

# Seven-Year Curriculum Review Cycle

The review cycle has been designed to meet the following needs:

A process to support both curriculum changes and instructional improvement.

A review cycle which is manageable for elementary teachers who are impacted by changes in many instructional areas.

A method for the equitable distribution of funding for materials, staffing, curriculum work, and professional development.

# 7-Year Curriculum Review Cycle

## Phase 1

Introduction of the new Plan of Action outlining recommended changes and improvements.

## Phase 3 (up to 3 years)

Implementation of the Plan of Action across content areas.

## Phase 4 (1 year)

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Plan of Action and the creation of a new Plan of Action.

Today

2017-18

2020

2022

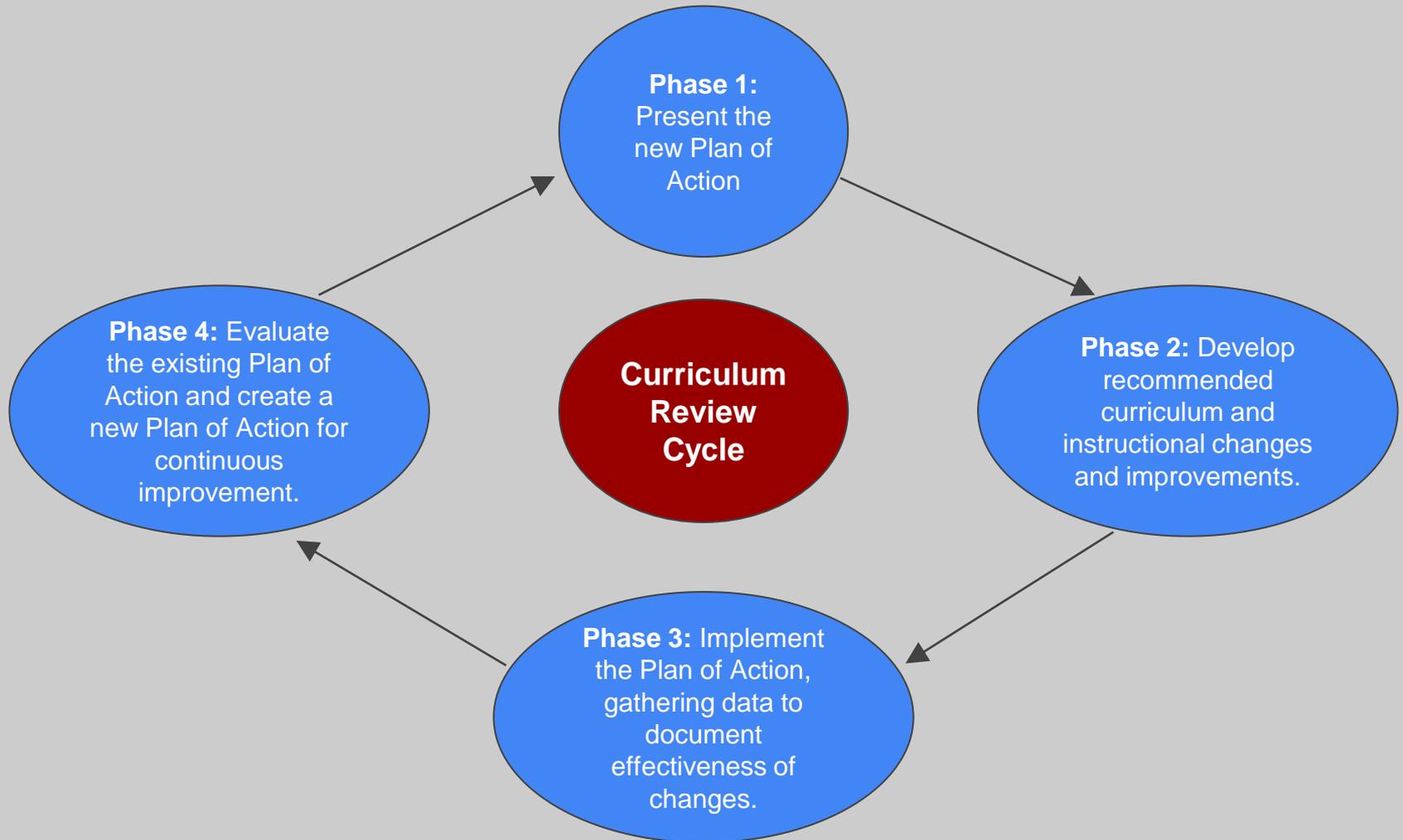
2023

## Phase 2 (up to 2 years)

Development of recommended curriculum changes and instructional improvements.

