



LIVES & LIVELIHOODS

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE OF CRAFT
NORTH BENNET STREET SCHOOL



“North Bennet Street School is a treasure for the City of Boston. I share the School’s commitment to an accessible, quality, and meaningful education, and to ensuring that everyone has a fair shot at realizing their full economic potential.”

MARTIN J. WALSH, MAYOR OF BOSTON

A craft-based education appeals to those who are not satisfied with a traditional academic environment, and who aspire to a career built on their talents.



WE TEACH skills that will always be needed, for jobs that cannot be exported. The skills and values we teach go beyond the specifics of the trades.

WE UNDERSTAND the importance of preserving craft traditions and the universal appeal of making things. Making is patient and thoughtful rather than fast-paced, impatient, and constantly reactive.

WE BELIEVE that the standards of excellence, quality, and attention to detail that are the hallmarks of North Bennet Street School can become a reflection of one's life and not simply a feature of one's work.



As the preeminent school of
craft, we provide the highest
quality education possible.



From its beginnings as a settlement house offering vocational training, North Bennet Street School has become a unique, professional craft school, recognized both nationally and internationally for its excellence as a learning institution.



Our educational philosophy is focused on hand-skills training, individual instruction, and project-based learning, in concert with evolving technology.

It is by nature intensive, intimate, and small scale, but also community oriented and continues beyond graduation. Our teachers, visiting faculty, and alumni are leaders in their fields.

Our students are ambitious, passionate, and dedicated. They are recent high school graduates, former college students, and white-collar professionals. They are returning veterans, single parents, and recently married, starting new families.



We are the only institution in the country with nine distinct, full-time, professional craft training programs.



Bookbinding

Cabinet & Furniture Making

Carpentry

Jewelry Making & Repair

Locksmithing &
Security Technology

Preservation Carpentry

Piano Technology
(Basic & Advanced)

Violin Making & Repair

We also provide a wide range of Continuing Education courses for craftspeople of all levels.



Our new facility has brought us all under one roof, with ample space for experimentation and ongoing program enhancement.

Beyond the walls of the School, our students take full advantage of educational opportunities in Boston and throughout New England. Through internship programs, bookbinders restore valuable manuscripts, piano technicians prepare instruments for world-class musicians, and preservation carpenters work on some of the nation's most important historic landmarks.



Providing our students with excellence in education comes at a cost.

Our students have increasingly needed to turn to student loans to pay for their education.


It is not uncommon for our students to graduate with \$30,000 in student debt, while some take on over \$60,000 in student loans. Even at the lowest levels, students can be obligated to repay \$300 each month for the first ten years of their careers.

It is not realistic to expect an individual to embark upon a career in craft, with modest expectations for financial rewards in the early years, to assume this level of debt.

Too often, the burden of student loans forces graduates to “get a job” rather than find meaningful employment that utilizes the skills they have learned.

The Board of Directors has made the strategic decision to increase financial aid to students and limit tuition increases over time.

This will allow NBSS to meet the needs of our students and maintain the accessibility of a NBSS education. Managing the cost of enrollment will enable us to attract the most qualified students and support them in pursuing a career in craft.



An education in craft is a
significant financial undertaking:

