



Date: 2/22/21

Brookline High School
Application for New Scholarship Award
(Please Print)

1. Title of Scholarship

The Osna Bard Sens Scholarship for Continuing Study of Studio Art

2. Please indicate the anticipated amount to be awarded

We expect to award a \$1,000 dollar scholarship the first year (2021) while fundraising for a capital amount from which to accrue interest to fund the scholarship in perpetuity. Our eventual target for the scholarship is \$2,000 - \$4,000 annually which we hope to achieve by year 5 of the scholarship.

3. What criteria do you wish to establish for the recipient?

(For example, to be given to a member of the tennis team, female or male, majoring in a certain field; etc.)

The scholarship shall be awarded to an outstanding senior seeking to continue the study of Studio Art following graduation from Brookline High School. The Scholarship shall be applied towards tuition or associated costs at a college or educational program dedicated to the study of Studio Art either exclusively or as a major course of study.

Criteria for selection shall include:

- Demonstrated commitment to the study of Studio Art during their time at Brookline High School, to include enrollment in at least 3 semester-long art classes
- Selection of a college or educational program at which to further their study of Studio Art
- A spirit of connective enthusiasm and reverence towards fellow students and their creative work, as demonstrated through engagement in group crits, sharing and assistance with technique or supplies, and careful maintenance of shared studio spaces and materials.
- A portfolio of at least 10 works comprising a portfolio of work.

All Scholarship recipients are chosen by the Brookline High School Scholarship Committee. Scholarship payments are made directly to the institution where the student is enrolled unless prior arrangements have been made with the donor.

4. How is this scholarship to be funded? Please indicate below:

For 2021, we will be fundraising to build a capital amount to finance the scholarship in perpetuity in parallel with a \$1,000 amount for the 2021 award of the scholarship. Individual contributors will send these 2021 checks to Caitlin Swaim who will compile and send them directly to the Scholarship Committee. (*Deposit - General Scholarship Fund*)

Our long-term goal for the scholarship is that an amount be awarded each year from accumulated interest from a scholarship account held in the Treasurer's office. We hope to achieve this method of funding by year 5 of the scholarship.

5. If this scholarship is in memory of a particular individual, please complete the

following:

✦ Full Name: Osna Bard Sens

✦ Living or Deceased: Living

✦ Resident of Brookline (If so, when) : Yes; Approximately 1965 - 2012 (currently resides in Boston)

✦ Attended Brookline High School: No

✦ Accomplishments/Honors:

Osna Bard Sens, known to students as Ms. Sens, was a beloved Studio Art teacher at Brookline High School for 30 years. She worked tirelessly to educate, challenge and mentor her students in the classroom and beyond. The rigor of her courses combined with her passion and warmth, inspired decades of students to pursue art after high school. Under her tutelage, students were continuously accepted by the top universities and art schools in the country. Osna was also revered by BHS students for the art history trips to Italy that she planned and led over February and April vacations. Many of Osna's former students say she changed their lives and credit her for their life's trajectory.

6. Please give any other details explaining relationship to Brookline Public Schools:

-Educator and mentor: Osna Bard Sens taught Studio Art classes at Brookline High School for 30 years. In addition to teaching multi-level courses in Drawing and Painting, she founded and taught the AP Studio Art Class. Throughout her career, her students were continuously accepted by the top universities and art schools in the country.

- **Student Trip Planner, Coordinator, and Guide:** While teaching full time, Osna also led trips for BHS students to museums and galleries in New York City and Washington D.C., as well as longer trips all over Italy during February and April vacations. Osna planned all of these trips herself, organized the travel, connections, meals, and personally led the tours. She also led trips to Italy open to Brookline families, teachers, and residents.

-**Parent:** Osna was a Brookline parent; her two sons Alex and Josh both attended Driscoll School and Brookline High School.

7. Please explain history of Scholarship. Why is it being established?

Osna Bard Sens taught Studio Art classes at Brookline High School for 30 years, inspiring decades of students to pursue interest, careers, and community in the visual arts. She communicated elemental and advanced techniques alike with humor, enthusiasm, and abundant kindness, but also with discipline and clarity. Her skill as an educator to lead through both inspiration and a standard of rigor allowed her to be a transformative mentor to students, transcending the study of art to encompass a wide-reaching approach to engaged learning.

In addition to teaching classes in Drawing and Painting, she founded the AP Studio Art Class which encouraged students to see themselves as artists integrating media and conceptual thinking in visual art as a foundational part of their experience in and beyond high school. A scholar of Art History (M.A. in Art History, Harvard University) as well as a widely exhibited painter (B.A. in Fine Arts, Brandeis University), Osna found ways to connect students with a wide spectrum of interests to an inclusive understanding of art and its potential applications with sensitivity to each student's unique intellect and sense of authenticity.

Through the AP Studio Course in particular, she inspired students to synthesize the traits of concentration, excellence, and research prized in other AP classes with dimensions of experimentation, risk-taking, and capacity for self-reflection arguably as critical to academic growth but perhaps less familiar to students in their experience of evaluation in other subjects.

In addition to leading students on educational trips to New York and Washington D.C. throughout her career, Osna also led carefully planned trips to Italy over February and

April vacations open to all students, not only those enrolled in her classes. Many students have described these trips as “life-changing”, not only because for so many they offered a first opportunity to travel abroad, but because her itinerary and leadership balanced a demanding level of in-situ Art Historical scholarship with a vibrant understanding of Italian culture, food, and landscape on par or exceeding that of college-level abroad programs.

Osna was an educator who understood the importance of being accessible to students and families alike. She reached out regularly to parents to communicate insights about their son or daughter’s strengths and interests that might be unknown to the parents, giving a voice and recognition to student’s surfacing strengths as much as to their known achievements. Parents knew she cared deeply and that she could be reached at any time.

This Scholarship is dedicated in gratitude to Osna Bard Sens’s decades of service and attention to the emerging strengths of students, and to her commitment to empowering their holistic future through the study of visual arts within a community of artists.