## Self-Study

Data collection and internal review.



# Visual & Performing Arts

Belmont Public Schools, Plan of Action 2016-2023





# Plan Development

## → Self-Study

- ◆ VPA Faculty
- ◆ VPA Steering Committee

## → Survey Groups

- ◆ Faculty
- ◆ K-12 Parents
- ◆ BHS Students

## → Visiting Team Reports

- ◆ Commendations
- ◆ Recommendations

# VPA Visiting Team

Site Visit: April 26-27, 2016



Sean Hagan,  
Bedford

**Visual Art Program Director**  
12+ years of experience as  
an arts educator in  
Lexington and Bedford.  
Prior experience in  
television production.



Susan Memoli,  
Wayland

**K-12 Fine Arts Coordinator**  
2004 Recipient of  
*School Band and Orchestra*  
"50 Directors Who Make a  
Difference" Award.



George Ratkevich,  
Burlington

**Visual Arts Coordinator**  
20+ years of experience as  
an arts educator. Lecturer  
at BU, MFA, Northeastern,  
Mass. College of Art.



Kayla Werlin,  
East Longmeadow

**Music Department Chair**  
30+ years of experience as  
a music educator and  
curriculum leader. Area of  
focus is choral music.

# Visiting Team Contribution

## Pre-Visit

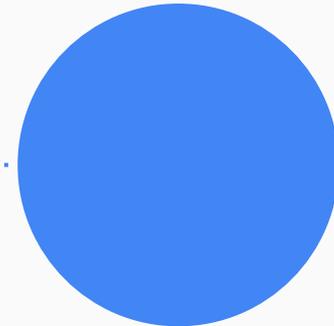
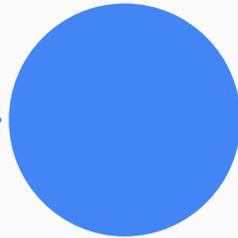
The team was provided with comprehensive program information, survey data, and our perceived strengths/weaknesses.

