

NORTH
BENNET ST.
SCHOOL

A photograph of a person's arm and hand resting on a thick wooden plank. The person is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and blue jeans. A green mallet with a wooden handle is lying on the plank next to the hand. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green grass and trees under a blue sky.

Crafting Connection.

ANNUAL REPORT FY2021



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WELCOME

Dear friends,

When Pauline Agassiz Shaw founded NBSS 140 years ago, she set the School on a path that would ultimately help generations find meaningful work and build sustainable lives through craft and trade. As we approach the end of the year, our mission remains the same, and yet time feels different. Though we recognize progress and growth as ever, the manner in which we measure it has changed. For a year that saw staggered semester starts, eight individual graduations, and extended teaching terms, we are more attuned to how progress happens not over a semester, but in life-chapters, each adding to one another, signalling personal and communal growth.

As we welcomed new students this fall, we met on the sidewalk. Instead of being seated in a large room, we greeted each other outside as people arrived in small waves. This simple shift made the start of school seem less formal, like neighbors or friends meeting on the street. The pace was slower, allowing for conversation and story-telling... a former urban planner was arriving to become a carpenter, a pilot would train to be a piano tuner, and a science teacher with the great outdoors as her classroom would shift to the small, intimate scale of jewelry making. Each person had an interesting path, some shorter, some longer. Each arrival also came with risk: to change, to grow, to upend one's life. It is never short of remarkable.

And yet, alongside the risk is reassurance—our students come with trust. Trust that NBSS will train them in new skills, support their efforts, and help guide them into new livelihoods. Faculty embrace this responsibility even as they venture into the unfamiliar to bridge brand-new ventures with the most enduring practices. In all of this, our students and faculty have approached the challenges before them with curiosity, passion, and determination—the same qualities leveraged in their trades, be they locksmiths or jewelers, carpenters or piano technicians.

The most poignant example we saw all year was from our Preservation Carpentry program: as our students worked in teams to reconstruct a truss for the Notre Dame Cathedral, they took a break from their work to graduate—virtually, as we broadcast from the Old North Church to their job site in Washington, D.C. What a marvel. And yet, this marrying of old and new is also found in the ways we develop online programs for advancing traditional trades, and how technology can be a tool for crafting connection—whether in service of hands-on training in our programs, or in the deep, meaningful work of our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

NBSS students focus intently on their chosen fields, so they may not always sense the strong network that surrounds and supports them. As we come to the end of the year, this is our chance to recognize that extended community—and the many people it takes to make a new chapter possible—for a student, and for a School. Just as our students come with trust in our teaching, your generosity signals your confidence in our School as it stands strong and reaches forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Turner, President

Marc Marguilies, Board Chair



Students are at NBSS to focus intently on their chosen fields, so they don't immediately see the strong network that surrounds them. As we come to the end of the year, this is our chance to recognize that extended community—and the many people it takes to make a new chapter possible.

ENGAGING TECHNOLOGY

Dovetailing Hands-On
and Remote Learning



Dynamic events and unexpected partnerships developed during 2020, and the NBSS mission of “using hand skills in concert with evolving technology” was put to the test.

As we began to reopen, we used our hands to hold lathes as well as video cameras, to sew book bindings and log into Zoom conferences. We took age-old craft traditions and dovetailed them with current technologies. The School, its staff, and its students evolved. We connected. We persevered and created. We increased our literal and figurative bandwidth.

Yet even while our physical doors remained closed, we expanded our reach, extending far beyond the boundaries of our brick and mortar home, to connect through the wired world. The entire planet became our studios, classrooms, and workshops.





2020 Open House

The 2020 Open House was unlike any other, as the School piloted an all-virtual format. A small, behind-the scenes team managed technical operations while the live program took place at NBSS and beyond. Using just their personal phones, Rob O'Dwyer, Director of Admissions & Enrollment, and Kristen Odle, Retail & Exhibit Manager, acted as camera persons, producers, and co-hosts to three days of building tours, interviews, and demonstrations for prospective students and the public.

"Pivoting to an online Open House event was a very conscious way to continue recruitment efforts within a virtual environment," Rob explains. The event provided an insider's look, with up-close introductions to faculty and students, their tools, process, and finished work. "It was so much fun," he added. "We wanted it to be candid, and humanize the spirit of NBSS."

The 18 hours of programming were potential students' only real access to the School prior to enrolling for 2021, and the stakes were high. "The Virtual Open House let guests see what was actually happening inside the School, and demonstrated how our training is a process, a journey of a thousand steps," Rob shared. "At NBSS, student work is absolutely stunning; seeing it in progress shows how students learn by doing, and makes training here accessible."

For students, as well as alumni and staff, the expansion of technology has had reach, sometimes profound. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Cabinet & Furniture Making student Jeremy Wiley CF '23 wasn't able to visit the School prior to enrolling. The virtual Open House was his only window into the School, and it was enough to convince him. "When the Open House tour entered the shop, there was a glimpse at some of the chair leg patterns hanging on the wall. After seeing the beautifully turned cabriole legs, I knew."

480

live Open House attendees

114

questions answered live over Zoom

2338+

Youtube views and counting

6

countries represented by attendees



ENGAGING TECHNOLOGY

"The Virtual Open House let guests see what was actually happening inside the School, and demonstrated how our training is a process, a journey of a thousand steps. At NBSS, student work is absolutely stunning; seeing it in progress shows how students learn by doing, and makes training here accessible."

— ROB O'DWYER, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

Some of the biggest surprises over the past year and a half came during remote learning opportunities. The level of engagement, possibility, and human interaction was elevated in ways that were hard to imagine in advance, and the atmosphere of inclusion and intimacy created would have been impossible to predict.



Virtual Piano Technology Conference

Piano Technology students and faculty often travel to annual regional conferences, but all were disrupted during the last academic year. In a feat of inspired collaboration, instructor Emily Townsend PT '07, PA '08 crafted an extremely well-received virtual conference for 85 students and alumni from nine countries and 24 states.