\$23,775

AVERAGE TUITION FOR FULL-TIME PROGRAMS

\$300

MINIMUM LOAN REPAYMENT PER MONTH
FOR THE FIRST TEN YEARS

\$36,000+

AVERAGE TUITION + BOSTON COST-OF-LIVING

\$30,000+

AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT

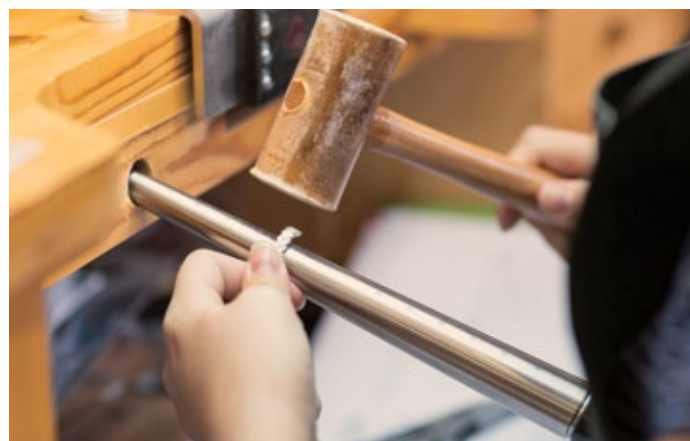
MIRANDA HARTER

JEWELRY MAKING & REPAIR 2016

"I was working in a jewelry store in New York, and moved to Boston to come to North Bennet Street School, but with \$35,000 in undergraduate debt from my BFA, I didn't apply right away, I lost my nerve."

With a \$12,000 scholarship, additional student loans, part-time employment and help from her family, Miranda entered the Jewelry program. She now works for a local jewelry designer and lives in Somerville with three roommates. "My \$475 loan payment is as much as my rent, but I'm happy I made it. I love my work and I've realized my dream."

"My \$475 loan payment
is as much as my rent."



“The experiences and skills I gained at NBSS were worth the sacrifice.”

“In May 2014, within a week’s time, I was accepted at North Bennet Street School and my wife was given a career opportunity to move back to Cleveland, my home town. After many conversations, we decided that both opportunities were too good to pass up.”

Brendan’s wife and one-year old son moved to Cleveland while he stayed in Boston for the next two years. Student loans and his 401K retirement account paid for his education.

“My wife clearly sacrificed the most, but we both agree that the experiences and skills I gained at NBSS were worth the sacrifices. She can see the difference in me and how my skills as a craftsman can and will enrich our lives.”



BRENDAN DOYLE

PRESERVATION CARPENTRY 2016

BRYAN WORLEY

VIOLIN MAKING & REPAIR 2016



“Being here has been a pretty magical experience for me. Not only have I worked hard to gain new skills in my craft, I’ve had an internal transformation as well.” A Navy aircraft mechanic, Bryan sustained an injury that left him in a wheelchair, suffering from PTSD. After a year of therapy, he regained his mobility and used his veteran’s benefits to enroll at North Bennet Street School.

“This school has had a great healing effect over me. I attribute a lot of that to the discipline of violin making. Still, there is something in the air in these halls. There’s an energy that floats around when you have 200 people doing exactly what they have dreamed of doing. You can feel it a soon as you walk through the doors.”



“Being here has been a pretty magical experience for me.”



“I want to start my own carpentry business.”

“After I graduated from high school in 2015, I got a job at Home Depot, where I learned about North Bennet Street School from a friend.”

Without any resources from his family, Jayquan decided to apply, and moved from Lowell to Mattapan to live with his grandmother, closer to the School. With a private grant from the Red Sox Foundation and the balance covered by a School scholarship, he graduated free of debt. “I am going to work for a residential contractor in Boston for a few years, but I want to start my own carpentry business.”



JAYQUAN RICHARDSON

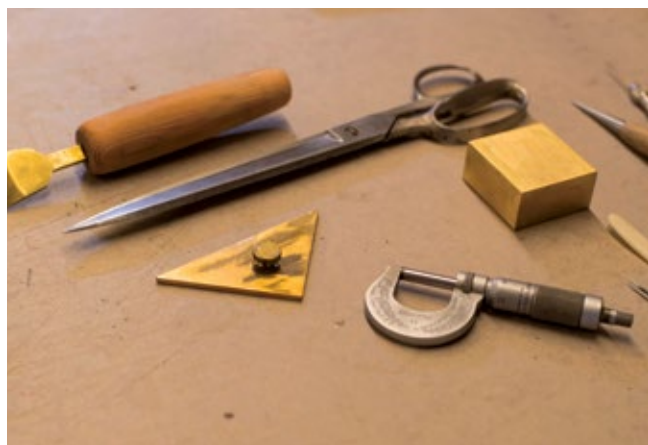
CARPENTRY 2016

“When you leave here,
you can go anywhere.”

