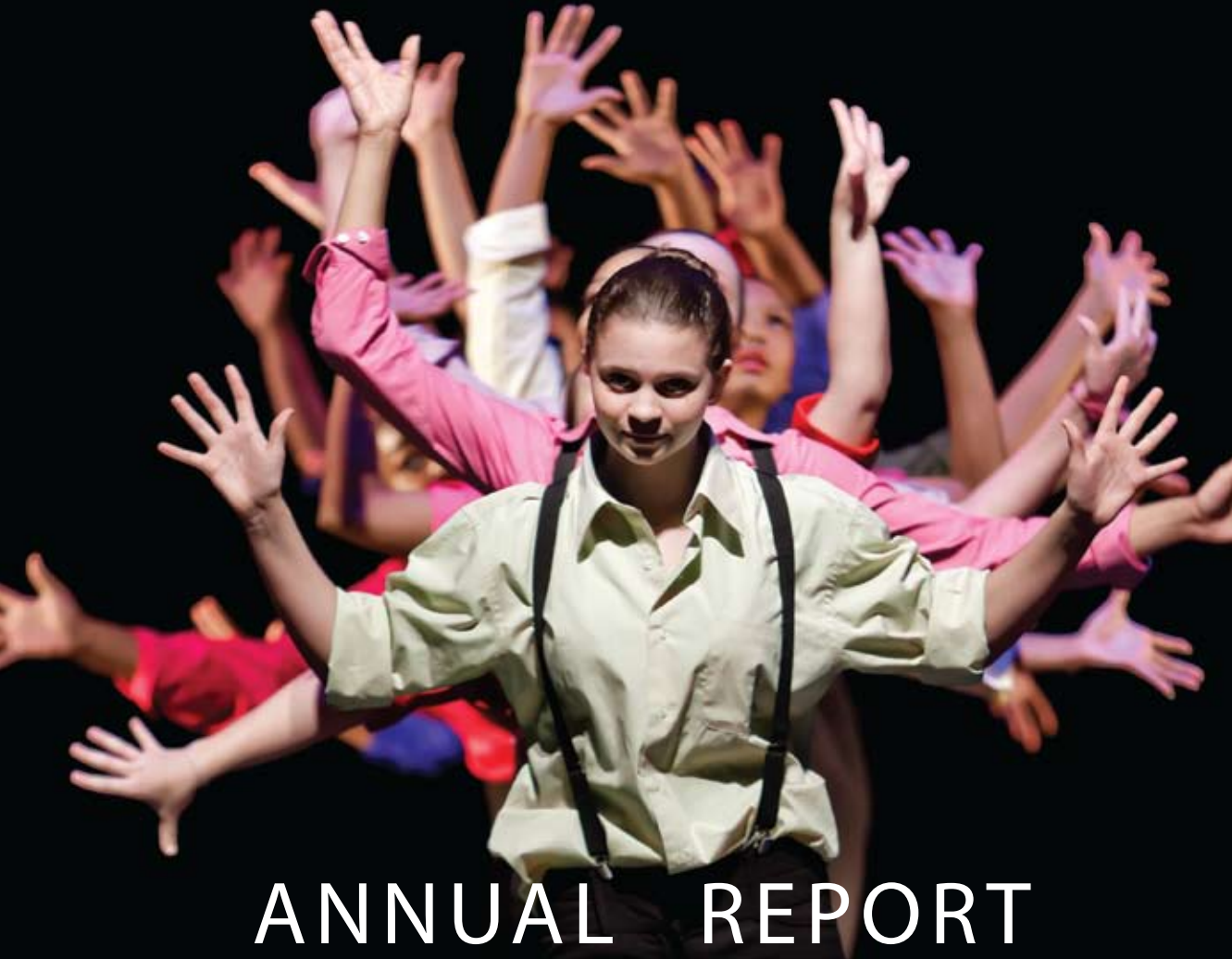


chiarts

THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
for the arts + minds of chicago



ANNUAL REPORT

fy 2010 *and* fy 2011

Mission

The mission of The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts®) is to provide artistically gifted, diverse Chicago high school students intensive pre-professional training in the arts, combined with a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum.

Vision

For Our Students ~ ChiArts' vision is to inspire and develop the artistic, academic, and leadership abilities of its diverse students. The high school will provide its students with the experiences and skills to help them reach their full potential as both artists and active citizens and instill in them a lifelong commitment to excellence and innovation in the arts as artists, educators, or civic leaders.

For The School ~ The school will be an exemplary public high school, a model in providing a rigorous and exhilarating teaching and learning environment. ChiArts will be a leader in artistic and academic innovation, and will collaborate with and provide access to the world-class artistic and intellectual resources of Chicago's arts and higher education institutions.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



This first Annual Report from The Chicago High School for the Arts makes me reflect on the challenges we have faced over the two-plus years since ChiArts opened its doors.

