



WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL for ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

2026-27

Open House Schedule

Please attend an In-Person or Virtual Open House to learn more about our school and our unique four-year course sequence with a focus in architectural drafting, design principles, and historic preservation.

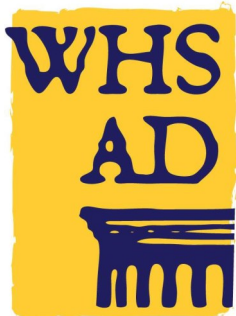
In-Person

- **Saturday** – September 26th at 10:00 am
- **Thursday** – October 1st at 5:30 pm
- **Wednesday** – October 7th at 5:30 pm
- **Saturday** – October 17th at 10:00 am
- **Thursday** – October 22nd at 5:30 pm
- **Wednesday**–October 28th at 5:30 pm
- **Monday**–November 9th at 5:30 pm
- **Wednesday**- November 18th at 5:30pm
- **Saturday**– November 21st at 10:00 am



Virtual Session

- **Wednesday**- October 14th at 5:30pm



WHSAD's Incoming Freshmen Get a Jump Start on Their Architecture Education

September 10, 2026 (Brooklyn)

Since the summer of 2015, WHSAD's incoming 9th grade students have had the opportunity to participate in the school's SummerBridge program, which allows them to begin exploring the world of Architecture and Design prior to the start of school. Read on to learn about some of the experiences students had during this special pre-9th grade program.

The Edge:

WHSAD students visited The Edge observation deck at Hudson Yards in Manhattan to practice one-point perspective drawing and learn about the world of urban planning. With breathtaking views as inspiration, they sketched the skyline and captured photos to support their artist statements, blending real-world observation with artistic technique.

Gale Nurseries:

WHSAD SummerBridge students visited Gale Nurseries, in Lower Gwynedd, PA, where they were hosted by WHSAD alumna Chandler McLaurin, a landscape designer who recently graduated from Temple University. The students explored landscape design projects and learned about the process of selecting vegetation for landscape architecture. They also had the hands-on experience of potting plants to take home, gaining deeper appreciation for the craft behind designing outdoor spaces.



WHSAD SummerBridge students take photos of the NYC skyline from The Edge to inspire their sketches and explore the city plan of Manhattan.



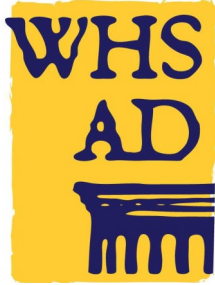
WHSAD students get their hands dirty at a visit to Gale Nurseries, a landscape architecture company.

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WHSAD Students Explore the Design Process with RAMSA

September 10, 2026

WHSAD first partnered with renowned architecture firm Robert A.M. Stern Architects (RAMSA) in the spring of 2021, when professionals from the firm did virtual presentations about their work for students learning remotely. That initial relationship has grown into one of WHSAD's most relevant and productive industry relationships, as dozens of our students have received mentoring, critique, and guidance from RAMSA architects and designers since the summer of 2022.

Based on the success of the virtual programs, WHSAD's 10th grade CTE teacher, Mr. Abraham Rodriguez, began planning a six-week summer mentorship program for a group of design students who are participating in the school-based SYEP program. For the last five summers, a cohort of 20-25 students has had the opportunity to supplement the design education they are learning in their CTE classes with hands-on project development. Students meet regularly with mentors from RAMSA who provide opportunities for reflection and revision, allowing students to refine their creative designs. Students are also given the opportunity to learn how to use additional design software programs, including Revit, Rhino, TwinMotion, and others.

Linda Foster participated in the program in the summer of 2024 and had this to say about the experience:

"(I created) a pavilion that was intended to elicit a sense of awe and wonder in its visitors. Throughout the design process, we were able to freely use our imagination, resulting in a project that exceeded our initial expectations. One of the most exciting and fulfilling moments during the RAMSA program was the final presentation, where all of our hard work from the past six weeks was finally put on display. Presenting in front of a room full of architects was extremely nerve-wracking, but the sense of pride and satisfaction that I felt upon sharing my project and seeing the wonderful work of my peers was unparalleled. It was truly a win in my book. Above all, being a part of such an enriching experience that will undoubtedly help me in my future architectural endeavors is a testament to how incredible and worthwhile this program is."



Linda presents her final designs.



Linda's pavilion design

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WHSAD Students Help Rehabilitate Newtown Creek

September 10, 2026 (Brooklyn, NY)

Over the last few years, WHSAD students have been able to see first-hand their work impact the ongoing improvement of a neighborhood Superfund Site, Newtown Creek, a tidal arm of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary, which forms the westernmost part of the Brooklyn-Queens border.

Designated a Superfund site in 2010, after decades of industrial pollution, Newtown Creek has seen a flurry of activity over the years in an effort to rehabilitate and rejuvenate the beleaguered waterway, and WHSAD students have been part of several key projects.

