

## Nathan Hale Performing Arts Center Part 2: Celebration and Walk Through

NO. 14 Summer 2005

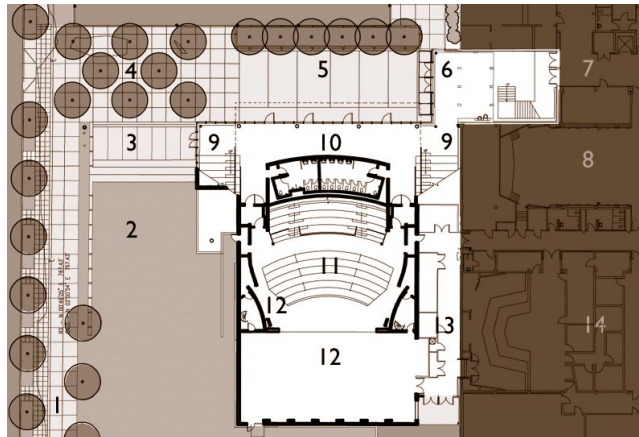
The fences are gone. Construction signs are down. Delivery trucks with materials are done with their work. After years of planning and construction, the building is now our Nathan Hale Performing Arts Center and Ms. Hechtman has the keys. It's ready for students to display their art creations, to entertain, make their voices heard and learn by doing.

Last newsletter, the vision and planning was described. Now let's walk through the new terrific spaces for Nathan Hale. By design, these are both performance spaces and great teaching and exhibition spaces.

The first thing we notice is that the school has an entrance. Along the front of the building is a long tree lined sidewalk called a walking boulevard [1] (#'s refer to the above floor plan). We turn toward the building at the new sign for the school, and walk down the sloping exterior forum [4]. The forum is the site for the new engravings project. Walking through the entry courtyard [5], we pass into the now larger entry lobby with it's now soft color [6].

Once inside we turn right, entering the long gallery seen from the outside. The gallery space is designed for easy display of student art [10].

Flanking the gallery are stairways leading up to the balcony. In each of



PAC floor plan courtesy of Mahlum Associate

these are wide teaching forums [9]. Teacher Tina Tudor describes these as "two forums where drama students will rehearse scenes and perform improv, tenth grade students will rehearse and perform Othello scenes and ninth graders will demonstrate understanding of the elements of Greek tragedy".

Next to the gallery, hallways lead into the main hall and this is real performance space [11]. No more lugging instruments and staging over to Ingraham. The 486 seats slope down from the balcony and embrace the orchestra pit and stage [12]. A pit cover creates a wide proscenium. Of all of the 16,800 new square feet, this is perhaps the most impressive.

Finally, remember the Little Theater? This is now a "flexible black box space" [8] designed to accommodate displays of student work and smaller performances.

These new spaces are testament to the long hours of planning by the Design Committee. Their mission statement of Oct. 2002 reads "The mission of the Nathan Hale addition is to support the performing arts and the school-wide focus on students demonstrating competency through performance, presentation and display. It is an exciting place, pleasing to both the ear and the eye, and it strengthens the school's ties with all elements of the community. It has

a timelessness that promotes responsibility, creativity, and hands-on technical skill for all students." Congratulations Nathan Hale. And thank you to the citizens of Seattle.

### Performing Arts Festival Join us on October 1st

by Carli MacColl and Jeannine Lupton

Everyone is invited to join in celebrating our new Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Oct. 1, for the first Performing Arts Festival. Starting at 1 p.m., a variety of performances by Nathan Hale school groups and others including music, theatre sports, poetry slam, dance, magic shows and more are planned. Please contact Gabi McCarthy at 206-524-7249 or by e-mail at [nathan.hale.festival@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.hale.festival@gmail.com) by Sept. 16, if you are interested in applying to perform at the festival.

Admission is free; however the event is also a fundraiser to help complete the technical equipment originally planned for the Performing Arts Center but were not covered by the construction budget. Tax deductible donations can be made at the Festival, or by purchasing an engraving for the courtyard, contributing equipment or expertise, or contributing food items for sale at the event. The goal for this first annual Festival is \$10,000.