In September 2009, ChiArts became – and continues to be – the city’s only public high school to offer college-preparatory academic studies and an intensive, pre-professional training program in dance, music, theatre, or visual arts, all within a demanding eight-to-five school day. This past September, we enrolled the third class of 150 freshmen. In another year, we will enroll our fourth freshman class, bringing us to our total enrollment of 600.

We have had wonderful support from Chicago’s cultural institutions. Some 70 of them are official Arts Partners, were instrumental in helping to create ChiArts, and now are playing a central role in the ongoing life of the school. Arguably, Chicago has the broadest, deepest arts community in the country. From curriculum development to student enrichment to invitations to attend performances, ChiArts benefits from this peerless community’s essential endorsement and assistance.

To those most directly involved in the school – our tremendous board of directors, our unflagging faculty and administration, and our inspired scholar artists and their parents – my hat is off. The board has been unstinting of its time and dedicated to ChiArts’ launch. Faculty and staff have delivered a school that fully meets its mission and vision. Our students and their parents, caregivers and families are fully appreciative of the opportunities ChiArts represents and are taking advantage of them.

I am particularly appreciative of all those who have stepped forward to support ChiArts philanthropically. While Chicago Public Schools provides us a home and defrays the majority of academic costs, the arts instruction, training and enrichment must be privately underwritten by other contributors. The cost for this is considerable, but I hope each and every donor we recognize in this Annual Report believes, as I do, that ChiArts and its scholar artists are worth every dollar we invest in them.

I know that the returns on our investment are going to be great in the realization of our students’ potential, creativity and artistry. They, in turn, will add to the vibrancy of Chicago’s arts community in the years to come. And that is what we are all about.

James W. Mabie, Chairman

FROM THE DIRECTOR



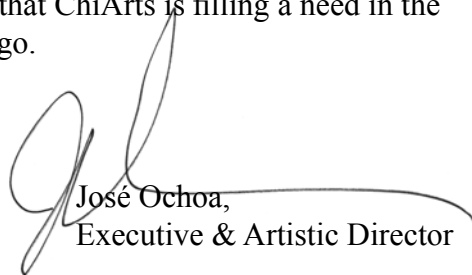
Before ChiArts opened in September 2009, Chicago was the only major American city without a public high school devoted to the arts. This deficiency denied students of Chicago the opportunity to pursue interests and ambitions in the arts while also preparing themselves for the advanced education required for success in the 21st century. ChiArts was established to create the next generation of Chicago artists and to strengthen the Chicago arts community by inspiring our students to be future arts supporters and audiences. In just three years, applications for admission have grown from 600 to 1,500, testifying to the desire for quality arts education.

ChiArts defines its students as Scholar Artists, which means they strive to balance their academic development with their artistic pursuits. When we began instruction in fall 2009, we immediately established a culture of intense learning and the students met that challenge. They have performed at or above the national average – and well above the CPS average – on assessments that predict student performance on ever-important national college admissions examinations. Moreover, the 96 to 98 percent attendance average proves that our students are highly dedicated and motivated.

ChiArts is divided into four conservatories – Music, Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts – and provides our scholar artists with the foundation they will need to succeed in whatever path they choose. The dedication of our students and arts teachers is exemplary and on par with any world-class arts school. In just two short years, the artistic achievements and recognition of our students has been awe inspiring.

This summer, ChiArts students travelled all over the country and abroad, participating in over 75 summer intensives, internships, apprenticeships, and productions at arts organizations, universities and professional companies. They travelled to three countries and 12 states and many received full scholarships.

Much has been accomplished since we opened our doors in 2009. The enormous increase in applications and the dedication and the astounding artistic growth of our students is proof that ChiArts is filling a need in the education and arts landscapes of Chicago.



José Ochoa,
Executive & Artistic Director

Student Accomplishments and Opportunities 2010-11

Visual Arts Conservatory

- VA students won 25 gold keys in the Scholastic and Art Writing Competition, and two students won medals at the national level.
- VA students won scholarships to summer programs including the California College of Art and Design, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Bucks Rock Creative and Performing Arts Camp in Pennsylvania, Woodward Digital Media camp in Connecticut, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan.

Music Conservatory

- Based on their performance at the CPS High School Jazz Festival our top jazz combo was selected to perform at the 32nd Annual Chicago Jazz Festival and received a \$1,000 award for our jazz program.
- Two ChiArts students were awarded the Albertina Walker Scholarship for private lessons at the Merit School of Music; another student won the Andrew Bird Rock for Kids Scholarship; and 11 string students participated in national string programs with the Sphinx Organization.

Dance Conservatory

- ChiArts Dance Major Houston Thomas won the regional semi-finals of the prestigious Youth America Grand Prix and went on to place in the Men's Junior Division Top 12 at the international finals.
- Students received summer scholarships to Ballet Austin and the School of American Ballet. Others attended summer programs at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Deeply Rooted Dance Company, Chicago Multicultural Dance Center, Ballet Chicago, Dance Theater of Harlem, and Gallery 37.