First, in 2023-2024, students worked to design and build a Living Dock in Newtown Creek, which was used to monitor and improve water quality by encouraging the growth of biodiverse aquatic species. Students used underwater drones to capture video of the underwater ecosystem. The project taught students about the vital link between nature and technology and how the latter could be used to benefit the former.

During the 2024-2025 school year, a team of students worked to design an expansion of the Green Roof on the building that houses the Newtown Creek Alliance, along the shores of the superfund site. In addition to visiting the site to help inform their designs, students researched the different methods for green roof construction and how they can best be utilized to encourage biodiversity and create thriving ecosystems in areas that lack green spaces.

Read the students' reflections on the Green Roof project here:

<https://www.whsad.org/the-column/whsad-students-reflect-on-their-newtown-creek-alliance-green-roof-design-work>



Drone footage captures students working alongside NCA staff on the living dock.



Mahkaylla Joliboisgantt, Class of 2028, presents the team's design for the Green Roof.

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WHSAD Senior is Questbridge Scholar

June 26, 2026

When the Class of 2026 heads off to college in the fall, Alonzo Jones will begin his post-WHSAD journey at one of the most prestigious institutions in the country: Dartmouth College, in Hanover, NH.

Alonzo was selected as a Questbridge Scholar (WHSAD's first!) which awards him a 4-year "full ride" scholarship, including tuition, room and board, books, fees, supplies, and travel expenses. Questbridge works with 55 colleges and universities around the United States to provide opportunities to students who might otherwise not be able to attend those schools.

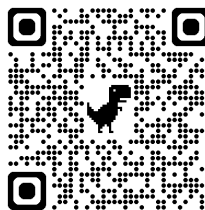
The Questbridge application process is not easy and requires dedication from students who are choosing to apply to college through this path. Alonzo stood out from other candidates not only with his incredible academic success at WHSAD (he was the Salutatorian of the Class of 2026), but also by always going above and beyond in his extracurricular activities, always looking for additional ways to be involved and to further his out-of-the-classroom education. He partnered with the Newtown Creek Alliance to help rehabilitate the polluted waterway, represented WHSAD as a student ambassador for all four years, and even found time to create WHSAD's Podcast Club and its first production, *Beyond the Banter*.

One of Alonzo's most unique experiences was as a Research Intern for the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy, which maintains the FDR Memorial on Roosevelt Island. As part of his internship, Alonzo helped prepare for the Fall 2025 site-specific installation by Chinese conceptual artist Ai Weiwei, perhaps best known for his "Bird's Nest" Olympic Stadium in Beijing.

Everyone at WHSAD is so proud of all that Alonzo has already accomplished, and we all look forward to seeing what lies ahead of him at Dartmouth and beyond.



Read more about
Alonzo's experience
here:



Watch a video of
Alonzo discussing his
experience applying to
Questbridge:

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WHSAD Senior Wins 3rd POSSE Scholarship in 5 Years (and 4th overall!)

June 2024 (Brooklyn, NY)

The Posse Foundation identifies, recruits, and trains individuals with extraordinary leadership potential. The Posse model is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development.

Mia Kokilashvili, Class of 2024, was selected through a highly competitive application and interview process as a member of the cohort of Posse Scholars for California Institute for the Arts. In addition to the traditional Posse application, Mia, a filmmaker, also had to submit a portfolio of her work for consideration. The CalArts Posse program was launched in 2022, with funding from the Miranda Family Fund, created by Lin-Manuel Miranda to further support students in their study of the creative arts.

Jordan Dove, Class of 2023, was also chosen to be a member of the CalArts Posse the previous year. He is studying visual arts.

Jonah Vazquez, Class of 2020, was selected as a Posse Scholar at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. During his time at Vanderbilt, he was selected to be part of University of Virginia's first cohort of Roadmap Scholars, a program that aims to help first-generation students enter the law profession. Since his graduation from Vanderbilt, Jonah has been working in Manhattan at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, while he prepares for the LSAT and completes his law school applications.

Read an interview with Jonah at:

<https://rb.gy/1qj2za>

WHSAD's first POSSE scholar, Ramon Williams, Class of 2014, attended Franklin & Marshall College, in Lancaster, PA, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Astrophysics. He later earned a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, and currently works at Lockheed Martin as an industrial engineer.



Mia Kokilashvili, Class of 2024, celebrating her selection as a Posse Scholar with WHSAD art and design teacher, Pia Moos.



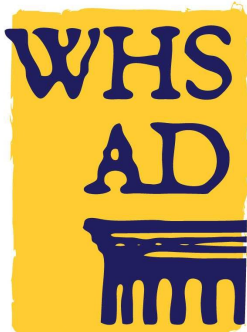
Jordan Dove, Class of 2023, and Ms. Moos.

