

The Only Library Dedicated to the Design Industry

By FHP Intern, Katie Brownlee

There's nothing better than a good library book smell when you first walk into a cozy library. What if I told you that there was a place in High Point that has over 5,000 of books dedicated to furniture and design? Right off North Main Street, the Bienenstock Furniture Library provides resources for those who are about to be part or who are currently working in the furniture or design industry. The library, which started its collection in 1970 by Sandy and Bernice Bienenstock, has since grown into a nationwide non-profit organization that offers so much to the furniture and design industry ranging anywhere from competitions to win monetary prizes to multiple day long events that are educational for students who are currently studying any type of design. To learn more about the Bienenstock Furniture Library, I was able to speak with the Executive Director, Karla Jones.



Jones first worked for Bienenstock Furniture as an intern and after gaining years of experience within the design world, she came back to Bienenstock as their executive director. She has now been with Bienenstock for about 11 years and loves promoting education and hopes to continue. “The Bienenstock furniture library empowers designers and students to reach the full height of their creative potential. We do this by preserving our extensive collection of books on furniture design and history. We encourage our patrons to live out our tagline, ‘Touch history...design the future.’ When you touch history, you can design the future.” --Karla Jones.



When learning more about Bienenstock and all that they have to offer, one of the special academic promotions is a nation-wide design contest that is open to any junior, senior or master student who is in school for design. The goal of this competition is to get students more involved and excited about design. There are two different competitions that will be taking place. One is a furniture design competition, and the other is an interior design competition. The winner of the competitions will not only win a \$5,000 scholarship for themselves, but they will also win a \$1,000 scholarship for their department. On top of that, second place will also receive a \$1,500 scholarship for themselves. Both competitions have already started, and all entries are due on December 10, 2021. Bienenstock picks a winner by having multiple judges blind judge and score each piece based on multiple categories. I am looking forward to seeing who the winners are for this year's competition which will be announced on March 1, 2022!

COVID hasn't been the best to us this past year, but due to places opening back up Bienenstock is able to host their first annual Future Designers Summit. The summit will let 35 students come to High Point and learn more about design and have an immersive experience. Thanks to many

of the Bienenstock sponsors and other local businesses, the 35 students will be able to visit showrooms, have factory tours, breakout sessions with prominent people in the industry, have mentors that will help them learn more about design and even have a portfolio review. At the end of the summit, one student will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship as well. This event that is completely cost free to the students who will be attending and will take place this September 20-22, 2021. Bienenstock wants to thank the support of the industry and community for helping them put on this wonderful event.



Bienenstock has made a name for themselves here in High Point and will continue for many years. “We provide an environment where the next generation of designers and professionals can gain knowledge and interact with each other. We are a place to collaborate and unite as a community of creative people.” --Jones.

I had a great time learning more about who Bienenstock Furniture Library is and all of the collection of books that they have related to any type of design as well as all types of resources that are provided. If you have the chance to make an appointment with them, I would definitely go and check them out!

To learn more about the design competitions and the rules that go along with it click [here](#).

For more information about the Future Designers Summit please click [here](#).

A special thanks to the Congdon family for being Bienenstock’s Diderot sponsor.

To learn more about their sponsors and partnerships click [here](#).

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