



**LONG ISLAND**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE **ARTS**

**Perform. Create.  
Achieve.**

Long Island High School for the Arts  
is a Nassau BOCES program.

## **Weekly News for our LIHSA Families**

February 11, 2022

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**Thank You Billy & Alexis Joel & The Joel Foundation!**

# Piano Man's \$1.5M pledge

LI's Joel to give to arts school via foundation

ONLY IN NEWSDAY

BY JOE TYRRELL  
joie.tyrrell@newsday.com

When the Long Island High School for the Arts was in danger of closing six years ago, it was the Piano Man himself who helped — by donating \$1 million from the Billy Joel Foundation.

Joel, the Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, and his foundation recently pledged an additional \$1.5 million to the program. The specialized school in Syosset trains future performers and those who work behind the scenes in the arts as part of Nassau County BOCES.

When plans are finalized, funding from Joel's foundation will be disbursed over several years and used on projects mutually agreed upon by the foundation and Nassau BOCES, school officials said.

The entertainer and his foundation "have worked with us in developing the program and with ideas for improving the program," said Bob Dillon, district superintendent for Nassau BOCES.

Joel, who grew up in Hicksville, has been a longtime advocate of the arts school and an overall supporter of music education, often crediting the Hicksville High School music program for helping him launch his blockbuster career.

## Positive momentum

The Long Island High School for the Arts, founded in 1973, has seen a bump in enrollment in recent years, and is on track to welcome about 300 students next fall, one of its largest classes ever. About 200 are currently enrolled.

"We are incredibly proud of LIHSA's momentum and positive impact on the next generation of artists from Long Island," Joel and his wife, Alexis, said in a statement. "The vision of Nassau BOCES and the LIHSA team to develop a creative [Career and Technical Education] curricu-



Jerry Nobile instructs students in his acoustic covers course at Nassau BOCES Long Island High School for the Arts in Syosset.

lum inspired us to continue our support . . ."

The school, starting this coming fall, will launch a Multimedia Journalism program, and move its Game Design, Audio Production and Video Production and Digital Film Making programs from the Barry Career & Technical Education Center in Westbury to the Syos-

**They have ratcheted up the curricula — it is very rigorous, and it is the perfect launching pad for young kids who really want to pursue the arts."**

— Bob Dillon, district superintendent for Nassau BOCES

set site. That likely should push enrollment to about 300 students, BOCES said.

In 2016, when in danger of closing, the school enrolled 138 students.

"The transformation is the result of the leadership of the [arts school] building," Dillon said. "They have ratcheted up the curricula — it is very rigorous, and it is the perfect launching pad for young kids who really want to pursue the arts."

## Professional pathways

The school, the only one of its kind on Long Island, has working relationships with many companies and professional organizations, including the American Ballet Theatre, the Roundabout Theatre Co. and the DreamWorks Recording Studio. Graduates have gone on to work on Broadway and in nationally recognized arts organizations.

Daniella Gomez, 17, a junior at East Meadow High School who has a background in competitive dance, is studying ballet under

the direction of Stephen Campanella, one of the resident instructors from the American Ballet Theatre. Gomez wants to become a dance instructor.

"Having professional staff has been great for me," Gomez said, adding she has learned several different styles of dance. "I'm very grateful."

About two years ago, the school won approval from the state Education Department to offer Career and Technical Education programs. Becoming a tech school — similar to schools that offer training in trades such as plumbing or carpentry — means districts that do not have a technical program cannot deny a student's request to attend the arts school.

Previously, the arts school was listed as a gifted and talented school, giving districts the discretion to send students. Students can follow several technical pathways at the school, including Performing Arts, Visual and Media Arts, and Production & Managerial Arts.

The school serves mostly juniors and seniors, though it can accept some younger students. Students typically attend the school for two years, but can go there for a longer time period. They spend half the day in classes taking courses in a variety of subjects, from dance to special effects makeup. Students must audition or show a portfolio of work to be accepted.

The base tuition that districts pay to send students to the school is \$15,382 per pupil, but reductions are available for districts sending more than one student.

