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**BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS OPENS NEW CENTER FOR  
COLLABORATIVE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

*The center fosters cross discipline work using advanced technology*

**BALTIMORE** (September 3, 2014) – On August 25, 2014, when Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) opened the doors for the 2014-2015 school year, they also unveiled their new **Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology**.

The new space, modelled on modern business incubators, features 16 work stations equipped with computers with advanced software from all arts-related fields. Both the technology, and the layout of the space itself, is specifically designed to foster collaborative work and link student experiences with the working world.

"Beginning with two-school wide festivals, An *Appalachian Spring* Festival in 2013 and A *Russian Serenade* in 2014, we have been moving towards a more collaborative, multi-disciplinary work environment at BSA," said Director Chris Ford. "This unique place to work and study will bring the most current thinking and resources about creative environments to BSA's students and faculty."

BSA hopes to foster an environment inspiring students to create connections between different areas of learning in innovative ways, a place where they can learn from each other and find the process exciting and empowering. The new CCAT will be open until 7 p.m. each evening and is staffed with an arts technologist tasked with facilitating student and faculty work. TWIGS students will also take classes in the Center during its Saturday hours.

The Center is housed in the school's France-Merrick Library and Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds Computer Center, which were renovated and opened to create a colorful, open, state-of-the-art space. Additionally, over the course of this year, the school's primary performance space, the

Schaefer Ballroom, will be renovated with upgrades such as new lighting, audio and video equipment, stage communications and significant repairs to the stage dance floor.

BSA will celebrate the Grand Opening of the CCAT with the community on September 23. Grammy winning songwriter, producer and BSA alumna Makeba Riddick will be teaching a master class in the new state-of-the-art facility at 10 a.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (3:30 p.m.) and Open House (5 p.m.) will also feature Ms. Riddick as well as other guests. Media are invited to attend.

### **ABOUT BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public arts high school that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance and visual arts. Additionally, BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 700 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year as an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.

Baltimore School for the Arts, where the arts change kids' lives.