“After graduating with a BFA in book arts in 2009, I couldn’t afford graduate school. I reached out to my old professors, and they said ‘Have you heard of North Bennet Street School? You would be a shoe-in, and it will get you where you want to go.’”

Linnea worked for three years as a barista and freelance print maker before applying in 2015. She financed her education with additional federal and private loans, adding to her existing undergraduate debt.

“I made the right decision. When you leave here you can go anywhere. It’s expensive, but it’s a great place to be. I am good at living cash poor. I’m rich in books.”



LINNEA VEGH

BOOKBINDING 2017

KRISTINA MOSZKA

CABINET & FURNITURE MAKING 2016

“Not everyone gets to go here.”

“I was just out of Whittier Vocational High School, working for a closet installation company. The first time I applied late, so I worked for a year and applied again. I was 19.” Kristina is now working for a small construction firm, but plans to start her own company. Despite a private grant, help from her parents, and a School scholarship, her student loan debt is \$24,000.

“My time at NBSS was unbelievable. I was only there two years, but the amount I took in would have been four years anywhere else. It required loans, and my parents helped me, but anything would have been worth it. Not everyone gets to go here.”



Scholarship aid is essential
if we are to accept the
best, brightest, and broadest
possible range of students.



We must grow our
scholarship endowment
to offset the rising costs of
providing the highest
quality education in craft.

Spurred by an initial challenge grant
of \$300,000 in 2007, we grew the
fund to \$3.3 million by 2015. While
this is a remarkable achievement, it
is insufficient to meet our students'
current and future needs.

In accordance with our 2015 Strategic Plan, a capital campaign goal of \$20 million has been set.