“Our grads are a great group of folks,” Emily said. “It was a real testament to the department’s philosophy of lifelong learning. A lot of these people have been in the field for 20 years or more, and they still show up to learn.” The attendees were separated by space and multiple time zones, yet, as she recalled, the event held an unexpected intimacy. “The attendees shared great advice, wisdom, and stories about why they still love this work after many decades, and what continues to make it all worthwhile.”

85
attendees

14
presenters

18
sessions

Hybrid Learning

Remote and hybrid learning were offered across the School. Radha Pandey, an Indian bookbinder living in Norway, held a hybrid Zoom workshop for Bookbinding students in March 2021 to explore Eastern and Indo-Islamic papers. Radha teaches in the US, Norway, and India, and has previously been an on-site guest instructor at NBSS. Her three presentations included lectures and demos, followed by students working independently in the bindery.

“Radha’s workshop was a highlight of the year in the bindery,” says Jeff Altepeter BB ’99, Bookbinding Department Head. “She presented virtually each morning and then we did hands-on practice. It was a successful experiment with a lot of connection on our end. We were so appreciative of the opportunity to engage with somebody who literally couldn’t be with us in person.”



In The Making

Similarly far-reaching in its scope, the School’s In the Making (ITM) interview series has opened virtual doors from Boston, US to Kerala, India. “This platform enabled an easy transition into the more global conversations that ITM has become,” explained host Kristen Odle, Retail & Exhibit Manager. “We’re able to go beyond our community to connect with tradespeople and craftspeople all over the world.”

The series’ warm, upbeat approach to new voices, fields, and perspectives caught on, and it blossomed into a platform for thoughtful conversations on anything from make-shift work benches to a favorite bread recipe. The series had a deeper goal as well, to spotlight and elevate those from backgrounds underrepresented in their fields. After 18 episodes, the first season closed last May with a woodworker in Venice, Italy.

President Sarah Turner has written about “the generative opportunities that come with change.” Nobody will deny that 2020 demanded change in myriad ways, and NBSS also had the ambition to evolve, holding to the past and stretching into the future. Each day presents an opportunity to be enriched, perhaps as never before.



Preservation Carpentry students
collaborated on the 2021 Notre Dame de Paris
Truss Project in Washington, D.C.

FRAMING COMMUNITY



An overwhelming 200 axes of varying weights and sizes were laid out on the grassy University Mall at the Catholic University of America (CUA) one humid July afternoon. Sophie Linnell PC '21 and her seven NBSS classmates from the second-year Preservation Carpentry program selected their tools with a mixture of nervousness and anticipation.

“We came in with very little hewing experience but were eager to learn from the masters,” she says. Earlier that year, the students had studied hewing with axes and broad axes and the 13th century French scribe joinery technique based on principles of geometry. They’d also built and raised a 12×16-foot timber-frame shed. Now they were prepared to face a steep learning curve on the ground.

The NBSS cohort traveled to Washington, D.C. to collaborate on a 10-day Handhouse Studio workshop to reconstruct a model of the 35-foot-high truss #6 of the Notre Dame de Paris cathedral. A truss is a timber-framing term for the beams that support a roof—in this case, La Forêt, the section of Medieval French rafters that offered heavenly acoustics to the famous church’s choirs—until the cathedral tragically burned in a 2019 fire.

Laura and Rick Brown are Co-Founders of Handhouse Studio, a Norwell, Massachusetts based nonprofit that “creates projects outside of the traditional classroom that energize history through the reconstruction of large historical objects.” They watched in horror as the disaster unfolded live on their television and knew immediately that their organization had to help. “We had the idea to replicate one of the trusses that had been lost in the fire. We hoped we could even gift it to France,” says Rick.

The Browns connected with François Calame, the founder of Charpentiers Sans Frontières, a French relief organization that brings together timber-framers from around the world. Immediately, a strong partnership was born. Soon, the CUA Architecture department, The National Park Service, and the National Building Museum all got involved.

Michael Burrey, the second-year instructor for the Preservation Carpentry program, has had a long collaborative relationship with Handhouse. Laura explains, “When this project came around, we mentioned it to Michael, and he suggested that he bring the whole Preservation Carpentry class to Washington.” The NBSS delegation joined other school groups from CUA, Florida State, Washington University in Saint Louis, and the Virginia Tech Washington Alexandria Architecture Center.

The goal of the ambitious build was not only to recreate the truss, but to construct it using the same plans and traditional methods originally employed in Medieval France. That meant no electric tools or modern technology. Rick strongly believes, “This project is an opportunity for us to speak to the guilds and craftspeople of 800 years ago through the language of building. We are using their techniques, tools, and materials.”





Henry Newhard PC '21 couldn't agree more. Thanks to the experience of working onsite, he's decided to focus on timber-framing as much as possible moving forward. "I definitely had an interest in it, but I wasn't sure if the path was there," he explains. "And then immediately, within the first day of being in Washington, D.C., I realized that this is something I want to continue to do."

The moment the truss was raised on the CUA Mall was equal parts nerve-wracking and breathtaking. Henry says, "It was all blood, sweat, and tears just to see it stand. Everybody worked together to pull it up with ropes, pulleys, and a whole lot of rigging." He participated on the 20-person installation crew at all three locations and was given the honor of placing the wetting bush at The National

Building Museum. The timber framers' tradition involves affixing a green bough to the peak of a truss to recognize the logs and labor that went into building, and to honor the people who will use the structure.

For Henry and his classmates, the capstone moment coincided with their own NBSS graduation which they viewed remotely on a laptop propped up on a pile of rolled blueprints from a corner of the project site. The ceremony felt poignant because it symbolized a meaningful induction into the trades community. Henry sums it up best: "The entire time, my class was working alongside all these professionals and veterans in the field. I'm lucky enough to say now that I have over 30 new contacts—and many good friends because of the project."

Sophie, who brings a background as both a sculptor and stonemason to her trade, describes the workshop experience as both "rigorous and intense." Thirty massive white oak logs sourced in Lexington, VA first had to be meticulously hewed, laid out, and scored with felling axes. Next came joggling, where five participants teetered shoulder to shoulder atop each log. "You're standing on top of the timber, and with axe in hand, you remove the waste material between the notches you've created," she explains.