Currently, parents still need school district permission for their children to apply to attend a BOCES program. Nassau BOCES officials are supporting proposed state legislation that would give parents the right to directly enroll their kids in BOCES' Career and Technical Education programs, if they are admitted. Dillon said that would lead to greater enrollment growth.

Last week we reported that *Newsday* paid a visit to LIHSA to showcase our outstanding programs. The article, published on February 7, also shared the extraordinary news that Billy and Alexis Joel - through The Joel Foundation - will continue to be a vital partner with a new \$1.5 million pledge over five years. Everyone at LIHSA is grateful to Billy and Alexis Joel and LIHSA Advisory members Todd Kamelhar and Cheri Walsh for their continued support for LIHSA and advocacy for our students.

In addition to the article in *Newsday*, check out this [clip that aired on ABC](#) and the [coverage on FOX News](#).

[Other press coverage can be found on our website](#)



## LIHSA Students ROCK The Paramount!



Our LIHSA students were on fire on Saturday, February 5, 2022 when they performed at The Paramount in Huntington. [Check out our blog for photos, the program for the evening, and a recap of this spectacular concert!](#)

## A Look at the. AP Art of Conner Mastrosanti



This week we shine a spotlight on the AP Artwork of Conner Mastrosanti.  
[Review our blog to see his work and read his artist statement.](#)

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### Dismissal Diaries: Maria Bubulinis



This week, LIHSA's Assistant Principal, Erica Giglio Pac, caught up with Maria Bubulinis, a senior from Oyster Bay.

[See what's new with Maria by clicking here](#)

## Discipline Specific Open Houses

This year we're so pleased to offer Open Houses that are tailored for each artistic discipline.

Here's your opportunity to interact with LIHSA Honor Society members (on Zoom) in specific program genres. Faculty and Students will be present to share their experience and perspectives and answer your questions.

Select from:

- International Thespian Society for Theatre and Musical Theatre Students (Friday, March 4th at 6pm)
- National Technical Honor Society for Game Design and Production & Managerial Arts Students (Tuesday, March 8th at 6pm)
- Tri-M Music Honor Society for Music (Vocal, Instrumental, & Digital) Students (Wednesday, March 9th at 6pm)
- National Art Honor Society for Fine & Digital Art Students (Thursday, March 10th at 6pm) & LIVE on Saturday, March 19th from 11am-2pm



- National Dance Arts Honor Society for Dance Students (Saturday, March 19th at 4pm)

[Click here to register to ensure you get the Zoom link. And.....please tell a friend!](#)

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## Art in the Community

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, we have LOVE on our minds.

Fortunately for the world, Robert Indiana also had LOVE on his mind when creating this iconic piece.

[Learn more about this beautiful print on the MOMA page.](#) And why not consider visiting a museum with someone you love this weekend.



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## Opportunities for Students: Calling All Art Students

Application Period: February 1 - April 30, 2022

The Heckscher Museum of Art is now accepting entries for the 2022 *Long Island Biennial*, a juried exhibition featuring work by contemporary artists from Suffolk and Nassau Counties. This exhibition offers Long Island artists an opportunity to show their work to a broad public, deepening the connections between artists and the communities in which they live. Inaugurated in 2010, the Long Island Biennial has been ongoing for 12 years. The Fall 2022 exhibition will be the 7th edition.

HOW TO APPLY Visit [heckscher.org/libiennial/application-guidelines/](https://heckscher.org/libiennial/application-guidelines/) for complete guidelines. QUESTIONS? Email [libiennial@heckscher.org](mailto:libiennial@heckscher.org) or call 631.380.3295

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## Opportunities for Students: NCC Monologue Competition

The NCC Monologue Competition will occur this academic year on March 5, 2022 at Nassau Community College in the Main Theater beginning at 8:00am. They will be holding the competition in a 'face to face' format this year. Completion of this form and recording of your monologue performance is due February 16th by midnight. No late submissions will be accepted.