Theatre Conservatory

- Five sophomores advanced to the regional finals in the 2011 August Wilson National Monologue Competition. One student further advanced as an alternate for the national competition.
- Theatre students participated in summer programs at Goodman, Victory Gardens, Second City, Lookingglass, Gallery 37/After School Matters, Merit School of Music, Joel Hall Dance in Chicago, and Open Jar Productions in New York.

ACADEMIC REPORT

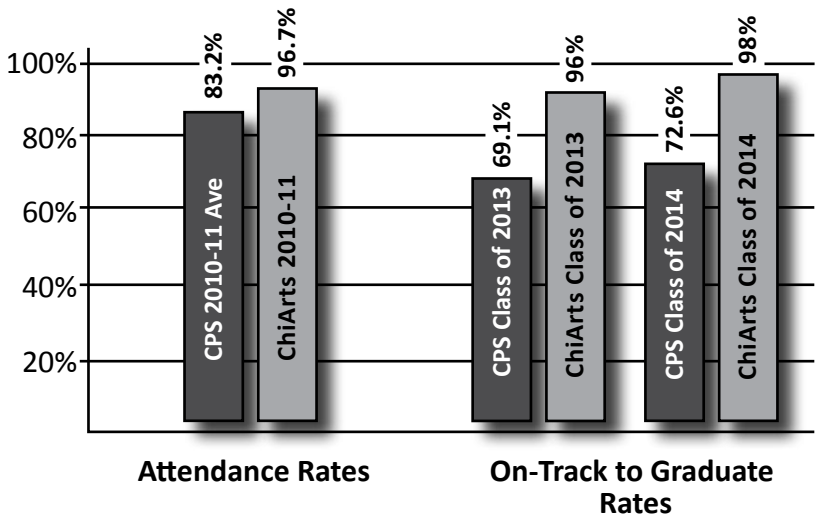
from Terri Milsap, principal & chief academic officer

From the outset, it has been our mission to provide students with a college preparatory education combined with pre-professional arts training. To achieve our mission we have focused on the following:

- Creating an academic curriculum aligned to college readiness standards
- Establishing a professional learning community that best supports teachers in continuous improvement of their instruction
- Providing a nurturing environment that allows our students to thrive and develop as scholar artists

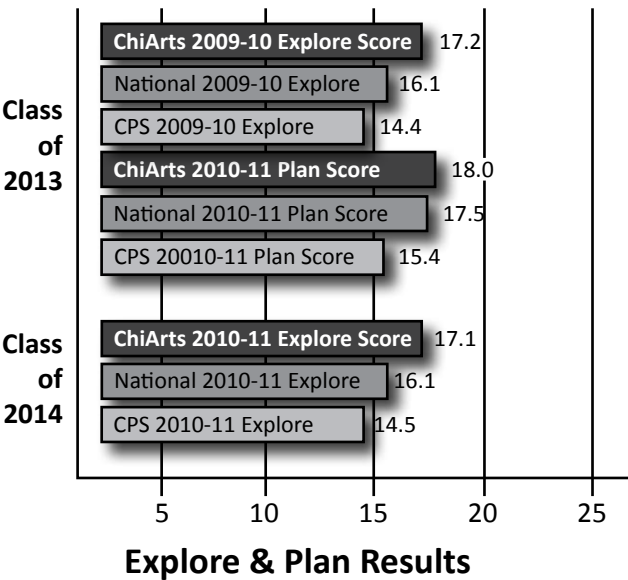
ChiArts is proud to offer our students a unique advisory program that addresses preparation for college, time management, conflict resolution, teambuilding, and some social-emotional issues. The advisory program is rooted in the ChiArts core values: perseverance, community, humility, integrity, balance, and creativity.

The achievements and continued development of ChiArts are a tribute to the professionalism of our faculty and staff, the dedication of our scholar artists, and the wonderful support of parents, arts partners, and the community.



Freshmen who are designated as On-Track are three and a half times more likely to graduate from high school in four years than students who are off track. It is highly correlated with future high school outcomes, including graduation.