Because metal nails were not yet common when the original truss was constructed, the group connected the beams using hand-carved mortise and tenon joinery. There was a lot of tool and method sharing along the way. "It was a beautiful conglomeration of different ages, disciplines, and backgrounds working in concert for a unified purpose," says Sophie.

The truss was hand-raised and displayed on the grounds of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was next moved to The National Mall for public viewing, and then installed and displayed inside the National Building Museum. It currently rests in storage in Lexington, VA waiting to tour other regions of the country. Michael is hopeful that other NBSS students will have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to build another truss in the Summer of 2022.

But he believes the impact on students from any build far transcends the raising of a truss: "The main takeaway was the chance to interact with timber framers and practitioners of the craft who've been out in the field for decades. The exchange of information that happened will be long-lasting."

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CHANGING DIRECTION

These NBSS students and grads rerouted in big ways.

As a student, it's impossible to pass through the 150 North Street doors and not leave changed in some way. But these four NBSS students and recent grads experienced a major life challenge during their time at school—or took a daring career leap to enroll in the first place. Here's how they found their footing.

From Cakes to Conservation

ARIANA RUTLEDGE BB '22

Ariana Rutledge worked in the U.C. Berkeley Library's Preservation Department as an undergraduate student, unexpectedly falling in love with book and paper conservation without knowing how to turn it into a career path.


After graduating, she moved back home to Eureka, California, and became a cake decorator, sculpting elaborate creations with piping, chocolate drizzle, and an airbrush. She explains, "I wanted to have a way to keep up my hand skills. Cake decorating, while not exactly like conservation, still requires being at a bench and using different tools to create."

She ultimately applied to the NBSS Bookbinding program. "When I started, I didn't know anything about bookbinding," she admits. One of the first projects last year involved sewing a book, and

posed a new challenge. "I had to get used to sewing materials together—how to maintain the tension in the thread."

Next, Ariana learned to work with leather, constructing a clamshell box, a protective enclosure for a rare book. "After getting used to the leather and getting a handle on the process, it became much easier to work with the materials. I've definitely grown in my skills and I also know more about the field."

Over time, Ariana has gained confidence in the trade and smoothed out her own plans: "While I was cake decorating, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, until I thought about conservation more. Coming to NBSS confirmed that this is what I love and that I can make a living doing it."



"Coming to NBSS confirmed that this is what I love and that I can make a living doing it."

Hard Choices

NICK FERNANDES CF '20, CA '21

Nick Fernandes is settling in at his new high-end residential carpentry job at C2MG, a company owned by NBSS alumnus Kurt Fieldhouse CA '93. Carpentry was never something he imagined. “My dad was in the trades, but it wasn't something I ever thought I would do.”

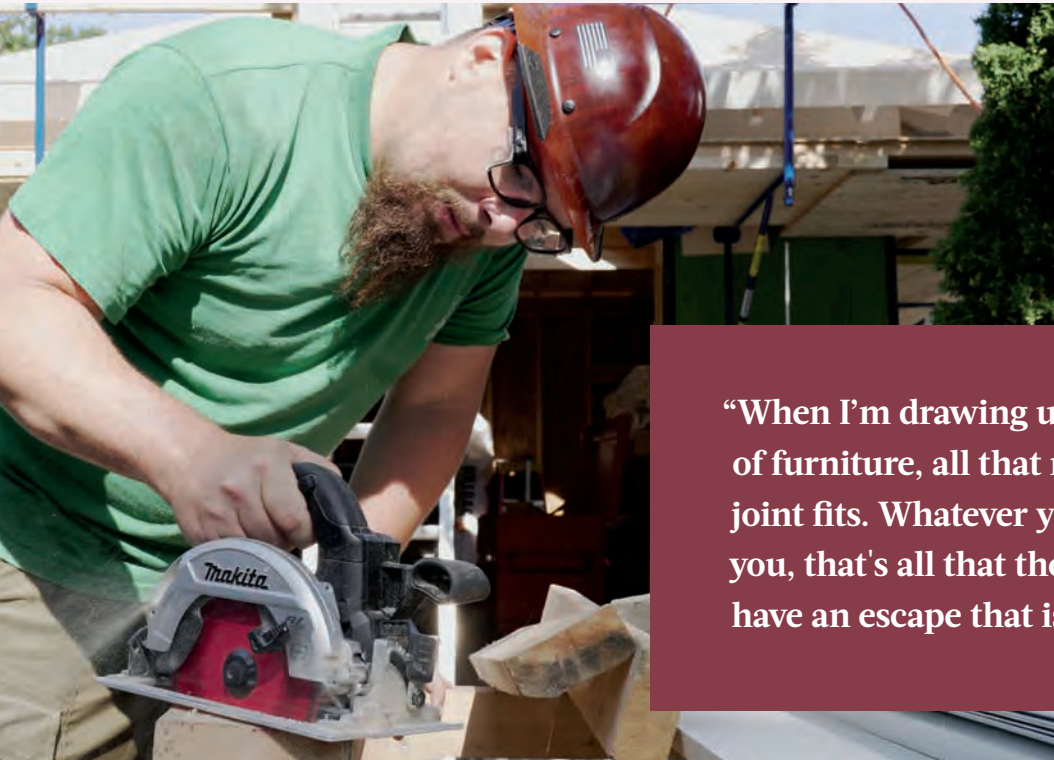
Growing up with severe dyslexia made Nick believe he would never go far. He says bluntly, “I had to make a choice: Whether to follow the path that I was on and end up getting in a lot of trouble, or find another way. I chose to join the Marine Corps at age 18.” After leaving the military, he received benefits from the Post 9/11 GI Bill® that would pay for further education.

The lightbulb moment came to him as he wandered the aisles of The Home Depot. “I thought to myself, I wonder if there's a school for woodworking of some kind. I sat down on the curb outside of the store and started Googling. I found NBSS, sent them an email, and applied almost immediately.”

Nick completed both the Cabinet & Furniture Making and Carpentry programs, and knew he'd found his place. “When I'm drawing up plans for a piece of furniture, all that matters is how the joint fits. Whatever you have in front of you, that's all that there is. It's nice to have an escape that is also your career.”