Donors may receive publicity and recognition for their businesses. Most

*Continues at PAC Needs on Page 3*



Gallery and Forum  
Photos by Matthew D'Asaro



Main house from stage left



It was with great pleasure and pride that on June 16, I certified that the graduates of the Class of 2005 from Nathan Hale High School were prepared to become honorable, thinking, skillful citizens and met the requirements for graduation as set forth by the Seattle School Board. The students, their families and the staff have every reason to be proud of the students' success, their achievements, and their efforts. Counted among the 218 members of this class are National Merit Scholars, 56 Washington Scholar honorees, Wave Scholars, ACE Scholars, 6 Washington Athletic Club 101 Scholar-Athletes, and 44 winners of local, state, and national scholarships (self-reported) recognizing their academic prowess, their athletic abilities, their artistry, their leadership, and their service to their community. Outstanding details of the 2005 Class:

- they served over 23,000 hours in improving their community;
- earned over \$710,000 in scholarships (and we're still counting!);
- over 80% plans to pursue post-secondary education;
- at last count we had approximately 90 college acceptances to well over 50 colleges nationwide.

As is tradition, twelve students were elected to become Nathan Hale Patriots. These individuals epitomize the academic skill, the involvement, leadership, outstanding character, and service to the greater community that so many of our students at Nathan Hale possess. This year a special twist surprised all at the Patriot Assembly: former principal Eric Benson, who firmly believes in the outstanding qualities and characteristics of our students, has endowed an annual scholarship award for one of the Patriots. This year's winner is senior class president Stephanie Gil. We are

## Note from the Principal

extremely proud of her and thank Mr. Benson for his generosity.

Speaking of generosity, again I thank all who worked on the Annual Campaign, chaired by Carol Driver. Because of the committee's enthusiasm, tirelessness, and belief in Nathan Hale, the Foundation has generously received \$110,000 in donations from both current and new parents and from community members. Your generosity allows us to avoid any reduction in staff and continue to serve your students. Thank you!

With the coming of the new school year we are excited to have a long-awaited addition to our facility: the Performing Arts Center. I had a front row seat to all of the construction this year and watched with growing anticipation as it was completed. The committee that worked on creating this center and bringing it to fruition has done themselves proud. To have a "real" stage, with an orchestra pit, seating for 475, a sound and lighting room, a fly system, and access to the band and choir rooms as "prep" rooms for a production have the drama and music teachers salivating! The ribbon cutting ceremony is Sept. 15th. Then on Oct. 1 we are hosting the Nathan Hale Festival, a fundraising event, to showcase the new building and the talent connected to the school. The committee headed by Gabi McCarthy is hard at work to orchestrate the festival (contacts on Page 1).

As many of you know, the district is faced with ongoing budget concerns, growth in the northern neighborhoods, concern over facilities, and importantly, a need to focus on a cohesive academic plan for order in budget and facility needs. Nathan Hale is in the midst of this as we attempt to remain focused on the discussions that impact our student achievement such as small learning communities for all students 9-12, maintenance of student-teacher relationships as a foundation for student success, ongoing refinement of our high academic standards to ensure that students will meet and surpass the graduation requirements including service learning, a culminating or senior project, and successful completion of the WASL. To this end, the district website to support the Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing



*June Graduation at NHHS Field*

*Photo by Peter House*

for Educational Excellence is now "live." At this point, the site found at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/committeeforexc/index.dxml> includes some of the materials handed out at the committee's inaugural meeting on Thursday, July 28, with minutes added as appropriate. The district states "there will be multiple opportunities for community engagement and input to this process. These include a web input form (yet to be developed), community meetings and other methods. As the community engagement and communications plan is firmed up, we will share it with you."

Please take advantage of these opportunities to make an impact for Nathan Hale and the students of Seattle Public Schools. Our students have experienced tremendous success both while they were part of our school community and then after we send them into the world. We truly couldn't do this work and our students would not be experiencing their success without your involvement. Here's looking forward to the new school year!

*- Lisa Hechtman, Principal*

*Nathan Hale News is published by the Nathan Hale High School Foundation, 10750 30th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125 [www.nathanhale.org](http://www.nathanhale.org)*

*President: Steve Reynolds  
Vice President: Becky Roe ('69)  
Secretary: Rena Ferretti  
Treasurer: Alice Lanczos*

*Please send articles as e-mails to [steve@apl.washington.edu](mailto:steve@apl.washington.edu).*