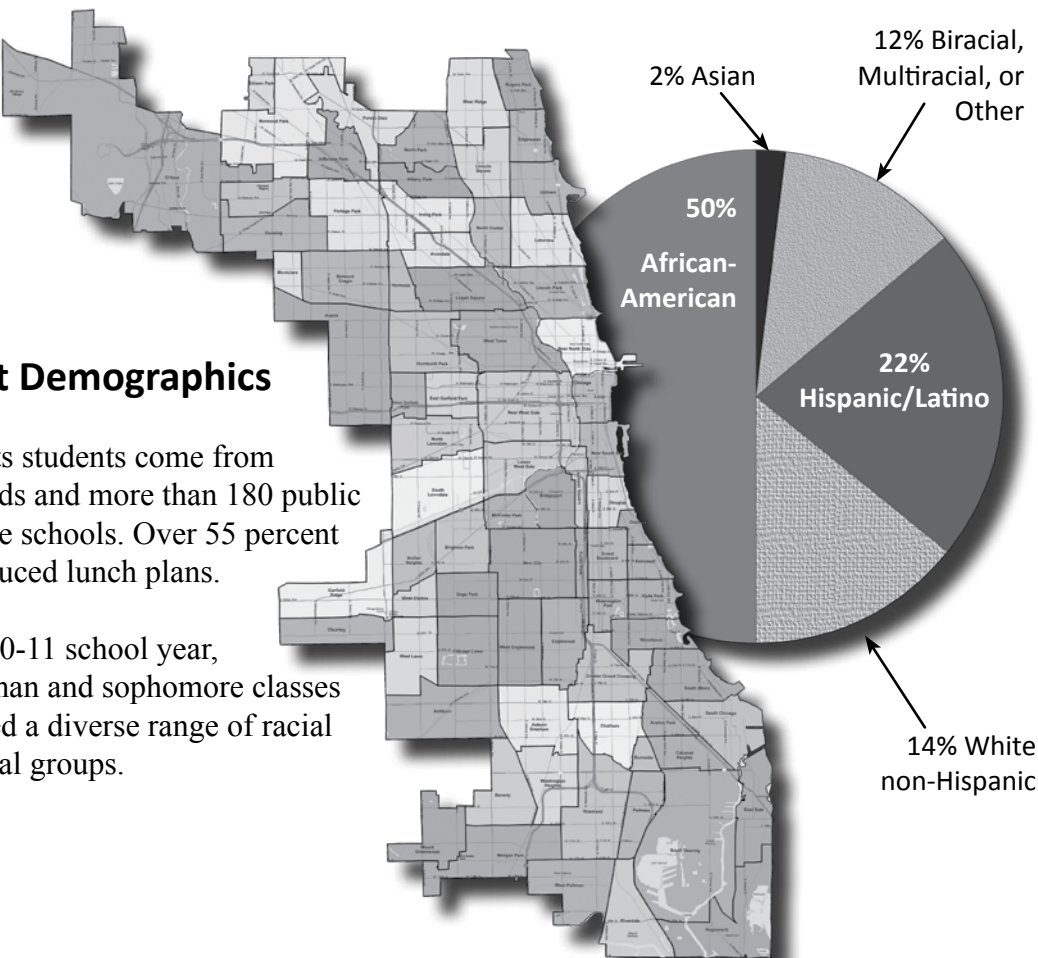
ChiArts also believes in using data to monitor our students’ academic progress. The data that we use includes summative assessments, EXPLORE, PLAN, and interim assessments. For instance, in the spring of 2011, the class of 2013 took the PLAN test and the results showed an improvement from a fall composite of 16.8 to a spring composite of 18.0. Analyzing the PLAN results allowed the instructional leadership team to identify academic strengths and areas for improvement. This data informs instruction as well as curriculum revision.



Student Demographics

ChiArts students come from all 50 wards and more than 180 public and private schools. Over 55 percent are on reduced lunch plans.

In the 2010-11 school year, our freshman and sophomore classes represented a diverse range of racial and cultural groups.



The Music Conservatory at ChiArts provides students of varying levels of previous musical training with an intensive and comprehensive course of study in instrumental and vocal music, with a concentration on classical and jazz genres. Students study music theory, music history, including non-Western forms, aural skills, music technology, and choir.

Vocal performance majors receive training in vocal techniques, experience in ensembles, keyboard skills, acting, and movement. Instrumental performance majors undertake rigorous study of the technique and repertoire of their instrument through classes and ensembles.

MUSIC

What is a life in music? It's not what most of our students think walking through the doors of ChiArts on their first day. For the most part, they have dreams gleaned from the media and popular culture. Many talk of aspiring to Juilliard or being a big-name artist who tours the world performing for large crowds. Without doubt, we will one day have ChiArts alumni who fulfill

these ambitions, but our faculty has also endeavored to open students' eyes to many other musical paths. We do not seek to change any student's artistic identity, but instead offer them a stronger foundation for their musical voice through the rigor of studying the classical and jazz styles.

One of the richest rewards thus far has been to see the excited spark in a student's eye as he or she dis-



covers a new style or composer. ChiArts is a place where a flutist, somewhat lukewarm about classical music but intrigued by jazz, gets the chance to work in a combo coached by Nicole Mitchell, named “Top Flutist 2010” by Downbeat magazine. Then there was the freshman piano major who came to ChiArts infatuated with the Beatles and Jerry Lee Lewis, who raced up to a teacher incredibly excited to talk about a new favorite: a Mozart piano quintet.

As we conclude our second year, we can see other fruit developing. Rising juniors are stepping up to be leaders, and chamber ensembles and combos are working hard and growing noticeably tighter and more committed. Tremendous opportunities have come to our students right within the building with visitors such as Yo-Yo Ma, Kevin Eubanks, and Nicole Cabell spending time with them.