“It’s the sound, the melody, the ability to play something just captivating that I like. I just have a connection to it.”



“When I’m drawing up plans for a piece of furniture, all that matters is how the joint fits. Whatever you have in front of you, that's all that there is. It's nice to have an escape that is also your career.”

Finding Resonance

SUSAN SIT PT '21, PA '22

Why the piano? “It’s the sound, the melody, the ability to play something just captivating that I like. I just have a connection to it,” explains Susan Sit. Originally from Hong Kong, but now residing in Lexington, Massachusetts, she first learned piano as an adult to help her twins with lessons but became so fascinated by the instrument itself, she decided to study it at NBSS. She hopes to use her degree to work with nonprofits.

However, just as she enrolled in the Basic Piano Technology program, her mother rapidly passed away from cancer. “It was very, very hard. But the School helped me while going through a very difficult time. Since I arrived, I’ve changed so much as a human being, as a mother, as a daughter.” The learning curve was initially steep,

but the instructors made time to answer all of Susan’s questions—and they respected her parenting commitments.

Mastering piano regulation has been her most satisfying accomplishment at NBSS. “You don’t just accumulate experiences as you’re learning to be a good technician. It’s not like you follow steps A to Z, and then you’ll be able to produce a well-regulated piano. There are so many things in between that require very good problem solving skills.”

She says, “I’d like to use my story to tell others that regardless of how old you are, or what you have been through, if you’d like to learn a trade or craft, just be fearless.”

Moving Fast

XIOMARA GARCIA CA '21

A first-generation college graduate, Xiomara Garcia first gained exposure to carpentry as a recruiter for YouthBuild Boston, an organization that brings young people into the trades. “I was working with a bunch of kids who were interested in learning with their hands. I was motivated by them and the elements of learning, failing, and struggling—all that goodness that comes with starting something new.”

Xiomara met Rob O'Dwyer, NBSS Director of Admissions & Enrollment, at a recruiting event. She remembers, “We had a long conversation about my career and how pushing paper wasn't working. A piece was missing for me, and that was working with my hands.” She applied to the Carpentry program and a scholarship made enrolling possible.

The toughest lesson was learning to be more patient with herself. “When we had to do window miters last year, I was so frustrated because my pieces weren't coming together. I was such a perfectionist that I legitimately broke down.”

Carpentry Department Head Peter Smith PC '04 regularly repeated a phrase that gave Xiomara a winning strategy: “To move fast, you have to slow down.” She followed his advice, and eventually all the pieces came together. Today, she's a Carpentry Teaching Assistant at NBSS and applying for project manager roles.

“We had a long conversation about my career and how pushing paper wasn't working. A piece was missing for me, and that was working with my hands.”



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Letter from the Treasurers

Health and safety protocols related to the pandemic, like physical distancing and similar measures, required the School to reduce the number of students enrolled in Full-Time programs, and cancel all in-person Continuing Education classes. Based on the modified capacity, we were able to fill 70% of typical enrollment. The result was a nearly \$1,000,000 decrease in tuition revenue as an increase in staffing emerged to effectively teach in the new circumstances. Fortunately, government programs and the NBSS donor community stepped in to fill the gaps in our FY 2021 budget.

NBSS participated in two rounds of the Paycheck Protection Program and received two loans in the amount of \$500,000. Both loans were 100% forgiven with a result of \$1,000,000 in recognized revenue during the year. Another program related to payroll, the Employee Retention Tax Credit, was originally unavailable to NBSS under the terms of the CARES Act; however, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act expanded eligibility mid-year. The School then applied for two quarters of credits under the program, receiving over \$400,000. It is important to note that both of these programs contained eligibility criteria which required employers to keep employees on their payrolls to the highest extent possible. The Board of Directors made an early commitment

to maintain faculty and staff and this decision had the secondary effect of increasing funding available under these programs. Additional funding came from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which began in Fiscal 2020 and continued into Fiscal 2021. Student grants totaling over \$60,000 were released in the spring of 2021 and another \$440,000 in funds were used to offset COVID-driven expenses and recuperate lost tuition revenue.

In FY 2021 NBSS donors directed their gifts towards emergency relief, general operating, and specific urgent needs. Everyone involved in the operations of the School expressed, and continues to express, their enduring gratitude for the financial flexibility and stability donors have given the School through their continued generosity and trust. NBSS endowment funds continue to support operations and are a testament to the philanthropic community's dedication to the School. It is worth noting that the Board was not required to make any adjustments to its spending policy during the crisis and over \$700,000 will be released from endowment funds to support NBSS programs and students in FY 2022.

We are grateful to everyone in the NBSS community who gave their time, energy, and financial support throughout FY 2021, and are happy to report that NBSS is emerging from the pandemic stronger than ever.