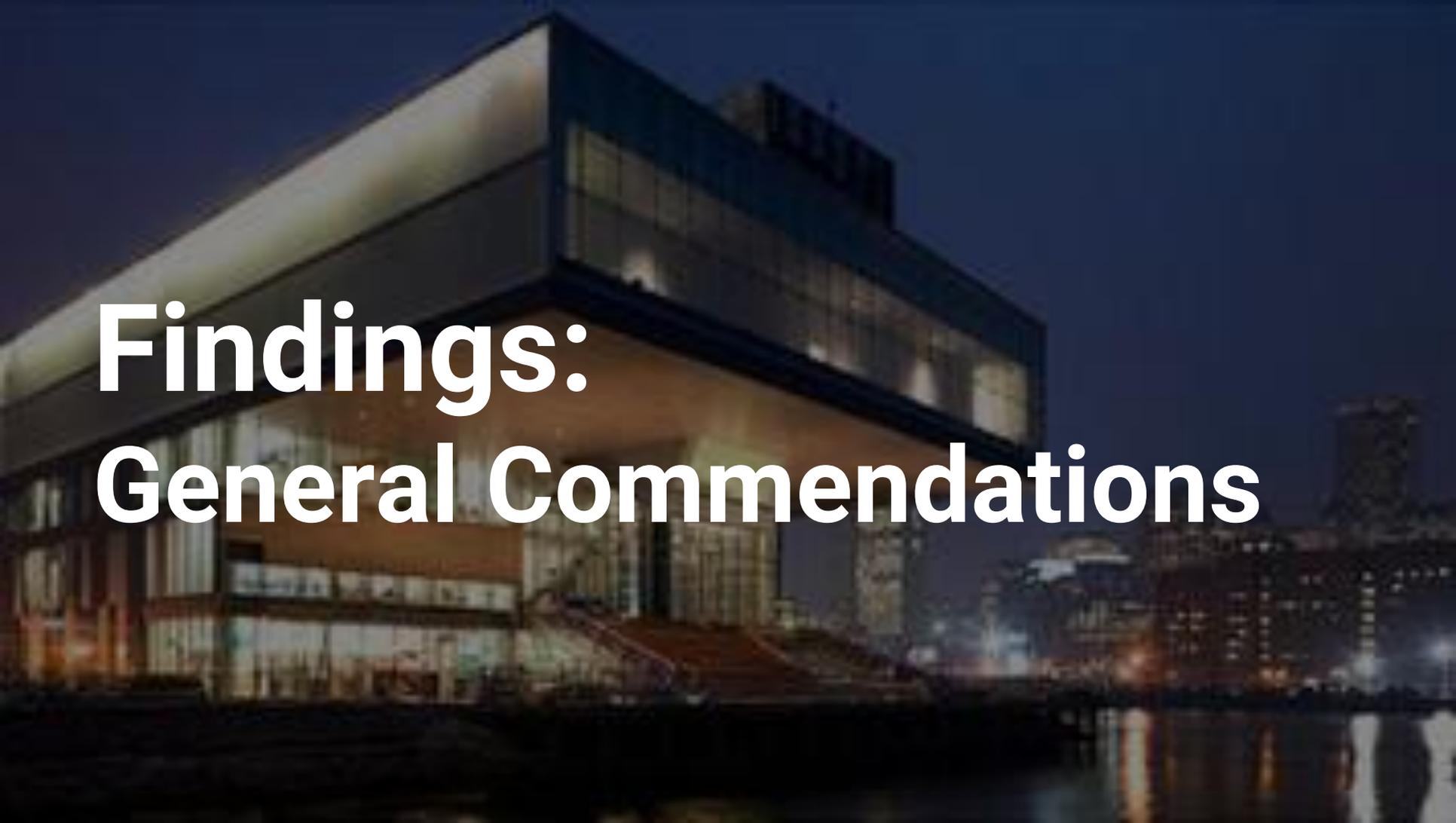
## Site Visit

Over the course of two full days, the team observed classes in all six buildings, met with VPA Teachers, principals Central Office administrators and the VPA Steering Committee.

## Final Reports

The team worked together to create two reports - visual art, music/theater - that provide important feedback and suggestions for continued growth.



A nighttime photograph of a cityscape. The foreground is dominated by a large, modern building with a prominent cantilevered upper section. The building's interior lights are visible through the windows, and the cantilevered part is brightly lit from below. In the background, other city buildings are visible, some with lights on, and their reflections are seen in a body of water in the lower right. The sky is dark blue.

# **Findings: General Commendations**

# Student Work

At all grade levels and in all content areas, students produce artwork at a very high level.

Visual art work represents a variety of media and styles. Student artwork is recognized each year as among the most outstanding in the state.

Music ensembles maintain a tradition of excellence, with many students selected each year to perform in honors ensembles at the district and state level.

Theater Arts productions at BHS have achieved a very high standard for onstage performance as well as technical production.

# VPA Teaching Faculty

Educators in the Visual & Performing Arts are among the most skilled and dedicated individuals in their field, with many having received recognition by their respective professional organizations and other institutions.

Aside from their high level of expertise, VPA teachers are passionate artists, musicians, performers and educators who are genuinely invested in their students' success. While they place a high emphasis on skill-development and artistic growth, teachers also strive to provide students with a joyful experience aimed at fostering a lifelong affinity for the arts.

The VPA Visiting Team (2016) notes that VPA teachers “demonstrate genuine care and interest in their students”, and remarked on the high level of relationship-building they observed between teachers, students and families within the VPA Department.

# District & Community Support

Support for arts education in Belmont runs far deeper than merely supporting programs financially. The educational leadership in our district - including Central Office and building-based administration - values the importance of arts education in the lives of students, and actively support its place in our core curriculum.

Art exhibits, concerts and theater performances are well-attended - not only by the parents of students involved, but by other teachers, administrators and community members.

The VPA Visiting Team (2016) was effusive in their comments after meeting with Central Office administrators and building principals, expressing their praise for the level to which the educational leaders understand and value arts education in our schools.



# Findings: Initiatives and Action Steps

# Initiatives and Action Steps

*Department of Visual and Performing Arts, 2016-2021*



## Department-wide

Initiatives that apply to multiple curriculum areas and grade levels, or to the general operations of the VPA Department.