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Where Are They Now? WHSAD Alumni In College and Careers

<https://www.whsad.org/the-column/the-keys-to-success-at-whsad>



Jalen Vasquez, Class of 2017, completed both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Architecture at Howard University. After graduation, Jalen landed a job as a Job Captain at Gensler, the largest architecture firm in the world (and a longtime WBL partner of WHSAD). Working out of the NYC office, Jalen oversaw a massive project of more than 1,000,000 square feet, while he continued to develop his own architectural practice and work towards his professional architecture license. Currently a Junior Designer at IA Architects in Houston, TX, Jalen credits his time at WHSAD with helping him understand the role architects play in creating the built environment and what he could contribute to the field.

Kenny Singh, Class of 2019, participated in the Construction Skills Pre-Apprenticeship program during his senior year, which prepares students for careers in the unionized building trades. After graduation, he began his four-year apprenticeship with Local 580, the Ornamental Ironworkers union. As part of the union, Kenny works on some of the largest construction projects in NYC. His tasks are as diverse as welding gutters on high-rise buildings, to installing curtain walls on glass skyscrapers. His union training also included 838 hours of classroom experience, upon completion of which he became a Journeyman. He also earned numerous certifications during the course of his apprenticeship, which will only add to his opportunities in the construction field.



Chandler McLaurin, Class of 2020, is making waves in the world of Landscape Architecture. After graduating from Temple University in 2024, Chandler is pursuing her professional career at Gale Nurseries, in Gwynedd Valley, PA, where she works to create unique and inviting outdoor spaces in the greater Philadelphia area. Her work has been featured at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and she was a guest on the "Women Talk Construction" podcast, where she shared her journey from WHSAD to Temple, stressing the importance of mentorships and networking, especially for young women in the field.



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Check out the
podcast here —>

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Meet Ms. Cumberbatch, WHSAD Alumna and Teacher

October 19, 2021 (Brooklyn, NY)

Ms. Cumberbatch is WHSAD's newest Freshman Architecture & Design teacher, and has the special distinction of being a WHSAD alumna, Class of 2014.

Ms. Cumberbatch credits her experience at WHSAD, particularly learning AutoCAD, for giving her an advantage in her college career.

"Learning AutoCAD at WHSAD gave me the upper hand especially when studying abroad in Italy," says Ms. Cumberbatch. "I was able to utilize the skills I learned here to create my projects a bit faster than the other kids in my class."

Furthermore, the summer internships she completed and her experience at Co-op Tech during her senior year at WHSAD taught her valuable skills such as networking, and exposed her to additional facets of the design world, including construction.

After graduating from WHSAD, Ms. Cumberbatch attended Arcadia University and later spent two years working for an architecture firm in New York.

Her experience in the field helped her realize that "college doesn't prepare you for real world scenarios." Because of this, her goal for her course at WHSAD is "to equip students with the right software and technical skills that are currently used in the field today."

According to Ms. Cumberbatch: "Most times, companies are looking for people who have 10 years of experience from an entry level employee. So why not give them what they want. By teaching our students how to read construction documents, to understand ADA compliance, to create finish boards, and to design development packages, they will be ahead of the curve."



Ms. Jasmyn Cumberbatch, WHSAD alumna and Freshman Architecture and Design Teacher.



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WHSAD 's Industry and Community Partnerships

September 10, 2026 (Brooklyn)

WHSAD is very fortunate to have the support of a variety of partners who provide WBL opportunities, student mentoring, equipment and materials, curriculum feedback, and more to help us provide academic and extra-curricular experiences for our students, both in-person and remotely. (Use the hyperlinks to view articles on www.whsad.org about our partner projects.)

[ACE Mentorship](#)

AIA Brooklyn
Architectural Grille
Assembly Member Emily Gallagher
Bill Harvey
Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

[Broadway Stages](#)

[Columbus Citizens Foundation](#)

Community Board 1

[Construction Skills](#)

[Co-op Tech](#)

[Crème Architects](#)

[CTA Architects](#)

CUNY Creative Arts Team

[Fidelity Triangle](#)

[Freshkills Parks](#)

[Friends of the Ruin](#)

FX Collaborative

[Gensler](#)

Grant Associates/CTE ISP

Greenbelt Nature Center

[Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths

HWKN

Kingsland Printing

Kohn Pederson Fox

[Lake Como Development Corp.](#)

[Little Free Libraries](#)

Macri Triangle

Make STEAM

Makeville Studio

[Manitoga](#)

[MAO Architects](#)

Materials for the Arts

MTA/COMTO-NY

[My Brother's Keeper](#)

[My Sister's Keeper](#)

[Newtown Creek Alliance](#)

North Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

North Brooklyn Neighbors

NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez

NYC Council Member Lincoln Restler

NYC Department of Buildings

NYC School Construction Authority

[NYC Together](#)

Office of Topography, Bklyn Borough President

[Park Avenue Armory](#)

Passive House for Everyone

Pei Cobb Freed + Partners

Powerhouse Environmental Arts Foundation

[RAMSA](#)

[Salvadori Center](#)

Silman

[St. Nick's Alliance](#)

[Two Trees Management](#)

[Walter B. Melvin Architects](#)

[World Monuments Fund](#)

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