



“Oxbow embodies the idea of learning through the process of making art and engaging in academic discourse as a way for students to validate their lived experience, revitalize their sense of self, and actively engage in the complex world in which we live. At the end of the semester, students return home fully empowered by the scope of what they have accomplished—intellectually and socially—realizing that, “I did that for myself, and by myself, and now I can do it in the world.”

—Stephen Thomas



Stephen Thomas, after serving as the Founding Director and Head of School for 18 years at The Oxbow School in Napa, will retire at the end of June 2018.

Oxbow’s Board of Trustees is profoundly grateful to Stephen for his passionate commitment to creating a semester program that truly transforms young lives. While focused on the visual arts, Oxbow is—and does—much more. It is a school like no other—where high school juniors and seniors attend a semester away from their regular high schools and fall in love with learning—about themselves, about others in their tight-knit Oxbow community, and of course, about visual arts and the rich academic curriculum taught by devoted and nurturing faculty.

During the school’s 18 years, Oxbow has served over 1,600 students, more than half of them benefiting from the school’s critically important financial assistance program. This program has been funded by generous gifts from the school’s visionary founders and numerous friends who believe deeply in providing the Oxbow experience regardless of the ability to pay. Every semester, Oxbow receives far more applications than it can possibly fund from brilliant students and aspiring artists requiring financial assistance. It has always been Stephen’s dream to enroll as many of these deserving students as possible.

To honor Stephen’s dream for Oxbow to be a school of access for all students regardless of a family’s financial resources, the Board of Trustees has launched the Stephen Thomas Scholarship Fund. All proceeds raised will support financial aid for talented students from across the country.

Today, we invite you to help make Stephen’s dream a reality.

We thank you in advance for helping Oxbow launch The Stephen Thomas Scholarship Fund to honor the school’s extraordinary founding Head of School.

For more information please contact Mary Bourke at mbourke@oxbowschool.org or 707.252.5427 or visit oxbowschool.org/support/ways-to-give