## Visual Art

Initiatives and Action Steps with outcomes focused on growth in the area of K-12 Visual Art.



## Music

These initiatives involve the K-12 Music program, including Classroom Music, Chorus, and Instrumental Music.



## Theater & Dance

Initiatives and Action Steps intended to strengthen the Theater Arts program and to expand offerings in Dance at multiple levels.

# Strategic Plan Alignment

Each initiative in the *VPA Plan of Action* is connected directly to one of the three goals outlined in the Belmont Public Schools 2016-17 Strategic Plan.

**Goal A:** Preparing all students for college, career and lifelong learning.

**Goal B:** To support continuous improvement and overall programmatic stability by engaging in...long-term strategic planning.

**Goal C:** To ensure that students receive instruction from consistently highly qualified educators who pursue continuous improvement of their art.

# Department-wide Initiatives

## Strategic Plan: Goal A

Work to strengthen curriculum alignment across school buildings, and curriculum continuity between grade levels, with state frameworks and national standards for arts education.

Advocate for scheduling models at BHS that make it realistic for students to enroll in more than one elective, and scheduling practices that make it practical to assign students to second choice electives when necessary.

## Strategic Plan: Goal B

Seek opportunities to reduce dependency on participation fees, and reduce their impact on departmental operations.

Advocate for minimum staffing levels at each elementary school.

Develop a plan to fund the general maintenance of performance spaces and equipment, and hire a part-time Technical Staff/Facilities Manager.

# Visual Art Initiatives

## Strategic Plan: Goal A

Provide equitable teaching space, access to technology (K-4).

Develop digital art (graphic design, computer animation) and industrial design curriculum at BHS.

Consider implementing a Foundational Art course at BHS.

## Strategic Plan: Goal B

Secure funding to upgrade the existing Music Technology Lab at BHS into a space that can be used for Digital Art as well as Music Technology.

## Strategic Plan: Goal C

Identify and make effective use of collaborative planning time for art teachers.

## Strategic Plan: Goal A

Adopt a uniform approach to teaching music literacy in classroom music and chorus.

Increase instrumental music participation among African-American/black students.

Improve the instructional model for instrumental music, Grades 3-5.

Develop project-based units for classroom music and electives, Grades 5-12.

Implement Chamber Orchestra as a stand-alone course at BHS.

Implement a foundational Music Theory course at BHS.

# Music Initiatives (continued)

## Strategic Plan: Goal B

Ensure that all teaching spaces meet minimum standards for teaching and learning.

Reduce the number of travelling teachers in the Instrumental Music program.

Explore and implement class-size solutions for CMS choruses.

Secure funding to upgrade the BHS Music Technology Lab.

Advocate for academic credit assigned to certain co-curricular activities.

## Strategic Plan: Goal C

Consolidate and expand staffing in the string program to improve the instructional model in Grade 3-5, provide instructional stability and continuity, and equity with the band and chorus programs.

# Theater & Dance Initiatives

## Strategic Plan: Goal A

Implement electives in Grades 7-8, taught by licensed Theater Arts educators.

A fall production at CMS in addition to the spring musical.

Collaborate with PE Dept. on creation of Dance electives at CMS/BHS.

Implement a Theater 2 course at BHS.

## Strategic Plan: Goal B

Advocate for the a full-time Theater Arts Director position at BHS.

Implement at least one Dance elective at BHS.

## Strategic Plan: Goal C

Hire licensed and highly-qualified teachers to lead instruction in Theater Arts and Dance.

# Next Steps

***The detailed Plan of Action for the Visual and Performing Arts includes FORTY-SEVEN specific Action Steps.***

*Each Action Step identifies the parties who will be involved in its implementation, including the VPA Department faculty, BPS Administration and educational leadership, as well as community organizations like POMS and the FBE.*