Peder Johnson
Co-Treasurer


Matthew Day
Co-Treasurer

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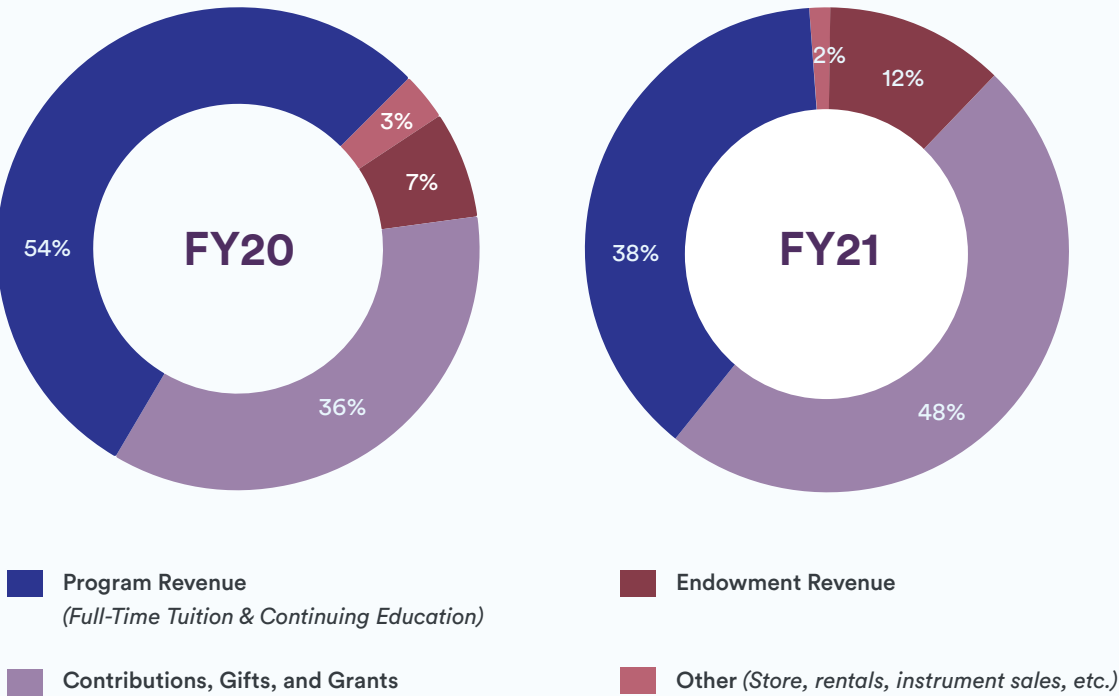
Financials

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues

	7/31/20	7/31/21	% CHANGE	% OF REVENUE
Tuition and fees, net	2,791,167	2,057,045	-26.3%	38%
Contributions, gifts, and grants	2,216,268	2,616,909	18.1%	48%
Continuing education	297,304	12,382	-95.8%	<1%
Project and instrument revenue	87,157	65,599	-24.7%	1%
Investment income used in operations	417,000	640,700	53.6%	12%
Other revenue	25,704	18,675	-27.3%	<1%
Rental revenue	1,323	0	-100.0%	0%
Store sales, net of cost of sales	40,286	3,300	-91.8%	<1%
Total Revenues	5,876,209	5,414,610	-7.9%	100%

Revenue by Source



Expenses

	7/31/20	7/31/21	% CHANGE	% OF EXPENSES
Program	3,605,195	3,739,406	3.7%	61%
General and administrative	1,640,595	1,999,753	21.9%	32%
Fundraising and development	488,206	456,100	-6.6%	7%
Total Expenses	5,733,996	6,195,258	8.0%	100%
Change in Net Assets from Operations	142,213	(780,648)	-648.9%	

Non-Operating Activity

	7/31/20	7/31/21	% CHANGE
Investment income used in operations	(417,000)	(640,700)	53.6%
Interest and dividend income	513,353	503,472	-1.9%
Gain on investments, net fees	1,285,224	4,253,823	231.0%
Total Non-Operating	1,381,577	4,116,595	198.0%

Government Support

	7/31/20	7/31/21	% CHANGE
Paycheck Protection Program	0	1,000,000	
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	59,545	500,000	739.7%
Employee Retention Tax Credit	0	407,297	
Total Government Activity	59,545	1,907,297	3103.1%

Net Assets

	7/31/20	7/31/21	% CHANGE
Change in net assets	1,583,335	5,243,244	231.2%
Net assets at beginning of fiscal year	50,071,998	51,655,333	3.2%
Net assets at end of year	51,655,333	56,898,577	10.2%

Welcomes & Goodbyes

The 2020-2021 year welcomed several new staff members who provide crucial technical support to Full-Time programs, Continuing Education classes, and the School as a whole. Their expertise will help NBSS develop the necessary tools and infrastructure, both figurative and literal, that will help keep us safe, secure, efficient, and innovative for many years to come.



Marc Dreyfus
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES & TECHNOLOGY

With an updated title change to address a rising need for greater IT and tech support at NBSS, Marc’s comprehensive experience aligns with so many of the School’s needs. His background combines facilities systems experience, building maintenance and science, and home inspection work with IT infrastructure builds and service at companies both large and small. Marc has also taught woodworking classes at the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.



Laura Burns
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Arriving in a newly-created position, Laura is driving forward the planning and implementation of our new online Continuing Education programs. Laura has a background in writing and marketing, and was an Education Content Strategist at Veson Nautical, a software company where she was part of a team who launched an online “university” for their customers.



Jenna Lemieux
SCHOOL ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

Jenna brings a high level of organization, professionalism, and people skills to her role providing critical support for faculty, full-time students, and the Provost. She previously was the Facilities Department Coordinator at the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Senior Administrative Assistant at Gradient Corporation in Boston.



After six years leading the Locksmithing & Security Technology program, Barb Baker LK’04, Department Head, retired in Fall 2021, after a new fiscal year began. We are incredibly grateful for all of her years as a teacher and mentor, and she brought a keen technical mind and deep expertise to all aspects of the program. We’ll be celebrating Barb more fully in next year’s Annual Report.

Staff & Faculty

STAFF

- Sarah Turner**, President
- Levi Barrett**, Director of Finance
- Laura Burns**, Associate Director of Learning Design & Technology *(from April)*
- James Dergay**, Director of Financial Aid
- Kevin Derrick**, Director of Marketing & Engagement
- Marc Dreyfus**, Director of Facilities & Technology *(from March)*
- Nicki Downer**, Development Coordinator
- Claire Fruitman CF ’96**, Provost
- Melissa Gallin**, Director of Institutional Support
- Ralph Henry**, Director of Facilities *(through December)*
- Jenna Lemieux**, School Academic Administrator *(from January)*
- Bryan McGrath**, Director of Student Life & Career Services
- Marcia Michelson**, Assistant to the President
- Kristen Odle-Devine**, Retail & Exhibit Manager
- Robert O’Dwyer**, Director of Admissions & Enrollment
- Colleen Walsh Powell**, Director of Development
- Barbara Rutkowski**, Associate Director of Marketing & Communications
- Bob Sances**, Front Desk Receptionist *(through June)*
- Ronald Santos**, Building Maintenance
- Sharon Scully Stetson**, Associate Director of Admissions
- Betsy Vander Voort**, School Administrator *(through August)*
- Katie Theodoros**, Director of Continuing Education *(through May)*

