

BALTIMORE SCHOOL *for the* ARTS

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The Baltimore School for the Arts Focuses on African Culture, Arts, and Achievement for 2016-17

The BSA will bring 16 students to Ghana and will invite 3 teaching artists to campus for Africa-themed year

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, USA – During the 2016-17 school year, the curiosity of students at The Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) will reach beyond its campus, its city, and its country. BSA students will become better-informed citizens of the world through a multi-faceted study of contemporary ideas, art, and society from the continent of Africa.

In Africa Now: Global Creativity in Perspective, its theme for the 2016-17 year, the school is exploring and celebrating the arts and culture, sociological and political environment, and the important contributions of the world's second-largest continent.

"A global perspective is one of the core values of The Baltimore School for the Arts and also critical for success in the 21st century," said Dr. Chris Ford, director of the school. "This year's celebration of the culture and accomplishments of Africa will help shape our students into true global citizens."

BSA is bringing three teaching artists to create exciting, original work with students:

Yacine Boulares: a French-Tunisian saxophonist, clarinetist, and composer based in New York

Zab Mabougou: a dancer and choreographer from the Republic of Congo who founded the Nyata Nyata company in Montreal, Quebec

Laolu Senbanjo: a Nigerian artist known for his Yoruba-inspired drawings on shoes, jackets, and even the human body, whose work was featured in Beyoncé's *Lemonade*

Sixteen students will travel to Ghana from January 21-28, 2017. The student-artists will work with similarly aged Ghanaian students and professional artists in theatre, dance, and music. They will also explore traditional Ghanaian woodcarving, textile production, and basket weaving. The students will visit African museums, universities, and cultural landmarks as well, traveling through Accra, Aburi, Nima, the Cape Coast, Elmina, and Kumasi — documenting their journey along the way.

Other topics related to contemporary life in Africa will also be addressed in academic projects across the

curriculum throughout the year. A few projects include: English students will read *This Child Will be Great* and construct a digital representation of the text. Statistics students heard a guest lecture from Paul J. Ferraro, distinguished professor at Johns Hopkins, about using math to evaluate the HIV epidemic in Malawi earlier this year. Chemistry students will explore the South African mining industry.

All of these interdisciplinary projects—the master classes with the teaching artists, the Ghanaian experiences, and the academic projects—will culminate in the Africa Now Festival presented March 20-25, 2017. This festival will be open to the public and feature appearances by our guest artists and scholars.

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The 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 the visual arts. Additionally, the BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 750 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 an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.

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