

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Creating the foundation of tomorrows leaders through the performing arts.



Theatre



Dance



Fine Arts



Music

Technical Theatre

Sponsoring entity:

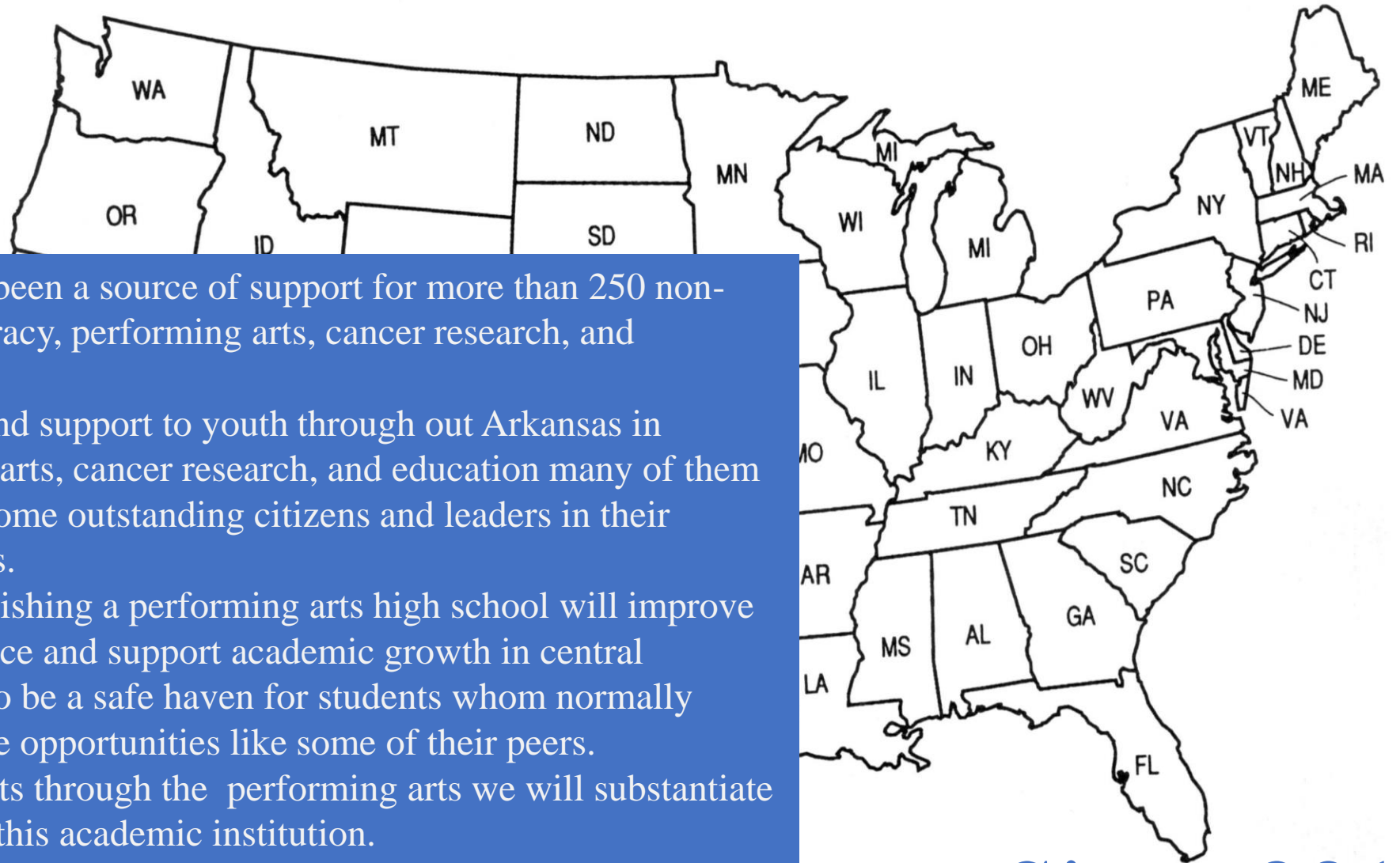


Dr. Anthony D. Bland Foundation, Inc.

The mission of Dr. Anthony D. Bland Foundation, Inc. is to support and be a national advocate for the performing arts, literacy, cancer research, and education.



AK



- The foundation has been a source of support for more than 250 non-profit entities in literacy, performing arts, cancer research, and education.
- By providing help and support to youth through out Arkansas in literacy, performing arts, cancer research, and education many of them have went on to become outstanding citizens and leaders in their various communities.
- Our pursuit in establishing a performing arts high school will improve academic performance and support academic growth in central Arkansas. It will also be a safe haven for students whom normally would not have these opportunities like some of their peers.
- By educating students through the performing arts we will substantiate the critical need for this academic institution.