FACULTY

- Bookbinding**
Jeff Altepeter BB ’99 *(Dept. Head)*
Martha Kearsley BB ’95
Erin Fletcher BB ’12 *(TA Sept/Oct)*
- Carpentry**
Peter Smith PC ’04 *(Dept. Head)*
Brock Leiendecker PC ’16
Emery Williams CA ’20 *(TA)*
- Cabinet & Furniture Making**
Daniel C. Faia CF ’94 *(Dept. Head)*
Steven Brown CF ’90 *(through April)*
Lance Patterson CF ’79
Matt Wajda CF ’00
Jamey Pope CF ’06 *(from April)*
- Jewelry Making & Repair**
Ann Cahoon JM ’02 *(Dept. Head)*
Marei Dose JM ’18 *(TA)*
- Locksmithing & Security Technology**
Barbara Baker LK ’04 *(Dept. Head)*
Romello Williams LK ’17 *(TA Sept/Oct)*
- Piano Technology (Basic and Advanced)**
Debbie Cyr PA ’93 *(Dept. Head)*
Emily Townsend PT ’07, PA ’08
Louis del Bene PT ’06, PA ’07
Will Roper PT ’19 *(TA)*
- Preservation Carpentry**
Steven O’Shaughnessy PC ’99 *(Dept. Head)*
Michael Burrey
- Violin Making & Repair**
Roman Barnas *(Dept. Head)*
Nathan Abbe VM ’20 *(TA from Dec.)*



List reflects faculty for FY21, TA = Teaching Assistant

Program Advisory Committees

Bookbinding

Mary Patrick Bogan
Rebecca (Bexx) Caswell
Samuel Ellenport
Babette Gehnrich
Paul Parisi
Graham Patten
Todd Pattison
James Reid-Cunningham BB '90
Deborah Wender

Carpentry

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“I am proud to serve on the Board of NBSS and to support the meaningful legacy of quality craftsmanship taught at this important and most unique institution.”

—MELBA ABREU



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* from January 2021 ** through Dec 2020





NBSS Everywhere

With Generosity and Vision, The Hettinger Foundation
Helps NBSS Expand into Online Learning

For generations, skilled craft- and tradespeople have enjoyed the many charms of North Bennet Street School's brick and mortar workshops as the heart and soul of hands-on training. This was true for the original location on North Bennet Street, for several auxiliary sites in 2004-2013, and most recently for the light-filled, award-winning facility at 150 North Street. Now, with expanding horizons for online programming, NBSS is stepping into a new, virtual construction zone.

Made possible by a generous gift from the Hettinger Foundation, NBSS is piloting exciting and innovative online learning initiatives that augment the School's existing in-person Continuing Education (CE) offerings, with a plan to scale a public launch of online CE programs in 2022.

When Vision Meets Opportunity

Bill Hettinger, a Trustee of the Hettinger Foundation, knows firsthand the value and excellence of an NBSS education, as a graduate of the School's Cabinet & Furniture Making program. An NBSS Board Member, Bill has long held a vision for online learning at the School, believing strongly that, "NBSS is uniquely situated to provide high-quality instruction over the internet. Not only to a few dozen lucky students who have a bench at the School for two years, but to potentially thousands of students worldwide."



Serious conversations about online instruction and programming at NBSS began in 2015, as part of the last strategic planning process, and the seismic shift of the COVID-19 pandemic put those ideas on a fast track to implementation. As early as December 2019, the Hettinger Foundation granted seed funding for online initiatives, staying mindful to invest resources in technology and content that will serve NBSS in the long term, following up with substantial funding to support a five-year plan for sustainable implementation of an Online CE program.

The Hettinger Foundation's support was prescient, representing a perfect alignment of a shared vision for online learning, meeting the urgency of the moment, backed by generous and thoughtful philanthropy. President Sarah Turner reflects, "During a year when NBSS could have turned inward, Bill's support and trust in us aligned with our instinct to venture outward instead—to take the opportunity to experiment, innovate, and open our doors virtually to the world."

The NBSS Way, Online

Building on an already strong brand, NBSS is uniquely positioned to bring a confluence of expertise, professional networks, and exacting standards to online instruction. And there will be nearly infinite room to grow NBSS as a virtual “center” for craft and trade, a resource for the ecosystem of the School’s fields—educators, employers, patrons—a leader in best-practices, an intellectual hub around shared interests.

Bill shares, “North Bennet Street’s passion for quality and excellence will inevitably shape its online component, differentiating it from the mass of how-to information available online. I see NBSS becoming the authoritative source of online education in hand skills, allowing the School to achieve its mission with much greater reach, and with the financial stability that a broader base will provide.”

With experience as an online student himself, Bill knows that many skills can be taught virtually. “I find that, more and more, I look to the internet

to learn to do all kinds of hands-on things, from working on a car, to fixing plumbing issues, to barbecuing. I’d say that I’m a self-taught metalworker, but in reality I was taught to use a Bridgeport mill and a CNC machine by a couple of guys with good YouTube channels on the subject.”

Boston’s North End has always been home for NBSS, and now, makers across the globe will participate in the NBSS approach to hands-on learning, even if those students’ hands are in Munich or Mexico.

“The maker movement today is very encouraging because so much of modern life is virtual,” Bill says, acknowledging the lack of access that many interested students have to the physical campus of NBSS. “How great would it be for a kid in India to learn how to make something well from someone in Boston? Even as we talk about going virtual with some of the training, it’s still tactile and concrete. People have a need to do things with their hands, and that’s where North Bennet Street can come in.”



“The School will be able to achieve its mission to teach hand skills, preserve craft traditions, and promote a greater appreciation of craftsmanship, on a completely different scale. Online learning will enrich countless people’s lives.”

Legacy and Impact

As NBSS celebrates its 140th year, a move online represents one of many ways the School has adapted to local and global events, technological advances, and community needs. Now at a moment of substantial growth in capacity and audience, stepping with intention into the digital environment to advance craft and trade education, this is a moment the School will look back on as a major inflection point in its history.