ChiArts music faculty has also gone above and beyond in procuring opportunities for our students. Faculty has invited many professional colleagues to speak and work directly with our students, as well as

arranged performances for students around the city.

Looking through the list of activities and accomplishments from the last two years, both the richness of the inaugural year and the explosive growth of the second year are remarkable. We owe great gratitude to the Chicago music community who have embraced and supported us with such loyalty and generosity from the very outset.

Looking forward, we eagerly anticipate welcoming the class of 2015 and preparing the upperclassmen for the next steps of their journey. Soon enough, we can look forward to sharing the stories of ChiArts music alumni who have built a life in music and are adding their rich voices to the arts community in Chicago and beyond.

To be in an environment where there are others like you, others that love what you love, it can't be better.

*~ Samuel
Music major*





The ChiArts Theatre Conservatory offers rigorous instruction to prepare students for admission into competitive college/university programs and/or to work in the profession. Theater students have the extraordinary experience of working with a range of artists from the Chicago theatre community, giving them unique insights into the field and invaluable experiences with theatre professionals.

The Theatre Conservatory currently includes two divisions: Acting and Musical Theatre. The Acting major focuses on a progression of study that includes acting, voice and speech, movement, history of theatre practice and literature, stage production and design, periods and styles, and devising new work. The Musical Theatre major works with faculty from the Theatre, Music and Dance conservatories, and focuses on acting, vocal technique, dance, music theory, keyboard, chorale, the history of musical theatre practice and literature, stage production and design, and devising new work.

THEATRE

In the fall 2009, one of our Board members generously donated a dinner for ten with the artists from Steppenwolf's Broadway production of *August: Osage*

County to the Theatre Conservatory. To be selected, students wrote a proposal for their vision of an ensemble-based theatre that they want to create someday.



Their ideas ran the gamut of possibilities, from companies dedicated to underserved communities to those devoted to developing new plays and musicals to others aspiring to create international collaborations between artists.

Coming to ChiArts helps you see all the opportunities out there. You have people helping and pushing you, people who've been there. All of our teachers have all that experience, have been on stage and have done all the things that we want to do. ChiArts pushes me to be better and to make a difference through my art.

~ Janyce
Theater Major

Just a few months prior, many of these students came to ChiArts with little or no experience, and their ideas of what theatre is were limited.

Now, through a combination of training, field trips

to a variety of productions and theatres, collaborative programming with our arts partners, exposure to guest artists, performance opportunities, and summer study programs, we see the eyes of these young artists opening to the myriad of possibilities that theatre has to offer them.

We also see evidence of their skills and technique growing on a daily basis. They exhibit more confidence, they are beginning to integrate their work into a unified whole, they flourish in performance, and they rejoice in the accomplishments of their ensemble members.

At our recent Curtain Call performances, the sophomores were offstage watching the freshmen perform, and realizing how far they themselves had progressed in their training. Similarly, the freshmen watched the sophomores onstage and envisioned where they were headed.

These young artists are on the first leg of their artistic journey, and while we may not know where they will end up, the process of discovery and self-actualization has clearly taken root.

Little by little, I'm coming out of my shell. I'm getting more confident to, like, speak in front of an audience or raise my hand in class. I never did that in my elementary school. Now I can do it without being embarrassed that I'm going to say the wrong thing or ask a stupid question.

~ Evelyn
Theatre major

The Dance Conservatory at ChiArts offers instruction at the highest professional level. The professional experience of the faculty, as well as guest artists and choreographers, allows all students to experience a variety of dance styles from classical to post-modern. It is the belief of the school that all dancers must be skilled in a variety of dance forms to compete in today's professional dance world.

Particular emphasis is given to placing students in performance opportunities around metropolitan Chicago to help them gain performance experience and develop as highly versatile technicians. The program's mission is to prepare students for admission into competitive college/university programs and professional companies.

DANCE

The ChiArts Dance Conservatory has grown tremendously over the past two years. Our students' exposure to great concert dance has opened their worlds to the many possibilities in dance. Our students speak about dance intelligently, passionately, and with a great sense of curiosity.

They are constantly seeking to understand where they might fit into the world of dance and are working feverishly to carve out that space for themselves.

We are also educating parents. Many of our student's parents had no idea how to support their children in dance, or, even that a ca-



reer in dance was possible. Now we have parents asking technical questions about

ChiArts have totally changed my life. I feel like it's made me a better person. I have more confidence. I'm able to be the person that I've wanted to be for so long and I feel that I can finally be that here.

~ Caitlin
Dance major

to pursue it professionally. Instead, they may want to become a patron of the art, or they may want to work behind the scenes on the developmental level to insure that other kids are able to have the same experience they are having.