LIHSA can only send 6 total- so if more than 6 apply, we will have an external committee evaluate them to select who moves forward.

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## A Summer Program Scholarship Audition Opportunity


Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts:  
Summer Intensive Scholarship  
Audition  
From the creators of the LINK



Program, the A1 Conference, and The Growing Studio, The Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts is proud to announce its first ever pre-college program! On March 4th, students at Long Island High School for the Arts will have an opportunity to audition during Period A classes for scholarships to attend this summer's intensive program, if they are interested. To learn more about the program click here: <https://www.thenorwalkconservatory.org/pre-college2022>

## Opportunities for Students

MOSCOW'S  
**BOLSHOI BALLET ACADEMY**  
SUMMER INTENSIVE  
NEW YORK AND CONNECTICUT  
JUNE - AUGUST 2022  
3-6 WEEKS • AGES 9-22




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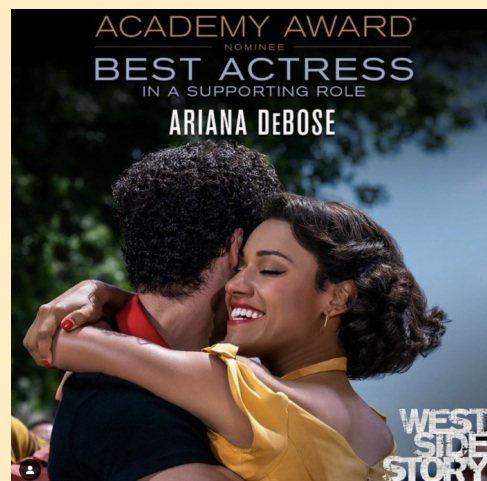
Virtual and Video Options  
[BolshoiBalletAcademy.com](http://BolshoiBalletAcademy.com)  
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## Black History Month - Salute to Ariana DeBose

Ariana DeBose is the epitome of the term "triple threat." Last month she hosted Saturday Night Live and this week, she adds Oscar Nominee to her resume, getting the nod for her role as Anita in the recent remake of West Side Story.

She shared some [insightful words in honor of Black History month to Variety](#).

Follow her on [Instagram](#).



## Holidays and Other Recognition Days to Note

February - [Black History Month](#)

February - [CTE Month](#)

February 13 - 19 = [Random Acts of Kindness Week!](#)

February 14 - Valentine's Day!

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## Upcoming Events

February 11 - [Open House: Alumni Panel: What are they up to now?](#)

February 15 - [Summer Program Open House](#)

February 16 - [Open House: Presentation by LIHSA Principal & AP: Overview of LIHSA, Programs, and General Admissions Process and Deep Dive Into LIHSA Admissions & Navigating the Process with Your District](#)

February 16 - [Open House: LIHSA Student Panel Q&A for prospective students](#)

February 21 - 25 - Winter Recess: Schools Closed

February 28 - [Student Council](#)

March 3 - [Yearbook Meeting](#)

March 3 - [International Thespian Meeting](#)

March 4 - [Open House: International Thespian Society for Theatre and Musical Theatre Students](#)

March 7 - [GSA Gay Straight Alliance Meeting](#)

March 8 - [Open House: National Technical Honor Society for Game Design and Production & Managerial Arts Students](#)

March 9 - [Open House: Tri-M Music Honor Society for Music \(Vocal, Instrumental, & Digital\) Students](#)

March 10 - [Summer Program Open House](#)

March 10 - [Open House: National Art Honor Society for Fine & Digital Art Students](#)

March 19 - [Open House: National Art Honor Society for Fine & Digital Art Students - LIVE at LIHSA](#)

March 19 - [Open House: National Dance Arts Honor Society for Dance Students](#)

April 11 - [Open House: LIVE at LIHSA](#)

May 5 - [Open House: LIVE at LIHSA](#)

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## Catching Up On Your Reading

Want to read an earlier edition of our newsletter? [Check out our newsletter archives.](#) [Or click here to see our blogs.](#)

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Nassau BOCES does not discriminate

STAY CONNECTED