Sarah shares Bill’s passion for this project, “Working with Bill in this process has been a dream. For the School to have a benefactor (a graduate!) who saw the opportunity long before the School was even ready to act on it is tremendous. And to get out in front of the idea with deep trust and generosity, during an emergency year... it’s truly remarkable.

Without his early commitment, we could never have acted on this so quickly and effectively.”

The online initiative, and the gift that makes it possible, will have lasting effects for a long time to come. It has the potential to reach a more diverse audience of learners, allow access to students who otherwise would be excluded from NBSS training, expand the School’s national and international contacts, and invite collaborations that would previously have been geographically prohibitive—all while expanding and diversifying the School’s revenue model.

“The School will be able to achieve its mission to teach hand skills, preserve craft traditions, and promote a greater appreciation of craftsmanship, on a completely different scale,” Bill shares. “Online learning will enrich countless people’s lives.”



NBSS training is going online.

Made possible by the Hettinger Foundation, and a truly School-wide consortium of contributors, the Strategic Initiative: CE Online was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors in Spring 2021.



NBSS has a history of developing thoughtful, people-focused strategies in response to challenges large and small. The last year has tested this legacy, with proven success found in the remarkable adaptations made by individuals, programs, departments, and the institution as a whole.

Though less visible, a great deal of time and energy were channeled to develop a plan of action for online learning. This process, led through NBSS Continuing Education (CE), was both comprehensive and illuminating, allowing us to understand the School's unique position as a leader in craft education, to establish a point of departure, and to actualize a plan for future opportunity.

CROWDSOURCING

Some big questions we asked ourselves, and our community.

How do we maintain the School's reputation for high standards and skills?

How will we distinguish ourselves from others?

As we open up our space to a more diverse range of faculty and students, how do we ensure that they feel welcome, supported, and heard?

What can our Sloyd educational philosophy teach us in terms of approach?

With so many options and possibilities, how will we choose which classes to offer?

Who do we want to reach?

If we could offer any classes at all, what would they be?

GOALS & BENEFITS

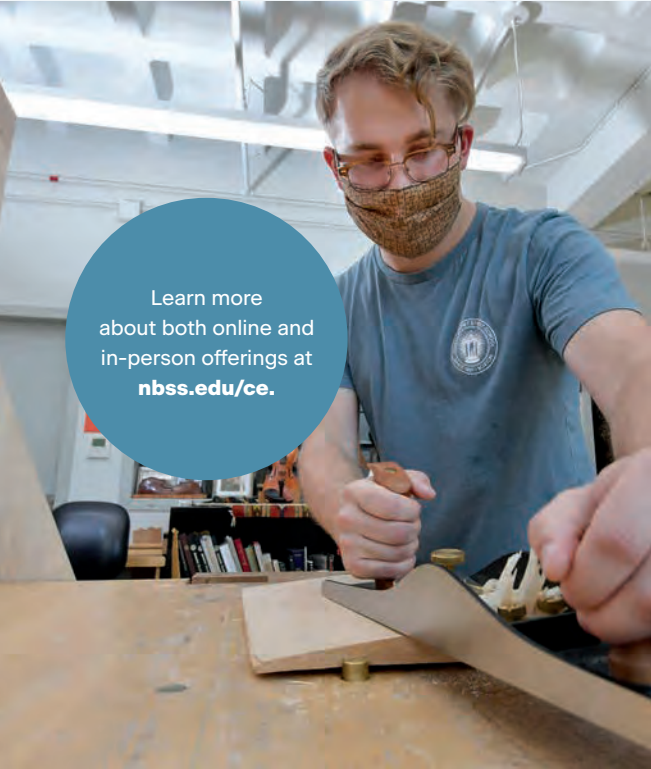
What we stand to gain.

The new NBSS Continuing Education Online program will provide a broad range of positive outcomes for the School, the industries in which it operates, and the communities it serves. Some of these include:

- **Increased access to craft**, with more people able to develop new skills, engage in unique experiences, and develop meaningful connections with others through hands-on learning.
- **Greater opportunities for participation** among groups that have been historically excluded from mainstream craft education.
- **Broader use of digital tools** to create a community of learning, sharing, and connection.
- **Removal of real and perceived barriers** to participating in craft experiences and education.
- **A more expansive view of NBSS** as both a place for learning and as a *center* for craft and trade.
- **Greater appreciation, enjoyment, and knowledge of craft**, both within our own networks and beyond.
- **A more expansive definition of craft** and trade overall.

TIMELINE

Here's how the work was done.



Learn more about both online and in-person offerings at nbss.edu/ce.

PILOT & LAUNCH

What's next for CE Online.

As of this writing, an invite-only pilot was launched in the Fall of 2021, with nearly 150 students participating in five virtual classes. Takeaways from the effort will inform the next, public phase of online offerings, slated for early spring 2022. We're excited to welcome you (back) to the School soon!

6 one-day classes
(2 hours)

Chip Carving
Round Basket Weaving
Travel Journals

2 multi-week classes
(4-6 weeks)

Artists' Books
Chisel Sharpening



OUR DONORS

North Bennet Street School extends our deep gratitude to all community members who generously supported the School during our 2021 fiscal year.

The following donors are recognized for gifts and pledges made to NBSS between August 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021.



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Named after North Bennet Street School’s founder, Pauline Agassiz Shaw, the Shaw Society recognizes leadership donors who ensure the School’s ongoing excellence with Annual Fund contributions of \$1,000 or more.

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“I will continue to support North Bennet Street School as long as I can to help maintain this wonderful institution.”

—TIM WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMERITUS

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The NBSS Annual Fund provides unrestricted support for the School's annual operating needs. These funds ensure the financial strength and flexibility necessary for NBSS to fulfill its mission day in and day out, supporting everything from financial aid to tools and field work for students and faculty.



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“The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation was excited to support North Bennet Street School in 2021 through scholarships that provide craftspeople and artisans with experiences that can make a big difference in their careers and creative pathways. We were impressed by the School's focus on trades, as well as its commitment to increasing representation in fine craftsmanship.”