Through our scope and sequence and breadth of classes, we have discovered that some of our students are talented actors and choreographers. We have created spaces for them to explore these new-found talents, and we are actively cultivat-

their children's dance training, such as "How can their students improve their rotation, flexibility, and strength?" and "Where should they study for the summer and for how long?" Some of our students have realized that a career in dance is very difficult and that they may not want

ing these multi-talented scholar artists.

Our students have participated in arts programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art; they have performed with the Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre and the Kalapriya Indian Dancers; and they have performed for the Ravinia Festival's annual dance contest. The dance conservatory at ChiArts is becoming a fixture in the Chicago dance community. We have also placed a student in the year-round professional training program at the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet in New York City.

The past two years in the dance conservatory have been a whirlwind of discoveries, revelations, and successes. We look forward to many more years of training the next generation of Chicago dance artists.

At ChiArts, they're always telling us about professionalism and how important that is. You can be really talented but if you're not professional and you don't come ready to work for an audition or rehearsal, you won't get hired. And I think that's the most important thing I've learned this year.

~ Imani
Dance major





The ChiArts Visual Arts Conservatory is dedicated to the exploration of the elements and principles of art grounded in both traditional and contemporary skills-based methodologies. These are critical years as students build and develop a strong fundamental foundation in the following visual arts disciplines: drawing, design, sculpture, painting, graphic design, digital photography and art history/theory. Students acquire mastery in theory and technique as they begin to identify personal themes and concepts to produce work expected in a successful portfolio. Students also understand the important function of individual and group critiques, exhibition and competition protocol, and the importance of a vital sketchbook practice that will inform their course work and encourage experimentation and fuel independent thinking for a lifetime.

Above all, the conservatory challenges and empowers students to develop their own aesthetic as they mature into innovative artists, divergent thinkers, and creative critics. They will emerge prepared with strong visual portfolios to enter competitive universities and art colleges.

VISUAL ARTS

On completion of their first year at ChiArts, a vast majority of the visual arts students of the Class of 2013 went off to

continue their artistic training by enrolling in summer programs offered throughout the city of Chicago. During this time, we were



pleased to receive several emails from students updating us on their summer endeavors and their newfound confidence in their artistic skills.

Our students come to ChiArts from all over the city with a wide breadth of artistic experience and exposure. Some only knew how to draw simple anime characters in pencil or compulsively doodle the same design; others “tagged” everything in sight. For several students, this type of drawing was the only visual art form they knew. Regardless of their background, few of those young eighth graders understood what ChiArts visual arts training would entail.

Through rigorous three hour block studio classes taught by professional artists in drawing and painting, design, sculpture, photography, and art history studies, our students are developing a visual language that was foreign to them two short years ago. Through visiting artists and field trips to museums, galleries, art openings and creative agencies, in addition to extensive participation in exhibitions and competitions, our students have been provided with so many learning opportunities

outside of the already intensive scope and sequence of the visual arts conservatory curriculum. This wealth of exposure has resulted not only in the growth of artistic skills, but growth in our students’ dedication to be held to a higher standard. ChiArts scholar artists are expected to work hard but more importantly they want to as they now are beginning to understand what hard work can lead to.

I’ve learned that art is not just art. You can’t just say ‘Oh, I’m an artist’. You actually have to work for it and it’s actually really hard. I have also learned to appreciate my eyes because now I really have to use them.

~ Clarisel
Theatre major

Students continue to inspire the visual arts faculty with the artistic growth and transformation that so many of the students at ChiArts have experienced in just our first two years. We can’t wait to see what happens in the next two years as visual artists choose their majors, apply their skills to complete more independent projects, and flourish as visual thinkers, with a sketchbook always in hand.

The ChiArts Artistic Advisory Council

is an advisory group of local artists and performers who serve at the invitation of the Board as mentors and advisors to the Arts program.

James Gandre and Kay Mabie, Co-Chairs

Maestro James Conlon

Music Director, Ravinia Festival, Los Angeles Opera, and the Cincinnati May Festival

Glenn Edgerton

Artistic Director, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Barbara Gaines

Founder and Artistic Director, Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Judith Haddon

Professor of Voice, Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University

Richard Hunt

Sculptor (Metropolitan Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery)

Martha Lavey

Artistic Director, Steppenwolf Theatre

Ramsey Lewis

International Jazz Pianist and Composer

Rachel Barton Pine

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ChiArts Arts Partners

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Albany Park Theatre Project

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Chicago Shakespeare Theater

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Goodman Theatre

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Hyde Park Art Center

Hyde Park School of Dance

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Joel Hall Dancers & Center

Joffrey Ballet

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Lookingglass Theatre Company

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Lyric Opera of Chicago

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Merit School of Music

Midwest Young Artists

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Music of the Baroque

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Old Town School of Folk Music

Pegasus Players

The People's Music School

Piven Theatre Workshop

Puerto Rican Arts Alliance

Ravinia Festival

Redmoon Theater

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River North Chicago Dance Company

Rock for Kids

The Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Sherwood Community Music School

Sones de México Ensemble

Steppenwolf Theatre Company

The Theatre School, DePaul University

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Thodos Dance Chicago

UIC College of Architecture and the Arts

UIC College of Education

Urban Gateways

VanderCook College of Music

Victory Gardens Theater

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**Contributions received
from July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2011**

While Chicago Public Schools provides most of the funding for ChiArts' academic programs, the temporary buildings for the school, and some administrative support, none of the pre-professional arts instruction, arts staff, or specialized arts facilities and equipment would be possible without your support.

