



Kinder HSPVA and Visual Arts

Achievements

Kinder HSPVA has received national and international recognition for its' academic and artistic achievements. It is a National Blue Ribbon School and consistently ranks at the top among HISD schools in academic achievement tests. The school has received the Rockefeller Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Governor's Award for Exemplary Performance, several Grammy's for Music, and the Broad Award for Urban Schools. In 2006, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) honored Kinder HSPVA as one of five "Outstanding Schools for the Performing and Visual Arts" worldwide. The Visual Arts Department works hard to contribute to Kinder HSPVA's successes.

Annually, the NFAA sponsors youngARTS. This national competition attracts more than 8,000 student entrees in the disciplines of visual arts, performing arts and creative writing. From the 150 "ARTS Finalists" that are invited to Miami each January, 50 are chosen by the White House Commission on the Arts as "Presidential Scholars in the Arts Semi-finalist". Twenty of the 50 are designated as "Presidential Scholars in the Arts" and are honored in Washington, DC each June, along with the "Academic Scholars". In 2017, Elle Cox was recognized as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Recent finalists include Deena Fahed (2019) and Decarte May (2019), Elle Cox and Wilson Miller (2017), Saxton Fisher (2016), Hannah Taurins (2016), Hazel Fricke (2014), Patrick Zapien (2014) and Elizabeth Sanchez (2014). David Waddell was honored with Distinguished Teacher for the US Presidential Scholars Program this year. In 2020, Ariya Selvakumar received a Merit Award in Photography and Leah Clemons received a Merit Award in Fine Arts. In 2018, Hernan Cuevas and Cathy Le were recognized and merit winners.

Since the inception of this program, Kinder HSPVA has had more "Presidential Scholars In the Arts" than any other high school in the country, and the Visual Arts Department leads the way among Kinder HSPVA Art Areas with 13 "Presidential Scholars in the Arts".

Students from the Visual Arts Department receive scholarships and grants to attend summer programs and post-secondary professional programs from coast to coast. Additionally, every 2 years the Texas Commission on the Arts awards \$2500 grants to Texas high school students. These grants are merit based and renewable each year until the student graduates. In 2006, our first year to apply, our Visual Arts Students received 5 of the 10 grants awarded, in 2010 they received 3 out of 5 given in the state, in 2012 we had a winner and in 2015, 2 Kinder HSPVA students were awarded grants.

In 2007, our students began entering the Portfolio section of the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Program. That year, one of our students, Francisca Wistuba, became the first National Gold Portfolio Winner from this area. Andrea Nguyen (2008), Portlyn Tagavi and Mia Calderone (2010), Karina Farek and Lauren Kramer (2011), Cassie O'Sullivan and Sidney Tennant (2014), Claudia Garcia (2017) were distinguished as a National Silver Portfolio Winners. Ava Barrett (2011) was recognized with the honor of National Portfolio of Distinction. Additionally, in 2011, Hillary Henderson was honored with a National Gold Medal in Video Gaming and in 2013, art student Helen Little won a National Gold Award in Creative Writing. Patrick Zapien (2014) was awarded a National Gold Medal. In 2015, Anastasia Bodagovskaya received National Honorable Mention for her portfolio.

Much of the artistic success of our students is attributable to the excellent education provided by Kinder HSPVA's Academic Faculty. They have more than earned their share of honors and recognition, and certainly

with their guidance and support our students are educationally advantaged in the pursuit of their artistic goals.

Visual Arts “consultants”, professional artists who work with our students in their individual areas of expertise, are at the heart of our program. These mentors have an enormous breadth of experiences and they enrich our program immeasurably.

We are exceptionally proud of our Visual Arts Faculty and their achievements. Over the years Kinder HSPVA’s Visual Arts Faculty have received numerous fellowships and grants and have enhanced their teaching through studies in various parts of the United States and abroad. We have counted among our numbers 8 “Presidential Scholars’ Distinguished Teacher” awards, a “National Outstanding Teacher in the Arts” awardee, 2 Scholastic Arts and Writing teacher awards and an Art Schools Network “National Teacher of the Year”.

Additionally, we are proud of our graduates. Annually, our Visual Arts graduating seniors (about 30 each year) receive in excess of \$1,000,000 in scholarships. Visual Arts Department Graduates have attended virtually every accredited School of Art and Design and many of the most prestigious Colleges and Universities in the nation. They have also exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the world.

A few notable achievements include: Mark Seliger: internationally celebrated photographer and chief photographer for Rolling Stone Magazine; Devorah “Samet” Cantor: One of the Creators of Macromind, now Macromedia; Susanna “Hitt” Bocanegra: nationally recognized Performance artist, recently presented at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Bao Vo: creator of MING and PING; Wesley Miller: former Associate Curator of Art 21, PBS Series; Lizbeth Ortiz: Latin Grammy winner, gallery owner and activist; Jamal Cyrus, a founding member of the Otabenga Jones Collective and 2018 winner of the BWM Art Journey Prize, Spencer Anderson, designer on Design On A Dime and John Bacus, designer of Sketch-up (a google 3-d graphics program). *See below listing for more.*

There are, among our alumni, authors, animators, architects, attorneys, computer gurus, designers, doctors, entrepreneurs, filmmakers, fashion designers, inventors, jewelers, painters, photographers, philosophers, professors, poets, scientists, sculptors, teachers, etc. We are also thrilled to have “Emmy Award” winners, a Latin Grammy winner and one “Jeopardy” champion (Harvey Cormier)!

We serve about 150 students in the art department and our course offerings include: Animation, Art Awareness, Art Criticism, Art History, Ceramics, Conceptual Concerns, Digital Photography, Drawing, Foundations of Design, General Sculpture, Graphic Design, Idea Development, Installation Art, Metal Sculpture, Mixed Media, Painting, Performance, Photography, Photoshop, Printmaking, Sound, Textiles, Video, and Woodshop.

Of Interest

A typical student day at Kinder HSPVA includes 3 hours of art area instruction, 4 hours of academics, 30 minutes for lunch and meetings and about 4 hours of homework/rehearsal time.

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts claims that our football team is undefeated since 1971!

Alum Success

If you are an alum and would like us to highlight your achievements on our website or Instagram account, please email David Waddell at hwaddell@houstonisd.org with pictures, your name, graduating year and achievement! Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