—MAXWELL/HANRAHAN FOUNDATION

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NBSS is grateful to benefit from generous institutional support—grants which contribute substantially to financial aid, facilities and equipment, endowed funds, general operating needs of the School, and more.

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NBSS General Scholarship Fund

Melba Abreu
Jackie Blombach PC '02 & Michael Duca, in honor of Robert Adam
Dianne E. Butt, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Neal Carey
Bexx Caswell-Olson & Patrick Olson
Gene Degre
Jennifer DiMola & John Fernandes, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Anonymous, in memory of William A. Etter
Valerie Fendt BB '10 & Alexa Bradley
Anonymous, in memory of George Gauthier
Richard Giordano & Maggie Cohn, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Jenny Goodspeed & Erik Hoffner, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Anonymous, in Memory of Marc Grant
Judith P. Hanson CF '95, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Tom Kirdahy and Terrence McNally (posthumous), in honor of Thos. Moser
James Mason
Paul F. McDonough, in honor of Walter McDonald
David Polstein VM '89 & Emily Stavis
Robert & Susan Filene, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Jill & Morgan Seaman, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Ro Trainor JM '91
Laura Katharine Twichell, in memory of Joseph H Twichell
Anne W., in memory of Keith Whitaker
Margaret Zirker & Scott Warmkessel, in memory of Alex Krutsky CF '81
Anonymous (3)



The 1881 Society

Named for the year of our founding, the 1881 Society recognizes members of our community who have included NBSS in their estate plans. By supporting the School through planned giving, the 1881 Society ensures a future for craft and trade education.

- Natalie Q. Albers

Dorothy Bell PT '99

Barbara M. Brenzel

Donna Byrd

Richard & Betsy Cheek

Dr. Thomas Divilio

John M. Driggers CF '87

Irving CF '86 & Shirley Gerber

Louis Giovanella

James Stewart Greto

Deborah M. Hauser

John Herbert CF '06

Marilyn L. BB '88 & James L. Heskett

Elizabeth Ann Hutchins

Kristen N. Johnson

The Edith M Kemp Revocable Trust of 2003

Vin CF '13 & Becky Kennedy

John McAlister
- Walter McDonald

Paul & Carla McDonough

John J. Mohr

Jane Callahan Moore CA '88

David Nadworny PT '72

John Nove BB '07

Selma Ordewer

The Morgan Palmer Foundation

David Popwell

Donna Soodalter-Toman

Steven B. Soppe

Keith Ward PT '12, PA '13

Deborah Wender

Valerie A. Wyckoff BB '89

Anonymous

“Support for NBSS is important to me because it helps to continue a longstanding tradition, singular to Boston, in its way, as the BSO and Handel and Haydn Society are to music.”

—DEBORAH HAUSER

If you have included NBSS in your estate plans, or have questions about planned giving, please contact the Development Office at development@nbss.edu or 617.227.0155 x172.

Gifts to Named Funds

Alex Krutsky Memorial Fund
Marcos Luna & Neenah Estrella-Luna,
in honor of Art LaMan CF '21
Anne Marie Conway & Art LaMan CF '21

Greg Comly Scholarship Fund
Mike & Leslie Comly

Hettinger Fund for Strategic Online Project
Hettinger Foundation

Joseph Newman Bookbinding Scholarship
Shereelyn Ogden

Lisa von Clemm Bookbinding Scholarship
Walter & Lila Hunnewell

Marilyn L. Heskett Scholarship
Marilyn L. BB '88 & James L. Heskett

Sanborn Mills Scholarship
F. Colin Cabot

Shawmut Street Scholarship
Anonymous

Stanley M. Sherman Memorial Fund
Anthony Richter

Walter McDonald Scholarship Fund
Patricia Dranoff
Walter McDonald
Carol O'Hare
Jane Shaw

Western Ohio Woodworkers Scholarship
Western Ohio Woodworkers Organization

Gifts In Kind

Laurie Abrams-Hall
Karen Arras
Frank Barbuto
Tim Barnes-Gazelle
Brien Beidler
David C. Betts PT '72, PA '20
Suzanne Cartreine
Nancy R. Coolidge
Dampp-Chaser Corporation
Eric Elizondo
Lawrence Fine PT '76
Firestone & Parson Inc.
Linda Wege Fisher
Noelle Givler-Green
Donald E. & Ann F. Hare
John Hayes
LAB Security Systems
Clara Lieu
Phil Lowe CF '74
Laura W. Marshall
Walter McDonald
Microsoft Philanthropies
Robert Miller
Richard Minsky
John Navarro
Tom Porter PT '20, PA '21
Doshie Powers
Danielle Senturia
Benson Shapiro
Gerritt VanDerwerker
Anne Vitello
Anonymous



NBSS ENDOWED FUNDS

The following funds and scholarships, created over many years and sustained by generations of North Bennet Street School alumni and friends, remind us of the legacy and impact of philanthropy across our School community. Some funds provide unrestricted support, some have special designations, and all demonstrate a meaningful investment in our core mission and values.

- Alex Krutsky Memorial Fund

Amelia Peabody Facilities Endowment

Board of Advisors Scholarship

Colonel Ruby W. Linn Veterans Program Endowment

Gladys Brooks Foundation Scholarship

Harold Whitworth Pierce Scholarship

Hauser Family Fund

Lisa von Clemm Bookbinding Scholarship

Marilyn L. Heskett Scholarship

Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez Fund for Facilities

Kennedy Family Fund

Surdam-Murphy Scholarship

Violin Making Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship

Walter McDonald Scholarship

Western Ohio Woodworkers Scholarship

If you have any questions, or find any misrepresentation or omissions in our giving report, please contact the Development Office at development@nbss.edu or 617.227.0155 x172.

↓ Violin 2019 A1/B+

GRID MAPLE



North Bennet Street School's mission is to train students for careers in traditional trades that use hand skills in concert with evolving technology, to preserve and advance craft traditions, and to promote greater appreciation of craftsmanship.

Credits

Writing: NBSS, Danna Lorch, Beth Jones
Photos: NBSS, Paul Marotta, Justin Knight,
Heather McGrath
Design: Studio Rainwater