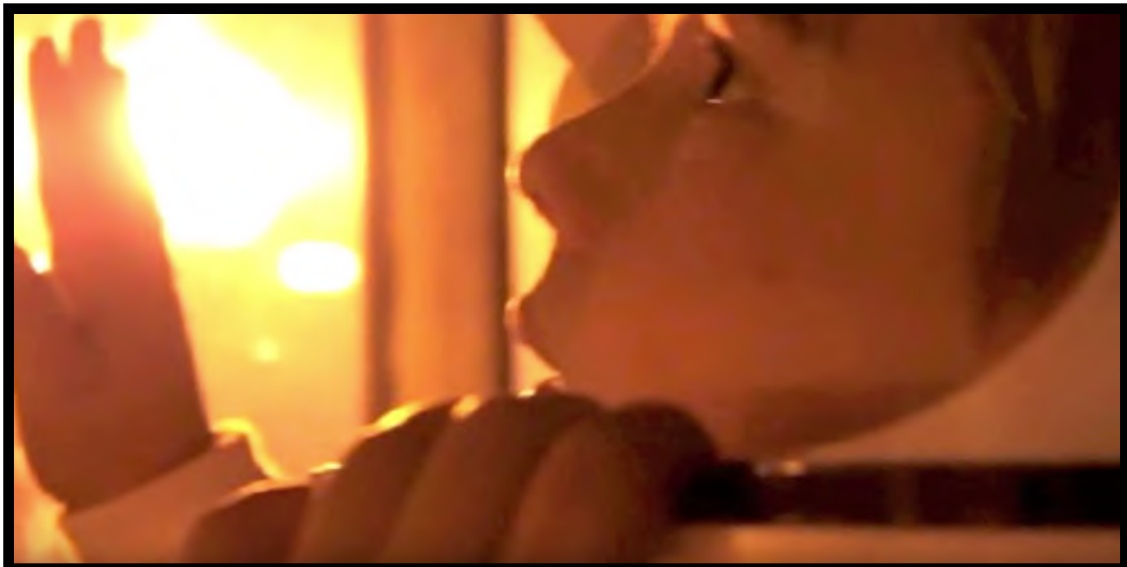
In the talk, I describe how an Academy student's film once moved me to think differently about "student achievement," and taught me the power of pursuing excellence at the intersection of purpose and passion. For decades, Academy students have inspired me to believe that we can live our best lives by rejecting mediocrity, defying our limits, dreaming audaciously, and loving the journey.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to take a look. If the message resonates with you, please share the talk to help promote our school!

Jason Patera
Head of School



[See Full Video Here](#)



Starry Night by Alex Girav (Media Arts '13)
Featured in *Life at the Intersection of Excellence, Purpose, and Passion*

The Academy in the Media

2019 Annual AIDS Benefit Director Grania McKirdie (Theatre '20) on WGN TV



[See Full Video Here](#)

Dance Faculty Patrick Simoniello and the men of the dance department featured on NBC Chicago



[See Full Video Here](#)

Academy Merch & Apparel



New Academy Merch and Apparel!

Introducing new Chicago Academy for the Arts merch and apparel — just in time for the holiday season! All items are ordered online and shipped directly to you.

A portion of the proceeds go directly to The Academy.

Order today and show your Academy spirit!

Order Here



Looking Ahead...

JANUARY

- 8: College Night: Freshmen & Sophomores
- 16: Academic Night
- 18: Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert
- 24-26: Shakespeare Festival
- 31: Visual Arts Winter Juried Exhibit with Open House

FEBRUARY

- 4: Classical Music Recital
- 8: *Showcase* honoring Margy Stover
- 11: Classical Vocal Concert
- 12: Theatre Showcase

MARCH

- 3: Music Department Jazz Concert
- 20: Visual Arts Senior Exhibition
- 20-22: Theatre Department Spring Production
- 25-26: Media Arts Spring Show
- 31: Music Department Jazz Vocal Concert

APRIL

- 14: Classical Musical Recital
- 17-19: Musical Theatre Spring Production (Weekend 1)
- 21: Jazz Concert at The Jazz Showcase

- 24-26: Musical Theatre Spring Production (Weekend 2)
- 30: Theatre Showcase

MAY

- 1: Visual Arts Spring Exhibit
- 5: New Music Ensemble Concert
- 9: *Icons of Choreography*
- 15: Prom
- 21: Graduation

Follow Us!

Be sure to follow The Academy on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)! We use the hashtags **#SmartArtistsSmartArt**, **#ArtMatters**, and **#CAArts**

Students: If you're not already a member, please join Patera's CAA Student Group on Facebook and ask to join! (Sorry mom and dad: students only!) Please don't feel pressured to have a Facebook account, as we will only rarely post something in this group that is not posted somewhere else.

Parents: Please ask to join the [Parents Association Facebook Group](#).

The Chicago
Academy for the Arts

