Master Plan Update

During 2020, Skowhegan continued with several major building projects which were completed in time for the 2021 Summer Session.

Gund Dining Hall
From the outset of the Master Plan, a restoration of Skowhegan’s iconic Dining Hall was a top priority. Along with the Fresco Barn, the Dining Hall is the only place on campus where the full community can gather, and mealtimes assume an essential role—not only providing sustenance and nourishment—but fostering community. The new building, a thoughtful and sensitive redesign by Board President Alan Wanzenberg and his associate Jeff Bird, is distinguished by locally sourced reclaimed wood floors, windows overlooking the lake, an open kitchen and improved food storage for what is largely locally sourced produce, pantry staples, and meat. A new industrial composter will further evolve our relationship to the food we eat, how it is prepared, and how it is disposed of to minimize waste. The Dining Hall was built by Bill Holmes, Ralph Drouin, Kevin Flanagan, Peter Jillson, and Ron Pinkham with local contractors BNF Building Contractor. Funds were made possible through a leadership gift from Ann and Graham Gund. Christened in summer 2021 by the alumni residents and program staff, we look forward to using this incredible new space for generations to come.
David C. Driskell House

Designed by Alan Wanzenberg, the participant residence is a thoughtful, supportive building that will house up to 11 participants. Crucially, the new house frees up space in other living accommodations, enabling Skowhegan to eliminate all triples and tight doubles, and ensuring all participants have more privacy, better rest, and feel more supported in taking on challenging work and growth in the studio. The 8-bedroom residence was completed in time for the 2021 Summer Session.

The new house is named in honor of David C. Driskell, a defining figure at Skowhegan, who passed in April 2020. David manifested Skowhegan’s possibility and impact. This vital project honors the expansiveness of his life, practice, and career, and recognizes his leadership in forging a path towards a more open art world. Naming a building after him on the historic campus—a place in which he spent so much time—is a fitting and well-deserved tribute to this extraordinary artist and teacher, and will vitalize David’s legacy with future generations of young artists from across the country and around the globe.

David C. Driskell House
Opposite: View of the porch.
Clockwise, top-bottom: Hallway interior; upper level common space; overhead view of the main common space and living room area.
Photography by Michelle Rose Studio.