Since 2013

Why is Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy Needed in Central Arkansas?

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (2018), the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate in the United States was 84.1% in the 2015-2016 school year. While graduation rates have gradually increased since 2011 (79%), gaps based upon race persist (NCES, 2018), as represented by respective rates for White (88.3%), Hispanic (79.3%), and African American (76.4%) students. Similarly, graduation rates of economically disadvantaged students (77.6%) fall 6.5 points below overall average. From the same report (NCES, 2018), Arkansas posted an overall adjusted cohort graduation rate of 87%, with less pronounced gaps, including White (89.2%), Hispanic (85.7%), and African American (81.5%).

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
Benton High School
74.15%

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
Bryant High School
71.95%

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
Central High School
67.69%

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
Hall High School
48.64%

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
J.A. Fair High School
48.11%

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
McClellan High School
48.49%

School Performance on the
ESSA School Index Score
2018-2019
North Little Rock High School
60.54%

School Performance on
the ESSA School Index
Score 2018-2019
Parkview High School
67.49%

Mission of Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy

The mission of Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy Open-Enrollment Public Charter School is to provide opportunities in the performing arts and enrich the lives of students academically and their lifelong ambitions.



What is our performing arts education model?

- Achieve a reduction in the dropout rate through utilizing the performing arts.
- Provide an annual School Improvement Plan.
- Maintain a thorough program of effective staff training.
- Maintain a well-defined and effective communications system whereby parents have access to the Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy Community Advisory Board and Administration.
- Pre-test and post-test students to document achievement and provide information needed to improve the academic system.
- Provide a fundamental education enabling students to go into the higher education or career path of their choice.
- Provide specialized programs, such as ESL or Special Education services, based on student needs.
- Provide the needed remediation in skill areas of reading, math, writing, literacy, and other basic subjects utilizing the performing arts.
- Motivate students to accept responsibility for their own education and become lifetime learners.
- Employ highly qualified teachers.



Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Academics

The unique quality of Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy will be its distinct focus on the learning process rather than the teaching process. Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy will accomplish this through the Performing Arts:

A. Diagnostics

B. Delivery

C. Data

Note: 1 Teacher per classroom (All Arkansas State Requirements for Teacher to Student Ratio will be followed).

In every class a form of the performing arts will be utilized to teach students.

We will also use two forms of strategy:

Strategy 1:

A. Student-Centered

1. Two co-curricular activities
2. Peer mentors
3. Student council watch
4. Privilege systems

B. Faculty-Centered

1. Faculty advisors (cohorts)
2. Team attendance meetings
3. Good Friend advisors
4. Guided study

C. Parent-Centered

1. Parent Monitoring
2. Parent communications
3. Three-week progress reports
4. Daily progress reports

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Academics Continued

Strategy 2:

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy will utilize the “Seven Habits of Highly Effective Students” concept first documented by Stephen Covey to train, guide, and teach students to lead.

These “Seven Habits for Effective Students” include:

Habit One: Be Proactive I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit Two: Begin with the End in Mind I plan ahead and set goals I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

Habit Three: Put First Things First I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Habit Four: Think Win – Win I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others’ Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

Habit Five: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

Habit Six: Synergize I value other people’s strengths, and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people’s ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone. I am humble.

Habit Seven: Sharpen the Saw I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with my family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I take time to make meaningful ways to help others.

Theater:

Drama Studio:

- The Drama Studio is a professional training program that will provide students with the skills and techniques necessary to pursue a career in acting. This training prepares students to enter directly into professional careers in stage, film, and television or as students into Theater, Speech and Communications Departments of colleges, universities and conservatories. The focus is on career preparation through courses in Theater History and Criticism, Acting, Voice and Diction, Physical Techniques and Dance, and Career and Financial Management.

9th Grade

Term 1

Acting 1

Dance 1

Theater

Survey 1

Voice and
Diction 1

Term 2

Acting 2

Dance 2

Theater

Survey 2

Voice and
Diction 2

10th Grade

Term 1

Acting 3

Dance 3

Physical Theater 1

Play and Analysis 1

Voice and Diction 3

Improvisation 1

Term 2

Acting 4

Dance 4

Physical Theater 2

Play and Analysis 2

Voice and Diction 4

Improvisation 2

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Dance:

DCPAA Commencement Dance Examination:

Section I: Performance On-Demand (January)

Section II: Senior Exit Project (administered at the school during the spring semester)

Section III: Written Examination (June) Students must take all parts of all three sections to complete the examination. This examination aligns with the Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance.

