



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Homewood Arts Task Force (HATF), appointed in the fall semester of 2004 by Provost Steven Knapp to study the state of the arts at Johns Hopkins' Homewood campus, found an extraordinary array of arts programs and resources at Homewood that contribute to the vitality of the campus community and to Johns Hopkins' reputation as a leader in the artistic and cultural revitalization of Baltimore. However, HATF also found that while visibility has grown considerably since the building of the Mattin Center, the arts remain marginalized at Homewood. The University has not optimized coordination among campus arts groups nor collaborations with the City's arts institutions. It has not fully integrated the arts—instrumental and vocal music, theater, photography, dance, creative writing, film, painting, and sculpture—into the intellectual and cultural life of the University. Despite the opportunities to enjoy, study, and practice a wide range of arts programs and facilities, the University lacks a shared strategy for promoting and sustaining the arts at Homewood as a vital part of its intellectual and cultural life. The arts are orphans at Homewood, without adequate resources or facilities and without security about their present or their future.

Homewood's artscape is vibrant, with many strengths. The academic curriculum offers creative writing, film and media, the history of art, and theater arts, and is supplemented by a cross-registration program with The Peabody Institute and other area colleges. Homewood Student Affairs oversees the co-curricular program, offering a diverse range of not-for-credit arts programs in dance, instrumental music, vocal music, theater, and digital media as well as the literary arts, and a for-credit fine arts program. The University's arts assets, including the Historic Houses and collections of artifacts, are extensive. The arts facilities within the new Mattin Center provide critical space for study, practice, and presenting. The multipurpose auditorium in Shriver Hall presents dance and musical programs, lectures, and films. The Homewood campus is also an arts destination for citizens of the Greater Baltimore area. The Shriver Hall Concert Series provides internationally recognized musical programming on the Homewood campus, and Theatre Hopkins performs classical and contemporary dramatic literature. The Homewood campus hosts a number of poetry readings, lectures, and other artistic and cultural activities that draw residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, the City, and the region to campus. Finally, the University benefits in immeasurable ways from its strong and deep relationships with several arts institutions in Baltimore, most notably The Baltimore Museum of Art and The Walters Art Museum.

But HATF believes that Hopkins can and must do more. Curricular offerings do not meet the growing student interest at a time when the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences is trying to recruit more humanities majors and when peer institutions are strengthening the role of the arts on their campuses. The budgets of Homewood Student Affairs and the Student Activities Commission are not expanding at the same rate as student participation in co-curricular programs. The University's art collections, including the Historic Houses, need additional support for promotion and stewardship if they are to enhance the mission of the University:

- to educate its students and cultivate their capacity for life-long learning,
- to foster independent and original research, and
- to bring the benefits of discovery to the world.

There is no university-wide policy for the management of collections at the Historic Houses, the Homewood campus, or elsewhere in the University. The Shriver Hall auditorium is in desperate need of renovation. Additional performing arts venues are needed; there are few places to exhibit student or others' art; the Archeological Collection urgently needs more space; the Film & Media Studies program needs a film viewing room. The Office of Special Events, which formerly sponsored a Guest Artist Series, has been closed. The growth in student arts-related co-curricular activities challenges our ability to provide an adequate number of practice rooms for individuals and for student groups. Inadequate facilities—in both quality and number—also impede Homewood's ability to attract and sustain performances by Peabody's faculty and students as well as nationally and internationally recognized artists. While academic and non-academic partnerships with Baltimore City arts organizations and institutions occur at many levels, they tend to be idiosyncratic and *ad hoc* in nature.

HATF's recommendations are meant to support the University's mission by increasing both the visibility and the impact of existing arts programs; fostering a sense of community around the arts; and developing synergies among Johns Hopkins' Homewood campus arts programs, The Peabody Institute, and Baltimore City arts organizations. The first four address an overarching need to leverage our considerable assets through central oversight into a premier arts environment at Johns Hopkins.

The following ten priority recommendations (out of a total of 48 unique recommendations) should be accomplished no later than 2010:

- Create a **senior leadership position** (Vice Provost for the Arts) to promote and coordinate the arts (see page 38);
- Create a University-wide Arts Coordinating Council (see page 39);
- Develop a **funding strategy** to achieve this report's recommendations (see page 45);
- Create an **Arts Innovation Fund** to support creative programming in the arts (see page 39);
- **Renovate Shriver Hall's auditorium** and initiate a programming study to determine long-range needs/options for a **purpose-built arts complex** (see page 34);

- **Expand the formal academic curriculum** to create more opportunities for Homewood undergraduates to study the arts (see page 16);
- **Synchronize the class schedules** of the Peabody and Homewood campuses (see page 16);
- **Develop a user-friendly, comprehensive website** to support student artists and arts groups (see page 20);
- **Develop and implement a University-wide collections management policy** that includes guidelines for acquisition and deaccession, management, preservation, storage, and exhibition of the University’s artifactual collections (see page 27); and
- **Identify and implement strategies to promote and increase the visibility of the arts** at Hopkins, working in partnership with the JHU Office of Communications and Public Affairs; for example, enhance the University’s Arts and Culture website (see page 39).

Johns Hopkins has priceless resources in the arts that must become more central to its vision and mission. The arts must be much more interwoven into the intellectual and social life of this institution. Hopkins students, faculty, and staff can and should be attracted by the wealth of opportunities to study, practice, and enjoy a wide array of visual, literary, performing, and other creative arts that reflect the full diversity of world cultures. Baltimoreans from all walks of life should enjoy attending concerts, poetry readings, and theater and dance performances; visiting the Archeological Collection or the exhibits at the Homewood House, Evergreen House, the libraries, and other campus facilities. The proposed Arts Coordinating Council, led by the Vice Provost for the Arts, can provide high profile, coherent leadership for the artistic life of Homewood, while setting programmatic and capital priorities, seeking external funding sources, and assuring effective communication and cooperation among key stakeholders. The University needs stable funding for its arts programs including operation and maintenance of the Historic Houses and the care and stewardship of University collections.

The Johns Hopkins University is a world leader in countless arenas. The time has come to take the necessary steps to ensure our excellence in the arts as well.