Scholarships per Year

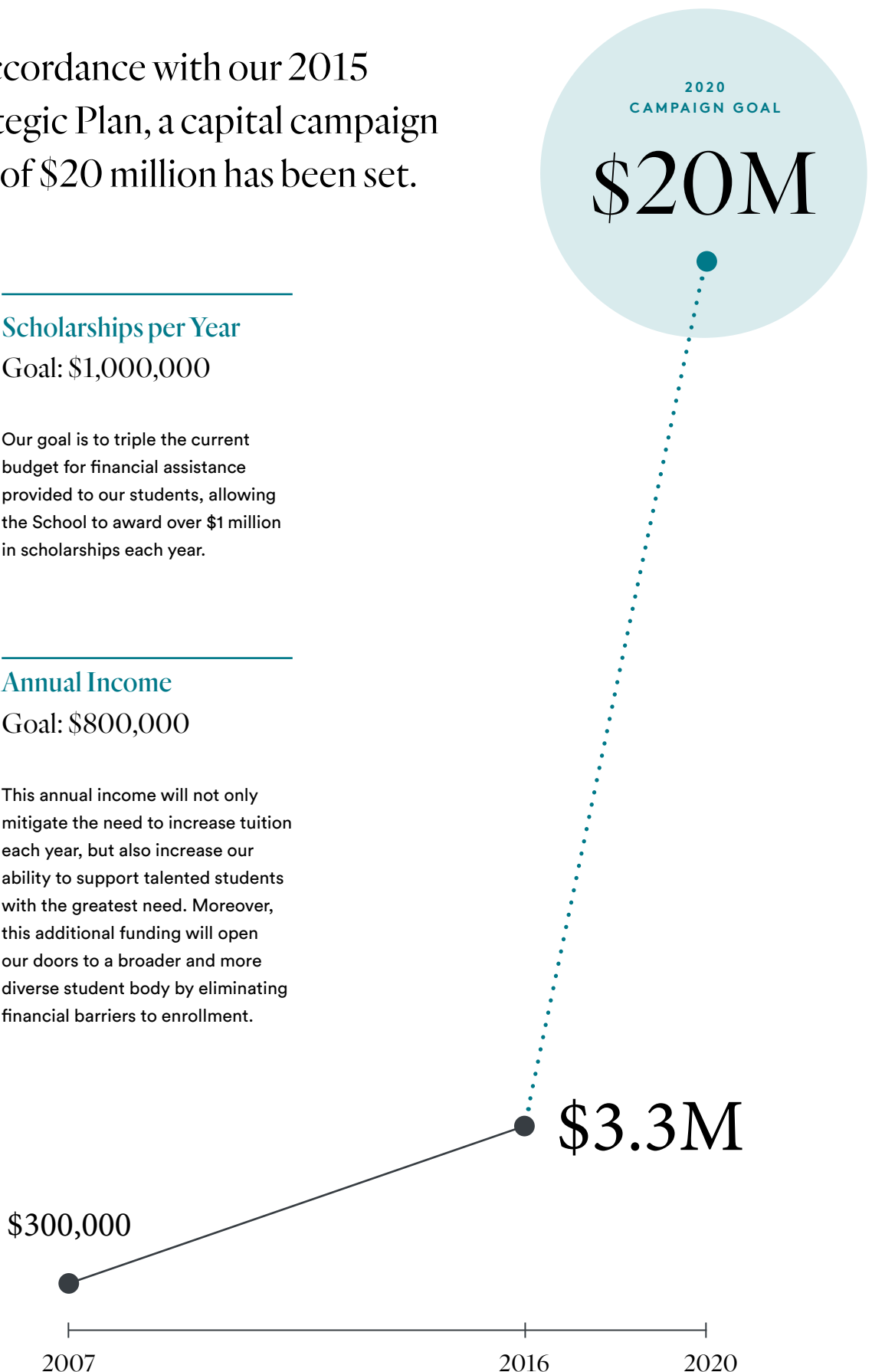
Goal: \$1,000,000

Our goal is to triple the current budget for financial assistance provided to our students, allowing the School to award over \$1 million in scholarships each year.

Annual Income

Goal: \$800,000

This annual income will not only mitigate the need to increase tuition each year, but also increase our ability to support talented students with the greatest need. Moreover, this additional funding will open our doors to a broader and more diverse student body by eliminating financial barriers to enrollment.



By lowering the cost of enrollment, hard working students can focus on their education rather than paying the bills while in School.





For over a century, North Bennet Street School has maintained a well-deserved reputation for being a stable, enduring institution, committed to service, to excellence in education, and to the relevance and importance of hand skills in our society.

With less student debt, the next generation of our graduates will be free to pursue careers based on their passions, not their financial obligations. With your help, we will:

CONTINUE TO PROVIDE a high-quality education in craft.

OPEN the School's doors to talented, passionate students of all backgrounds.

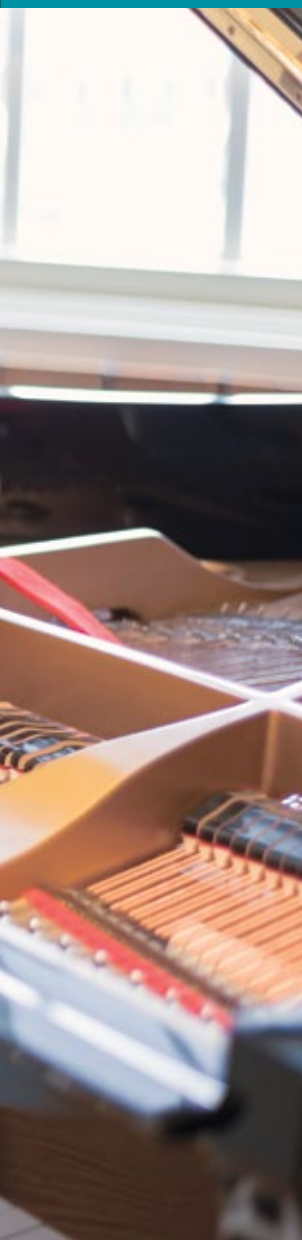
PRODUCE the next generation of leaders working across craft traditions.

SECURE craft's place as a viable path to meaningful lives and livelihoods.



With your help, we will
carry the School's mission
into the future.





To make your gift to the
campaign, please contact:

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