

The Chicago High School for the Arts
Board of Directors Meeting
The Chicago Community Trust, 225 N Michigan Ave #2200, Chicago, IL 60601

Minutes for June 29th, 2015

Present: Duffie Adelson, Blake Batterson, Joo Boe, Jackie Bratland, Evette Cardona, Warren Chapman, Marge Collens, Elissa Efroymsen, Sondra Berman Epstein, Michelle Esfahani, Sandra Saucedo-Falagan, Carol Friedman, Sandra Guthman, John Hart, Betsy Holden, Alan Jagiello, Shruti Jayaraman, James Mabie, Kay Mabie, Charles Slamar, Pam Strobel; and Francina Harrington and Sylvia Neil via telephone.

Absent: James L. Alexander, Sarah Bader, Lori Faversham, Jay Franke, Ron Grais, Mirja Haffner, Julie Hurvis, Terry Mazany, Susan McKeever, Zarin Mehta, Steve Solomon, Neal Zucker.

Others Present: Lana Beardslee, Karin Nangreave, José Ochoa, Jessica Ramirez.

Public Present: Patricia Logan

Quorum: Yes

This meeting of the Board of Directors of The Chicago High School for the Arts (“ChiArts”) was held in pursuant to Call & Notice served on all Directors, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Board Chair, Marge Collens (“Marge”), called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. She conducted the meeting in accordance to the agenda, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Special Elections

Sylvia Neil (“Sylvia”) moved to elect as ex-officio members of the Board, Blake Batterson and Sandra Saucedo-Falagan, as the parent representatives and Evette Cardona, as the community representative. Sondra Berman Epstein seconded and the board unanimously approved.

Sylvia then moved to elect Carlos Azcoitia as a member of the board. Duffie Adelson (“Duffie”) seconded and the board unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes of March 2nd 2015 Meeting

Jim Mabie (“Jim”) moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 board meeting. Joo Boo (“Joo”) seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director’s Report

José Ochoa (“José”) thanked Marge for her two years of leadership as the Chairman of the board.

José reported that Chris Smith (“Chris”), the External Partnerships and Communications Manager will be leaving his position at ChiArts at the end of the summer. He thanked Chris for his five years of service to ChiArts and wished him well on his future endeavors. He also announced that Nicole Fishman will not be returning as Principal for the 2015-16 school year. Michael Wang will serve as Interim Principal until the vacancy is filled.

José then presented the Executive Director’s report which summarized ChiArts’ 2014-15 school year, including student accomplishments, personnel changes, admissions numbers, and goals for next year.

Finance Committee

Joo introduced the new Director of Finance, Karin Nangreave (“Karin”). Karin shared the end of year financial statements, commenting that we ended the year with a cash balance of \$3.5 million. She thanked Jim and Kay Mabie (“Kay”) for their generous donation for the purchase of theater production equipment from Harpo Studios.

Karin presented the preliminary budget for FY2016. She explained that although the Chicago Public Schools (“CPS”) have not yet released any budget numbers, a budget cut is expected. Accordingly, the finance committee is presenting the FY16 budget reflecting a 5% cut in CPS reimbursement from last year. Karin reminded the board that our final budget could vary depending on the actual CPS reimbursement.

On behalf of the finance committee, Joo recommended the proposed budget be accepted. Sandra Guthman (“Sandy”) moved to approve and Pam Strobel (“Pam”) seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Development Committee

Jessica Ramirez (“Jessi”) shared the development report reflecting \$3.5 million in total cash and commitments. She noted that since implementing the “Creative Circles” campaign, donor numbers have increased from 194 in 2014 to 466 in 2015.

On behalf of the Major Gifts committee, Sandy and Jim thanked Elissa Efroymsen (“Elissa”) for the \$1 million gift from the Efroymsen Family Fund. Sandy also thanked all who renewed their pledges for the new year, including Sylvia and Dan Fischel, as well as those listed on the development report.

“Kerfuffle!” Report

Francia Harrington (“Francee”) thanked everyone for attending “*Kerfuffle!*”. Next year will be our fifth “*Kerfuffle!*” and she expects attendance and donations to continue to grow. She noted that we had a more expensive venue this year and as a result our net revenue was less.

Elissa thanked everyone for completing the survey and giving their feedback on “*Kerfuffle!*”. She welcomed all board members to join its planning, as well as hosting, committee for next year.

Marge thanked Francee and Mirja Haffner for their leadership of the development committee.

Program Excellence Committee

Duffie congratulated José and ChiArts on the US News & World Report rankings and graduation statistics. She shared that José and staff are working on a survey to rank arts schools and universities in a manner similar to the US News World report which will be very helpful in the committee’s assessment of post-secondary data. Duffie also stated that the committee is moving forward on the external evaluations of the Dance and Visual Arts programs in the fall.

Parent Support Organization

Jackie Bratland reported that the Parent Support Organization recently elected officers for the 2015-16 year and that they are looking at how to re-engage parents for next year.

Farewells and Thank You’s

Marge announced the departure of Zarin Mehta and Susan McKeever from the board and thanked them both for their service.

Marge also announced that James Alexander (“Jim”) and Charles Slamar (“Charlie”) will also be leaving the board. Marge noted that Jim was part of the initial discussion in 2004 with the Diversity Working Group and that both Jim and Charlie have been on the board since ChiArts’ first year. She thanked them for all that their efforts on behalf of the school and Chicago’s youth.

Marge then thanked the Parent Representatives, Jackie Bratland and Michelle Esfahani, for their service.

Board Affairs Committee

Sylvia thanked Marge for her service as Board Chairman and on behalf of the Board Affairs Committee moved to re-elect Class 1 of the board (Duffie Adelson; Carlos Azoitia; Marge Collens; Sondra Berman Epstein; Lori Faversham; Carol Friedman; Francia Harrington; Betsy Holden; and Pam Strobel). Sandy seconded and the board unanimously approved.

Sylvia then moved to elect all Officers for the new term:

Kay Mabie	Chair
Ron Grais	Vice Chair
Shruti Jayaraman	Secretary
Betsy Holden	Treasurer

Marge seconded and the board unanimously approved.

Sylvia moved to elect all committee chairs for the new term:

Sondra Berman Epstein	Governance and Nominations
Francia Harrington	Communications and Marketing
Marge Collens and Mirja Haffner	Development
Betsy Holden	Finance
Duffie Adelson	Program Excellence

Marge seconded and the board unanimously approved.

Marge then officially introduced Kay as the board chair.

Committee Revisions

Kay asked for a motion to approve the revisions to the ChiArts Board Committees, Roles and Responsibilities. Jim moved to approve and Duffie seconded. The board unanimously approved.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Patricia Logan introduced herself as a parent of a ChiArts student who came to the board meeting to better understand the function and role of the board.

Executive Session

Jim moved that the meeting move to Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter. Pam seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Upon returning to Open Session, Marge called the meeting back to order. She confirmed that the Closed Session was informational only and that no vote was required to be taken by the board.

There being no further business, Sandy moved to adjourn, Duffie seconded, and the board unanimously approved. Marge adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Slamar
Secretary