Dance Studio:

The Dance program follows a rigorous conservatory approach with an 80 minute ballet class and an 80 minute modern class. Supplementary courses include:

- Survival Skills for Freshmen
- Dance History for Sophomores
- Choreography and Theater Dance for Juniors
- Career Management for Seniors
- Repertory for Seniors

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Fine Arts:

Fine Arts Department:

- The Fine Arts Department will provide a rigorous conservatory experience in art education. During the first two years, traditional skills and disciplines are stressed through our foundation level courses which are required by all art majors regardless of what year they enter Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy. This program is based in fine art and prepares students for post-secondary education and twenty-first century careers in the arts related industries.
- Students are grouped heterogeneously. Within each class, the range of abilities, both academic and artistic, is accommodated through individual and small group instruction.

Advanced Painting – Students will explore a variety of techniques using oil or acrylic paints. Students will utilize reproductions and other reference material, including museum and gallery resources.

Advanced Printmaking – Students will create monotypes, woodcuts, multi-block prints, acid etchings, lithography, and silkscreen.

Anatomy – This course explores figure drawing from observation, including bones, muscles, and nomenclature. Students will learn the skeletal structure and use different techniques in rendering to illustrate the body in action.

Architecture – This course introduces students to the basic principles of architecture. Students will apply these principles towards the completion of a semester long project. Students will learn about structural forms, design functional spaces, develop mechanical drawings and create 3-dimensional models.

Art History – This year-long course takes a chronological approach in studying major art forms and periods from Paleolithic to the present. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art.

Basic Ceramics – Students will learn basic ceramic methods, including pinch pot, slab, and coiling. Artwork created include functional objects, as well as sculpture.

Music Department:

- **Major Assessments 35%**
- **Participation / Classwork 30%**
- **Homework / Preparation 15%**
- **Final Exam / Project 20%**

Music Department:

- The Music Department prepares students to continue their studies in music conservatories, to major in music at a university, or to perform professionally. All music students receive preparation in sight singing, music theory, and music history.
- Any student who has had previous training in sight-singing, ear-training and/or theory is advised to take a diagnostic exam in order to be placed into an appropriate level.

Band: Beginning, Intermediate, & Advanced
Chamber Music
Jazz Band, Junior
Jazz Band, Senior

Orchestra: Beginning
Orchestra: Intermediate
Orchestra: Junior
Orchestra: Senior
Orchestra: Musical Theatre Pit
Orchestra: Opera Pit

Girl Chorus
Gospel Choir
Mixed Chorus
New Music Ensemble
Opera Workshop
Show Choir
Women's Choir

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Technical Theater Studio:

Homework 25%
Exams 25%
Participation 25%
Projects 25%

Technical Theater Studio:

- The Technical Theater Studio is a professional training program that provides students with the skills and techniques necessary to pursue a career in Technical Theater. Concepts and aesthetics are taught using contemporary teaching methods that utilize state-of-the-art equipment. We will have professionally-produced events in our Concert Hall, thrust-stage theater, and black-box theater provide our students with practical hands-on work experiences.

Introduction to Theater Technology – This course introduces students to technical systems and standard technical Theater practices. The course emphasizes proper industry-accepted nomenclature of systems, tools, materials, and integrated infrastructure and introduces the steps involved in larger processes. Collaborative teamwork is a specific focus of the course.

Beginning Drawing – Introduction to composition, line and rendering in black and white drawing media. Students will learn basic techniques for descriptive and expressive use of drawing media.

Principles of Design – Introduction to the Principles of Design; for the appreciation and experience of design as an aesthetic, distinct from the other arts, and awareness of design considerations as manifested in theatrical productions. Students continue their drawing progression with rendering and explore period style elements through a survey of art, architecture, fashion, and furniture.

Theater Production 1 – All students of the program are assigned on a rotating basis throughout the year to various crews who build and run the shows. This course creates production assignments for all Technical Theater students, based on the student's ability, interests and experience.



Counseling Department:

School Counseling and Student Support Department:

Students are assigned to a Guidance Counselor based on the student's grade level and chosen performing arts area of concentration. We do this so families can receive support that is specific to their needs.