Thank you.

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Willy Shives and Evie Pena-Shives
Julie Simpson
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The Stauffer Family
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Diana Stezalski
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The Tunzi Family
Gail Waller
Beth Wangelin
Norman and Delphine Weatherly
Jennifer A. Wester

Gregory White
Lisa and Randy White
Lisa Willingham

Thank you to all our donors for helping ChiArts open and grow in its first two years. We regret any omissions or inaccuracies in this listing.

A special thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered over the past two years organizing events, doing safety patrols, running concessions at events and much, much more. We would also like to thank the officers, chairs and members of the Parent Support Organization (PSO) for all of their hard work and support.

PSO Executive Officers:

*Gwynda Jones, President
Janice Posner, Vice-President
Maureen Stauffer, Treasurer
Sue Tunzi, Secretary*

Credits:

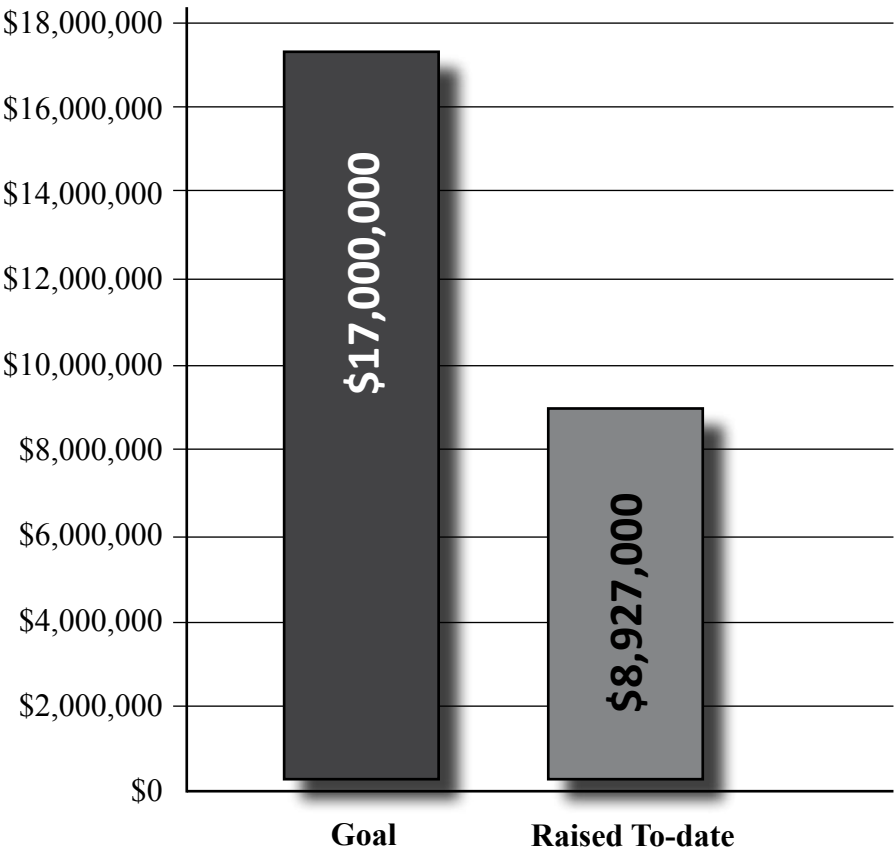
Photos by Joel Wanek (former ChiArts faculty), Hannah Clemens (ChiArts Class of 2013), and Mark Ballogg (ChiArts parent).

Graphic design and pre-press work donated by Troy A. Lair (ChiArts parent).