- Sept. 6th** - Raider Day for Nathan Hale Students
- Sept. 7th** - First Day of School - *Welcome 05-06 Students & Families*
- Sept. 13th** - Lake City Golf Tournament  
*Supports NHHS Scholarships* - contact: Lee Jones, 206-387-0319
- Sept. 15th** - Performing Arts Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Sept. 17th & 18th** - NHHS Class of 1978, 1979, Sat. Mixer and Sun. Picnic  
*All classes invited*, contact Ric at fourwraspis@cs.com, or 206-362-5795
- Sept. 22nd** - Open House for Current Nathan Hale Families
- Oct. 1st** - Nathan Hale Performing Arts Festival  
*Everyone's invited to celebrate our great new facility*  
contact: nathan.hale.festival@gmail.com  
visit: <http://nathanhale.org/festival>
- Oct. 8th** - NHHS Class of 1975, 30th Reunion  
contact: [www.reunionswithclass.com](http://www.reunionswithclass.com) or call 425-644-1044
- Nov. 19th** - Fall Reception and Wine Tasting - *a class/book fund raiser*



*Celebrating teachers Joan Northfield and Gary Case*

for info or to help contact:  
Flo Lindstrom 425-426-6050



**PAC Needs** *cont. from page 1*

importantly, contributions allow the performing arts to flourish in our school community.  
Construction may be finished but the PAC is not complete. Unmet needs include: main hall lighting, \$25,000; black-box lighting, \$30,000; projector, \$10,000; speakers (2), \$16,000; grand piano, \$25,000. Total \$106,000. A daunting list, but working together we'll gradually succeed.

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**We Need you!**

The Nathan Hale Foundation needs volunteers. Help with fund raising, alumni outreach, or one of the Fall events. We also need newsletter and mailing help AND we are always looking for new community building/fund-raising/event ideas. Please call Steve at 784-0625.

**Alumni and Families**

Leave a lasting legacy while helping the school classroom and the completion of the Performing Arts Facility. Purchase an engraving with your name and graduation year or a favorite saying to commemorate your son's or daughter's years at Nathan Hale. Order an engraved plaque for the entry lobby or an entry courtyard engraving. More info at our website: [nathanhale.org](http://nathanhale.org).

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*Class reunion stories wanted!*

**WaMoola for NHHS**

Join WAMoola and help Nathan Hale every time you use your VISA. Designate NHHS by enrolling today at any Washington Mutual branch or: [wamoolaforschools.com](http://wamoolaforschools.com)

- Jeanninne Blue Lupton (72)  
NHHS Board Member

**Note from the President**

A few additions to what is already a very busy newsletter.

• Staff Tributes - This spring we had an incredible 105 tributes. Thank you all for your submissions. The ease of this process was due to the incredible efforts of parents Brian Wong and Cindy Gok. Thank you ever so much. I also want to acknowledge and thank Theo deVoss, who's taken on our website. Theo has arranged the tributes so they are easily accessible. Check them out at our website

[nathanhale.org/tribute\\_summary\\_05.htm](http://nathanhale.org/tribute_summary_05.htm).

• And many thanks to Carol Driver and the annual fund committee. Our total is now over \$110,000. Your donations have meant that the supply budget has significant funds. Supplies are a big tool for the learning process. And importantly, we avoided reducing staff. Thank you everyone for your generosity and time.

• In public education these days it seems the needs never end. Construction on our beautiful performing arts facility is over but it's not complete. Oct. 1 we hope to make a dent in the needs during the first ever NHHS Performing Arts Festival. Please join us and bring along your act.

• Our Nov. 19th Fall Reception has been a time to recognize people important to Nathan Hale. I hope you will join me in celebration of two incredible teachers, Joan Northfield and Gary Case. You will not want to miss out on this one.

• Finally, please, make yourselves aware of the issues facing our Seattle public schools and our gem, Nathan Hale. Go to the polls on Sept. 20th. The District is considering selling the radio station and growing the school to 1500. Both will impact the school greatly. Lisa notes a website where you can follow these issues. A community commitment to the school's future is something each of us will need to focus on.

*Steve Reynolds*

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Please note: We are sorry to hear of the passing of former horticulture teacher Larry Fullner. Our sincere sympathies to his family.

Nathan Hale High School Foundation  
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Seattle, WA 98125

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*School, Community and Alumni  
Making a Difference for Students  
at Nathan Hale High School!!*

*Please Join us at these Foundation Fall Events and Welcome to the 05/06 School Year!*

**Oct. 1st** - Nathan Hale Performing Arts Festival  
Everyone's invited to celebrate our great new facility  
contact: [nathan.hale.festival@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.hale.festival@gmail.com)  
visit: <http://nathanhale.org/festival>

**Nov. 19th** - Fall Reception and Wine Tasting  
*a class/book fund-raiser*  
Celebrating teachers Joan Northfield and Gary Case  
for info or to help, contact: Flo Lindstrom 425-426-6050



Photo by Matthew D'Asaro