- Guidance counseling for social/emotional development
- All required media available to each student
- Health Plans according to the individual needs of each student provided by a licensed nurse
- Full continuum of special education services as required by IDEA
- Gifted and Talented and Alternative Education provided through individualized instruction
- Faculty with ESL or ELL certification
- Partnership with all surrounding public school districts to support academic growth and provide dyslexia awareness and services

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Dyslexia:

Research shows that integrating arts with other subjects can help raise students' achievement levels and promote growth in positive social skills, empathy, and social tolerance. Students with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, as well as audio, verbal, language, and visual deficits, benefit greatly from a performing arts education. Award-winning actor Mark Ruffalo is a testament to that, noting that as a child with dyslexia, the theater and dramatic arts helped him learn more about himself and better express who he is. Not only did the arts provide Ruffalo with the fundamentals to learn, but it also provided him the direction to pursue a career.

Anti-Bullying:

While bullying takes many shapes and forms, one identified cause stems from a lack of understanding of other people's experiences. Social-emotional learning (SEL) can help equip students with the ability to manage their own emotions and experiences and learn from shared experiences with others. Just as a whole-child education extends beyond mere academics, it includes much more than just "core" subjects on the academic side. The arts are a powerful vehicle for increasing students' engagement with academic and SEL content. The creativity present in arts education unlocks learners' personalities, makes them feel connected to their social-emotional competencies, and helps them develop important success skills for life. With Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy, we believe this school will be an anti-bullying institution combining performing arts and core academics to teach kids an important lesson about caring and resilience. Specifically, we will integrate the arts into the lessons and give students the chance to create, perform and interact with one another, we will foster an active learning experience for students, so the lessons they learned would stick.

Human Capital:

- All staff of the foundation and Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy will have a full background check completed prior to employment.
- A full-time campus director will serve as lead administrator for Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy and will be held accountable by the executive director/superintendent of the Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy as well as the Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy Community Advisory Board.
- Professional development will be provided through the Arkansas Public School Resource Center.

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

Stakeholder and Family Engagement:

Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy believes that Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff, and Community Leaders will be an integral part of the school governance. The Executive Director, Campus Director, and Assistant Campus Director's, with support from the Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy Community Advisory Board, will develop a Community Advisory Council ("CAC") for the following purposes:

- Provide ongoing input and participation in the operation of Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy.
- Review Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy 's policies to ensure consistency with the school's mission.
- Make recommendations on policy issues to the Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy Community Advisory Board.
- Assist in developing long-range strategic plans for Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy.
- Review and make recommendations for performance standards to measure Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy 's success.
- Have continued relationships with community partners to ensure families are aware of and receive needed services.
- Two parent teacher conferences per year.
- Partnership with local colleges and universities in the arts and academics.
- Conduct family needs assessments



BRAINTREE PROPERTIES

BUILT ON EXPERIENCE

Predevelopment

Financial Assistance

Architecture & Interior Design

Construction Management

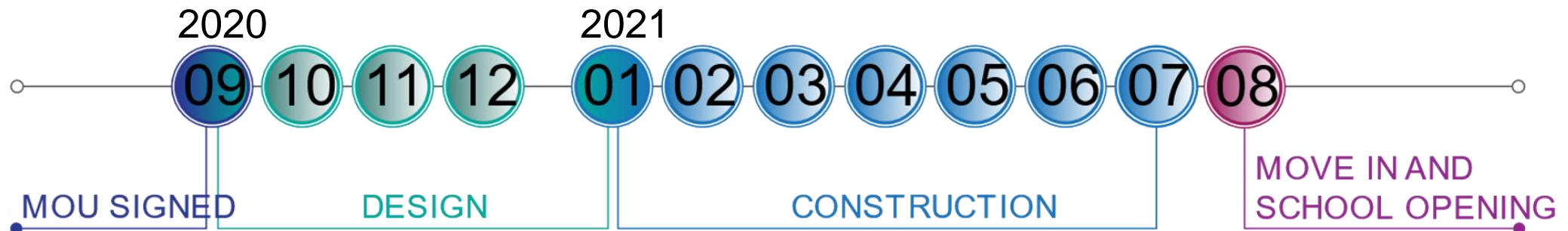
Facility Affordability – Phase 1 (600 Students)

Facility Budgeting

Existing Facility Purchase:	\$5,000,000
Site and Building Renovation:	\$3,475,000
Construction Contingency:	\$345,000
FFE Allowance:	\$500,000
Soft Costs:	\$1,817,000
Total Facility Budget:	*\$11,137,000

Total Lease Value:	*\$11,137,000
Estimated Lease Payment:	\$760,000
Lease to Revenue Percentage:	18.6%

Facility Timeline - Phase I (600 Students)



Diamond Cut Performing Arts Academy of Little Rock, Arkansas

70,420 Square foot building:

- Dr. Anthony D. Bland Foundation, Inc. and Braintree Properties are ready to purchase and construct this facility to meet the needs of our future students upon approval.



Thank
You

For Supporting Music & Fine Arts