ChiArts FY2011

Fundraising Revenue To-date

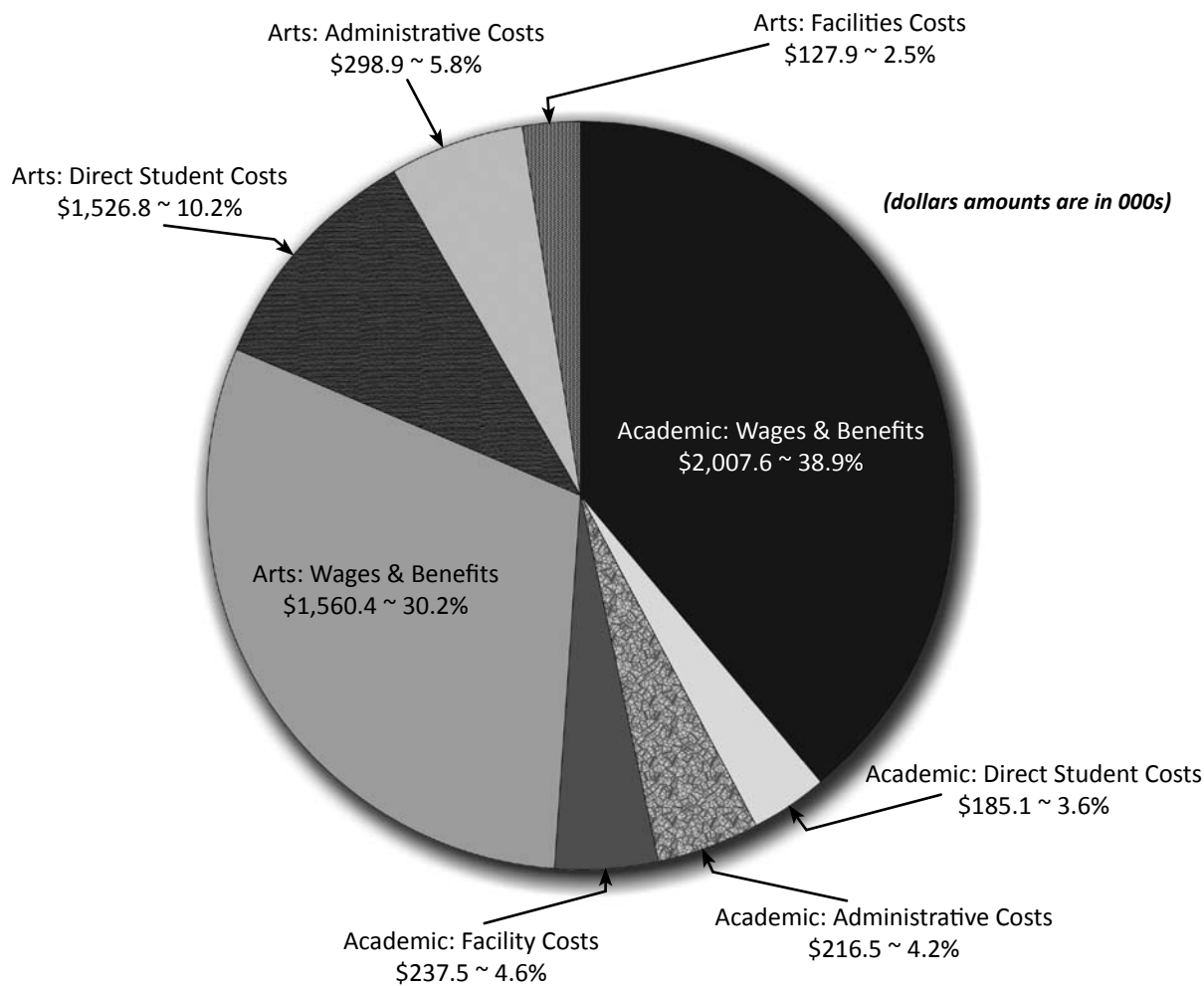
ChiArts’ academic expenses are funded by per pupil stipends from Chicago Public Schools. Arts expenses are funded privately through contributions. Because many contributions are made via multi-year pledges, our current fund-raising goal is to raise cash and commitments to pay for the arts program for the first five graduating classes, through May 2017. Fund-raising strategies are in place to focus on individuals, foundations and corporations. We reach out to civic leaders who wish to assist us in assuring the future of the arts in Chicago, supporters of arts and education, parents and friends.



ChiArts FY2011

Academic and Arts Expenses

In ChiArts’ second year of operation, expenses totaled \$5.2 million with 52% going to academic expenses and 48% to arts expenses. Funding for academics is provided by Chicago Public Schools and arts funding by private contributions. Academic faculty and arts conservatory chairs are full-time employees, while arts faculty, who are working artists, are part-time because of the large number of specialties involving more courses with fewer students in each. Direct student costs for arts programs include recruitment and auditions, musical instruments, private lesson scholarships, summer scholarships, furniture and equipment, and art supplies. Administrative expenses (academic and arts) include professional development for all instructors.



The Chicago High School for the Arts

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Terri Milsap, Principal & Chief Academic Officer
Gia Orr, Assistant Principal
Dorothea Roque, Director of Finance & Operations
Reginald Harris, Dance Department Head
Betsy Ko, Music Department Head
Rob Chambers, Theatre Department Head
Diana Stezalski, Visual Arts Department Head

Scholar Artists are students who prepare academically for any professional path in life while pursuing pre-professional arts training at the highest level.

ChiArts® Scholar Artists reflect, create, connect and express the core values of creativity, community, integrity, humility, balance and perseverance while pursuing their academic and artistic interests.



THE CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

521 East 35th Street • Chicago, IL 60616 • 773-534-9710
www.chiarts.org