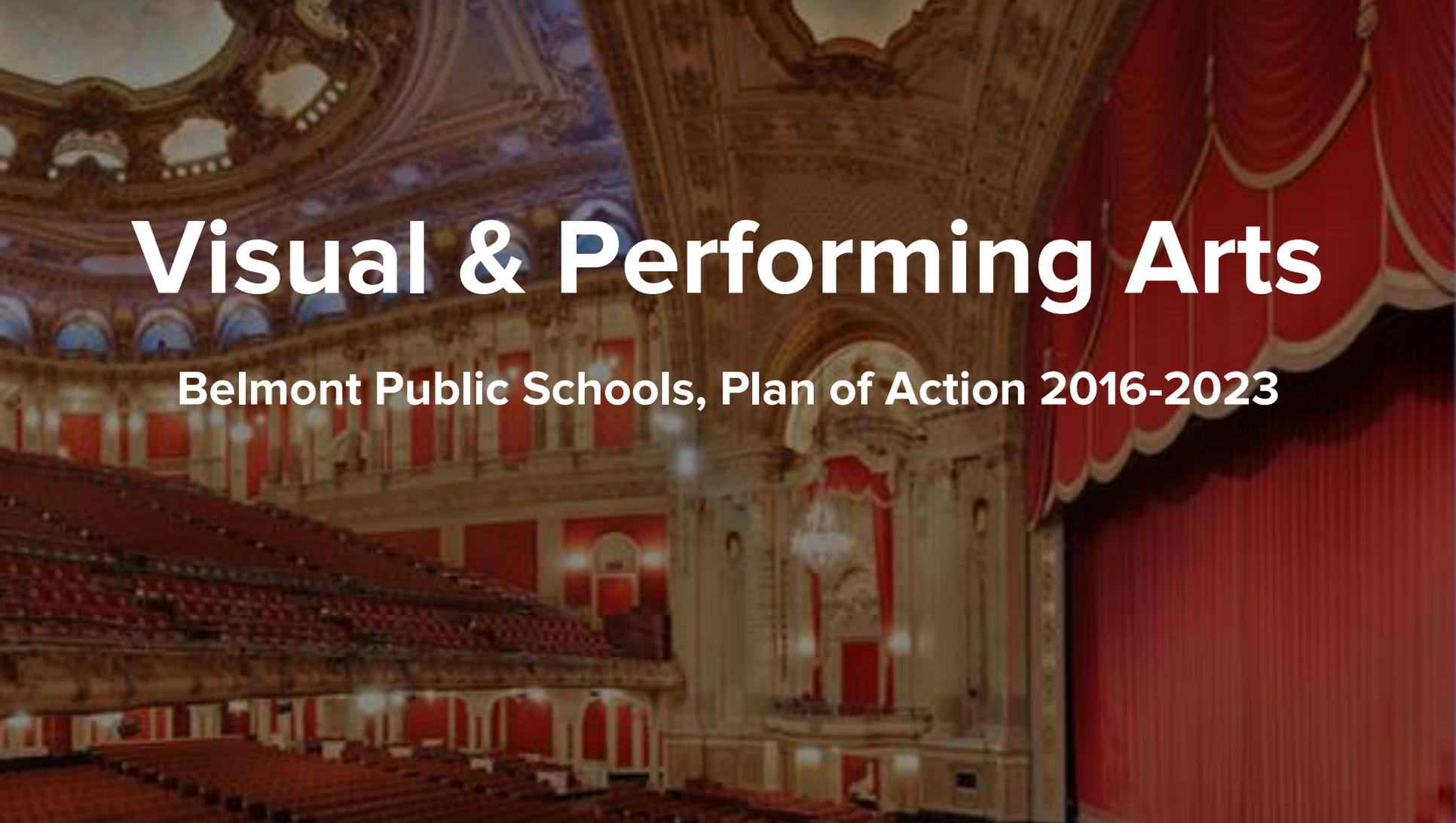
*The VPA Curriculum Steering Committee will develop a work timeline for each Action Step, with the intent of full implementation by the end of the 2021 School Year.*

# Community Support for VPA Programs

Administrative and community support for Arts Education is one of the things that separates Belmont from other school districts, and what makes our schools so special.

Our programs belong not just to the students and families directly involved, but to the entire community. All of our concerts, stage performances and art exhibits are open to the public, and admission to most events is FREE.

Follow the VPA Department at [www.facebook.com/bpsvpa](http://www.facebook.com/bpsvpa) for information about all of our upcoming events.

The background image shows the interior of a grand, ornate theater. The seating area is filled with rows of red seats, and the stage is visible in the distance, framed by a large, red, scalloped curtain. The architecture is highly detailed, with intricate carvings and a vaulted ceiling. The lighting is warm, highlighting the rich colors and textures of the theater's interior.

# Visual & Performing Arts

**Belmont Public Schools, Plan of Action 2016-2023**