

The Chicago High School for the Arts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
The Chicago High School for the Arts, 2714 W. Augusta Blvd., Chicago, IL 60622

### **Minutes for September 8, 2014**

**Present:** Duffie Adelson, Joo Boe, Jackie Bratland, Warren Chapman, Marge Collens, Elissa Efroymsen, Sondra Berman Epstein, Michelle Esfahani, Sandy Guthman, Mirja Haffner, Francia Harrington, John Hart, Julie Hurvis, Shruti Jayaraman, James Mabie, Kay Mabie, Sylvia Neil, Charles Slamar, Steve Solomon, Neal Zucker

**Absent:** James L. Alexander, Sarah Bader, Jay Franke, Ron Grais, Betsy Holden, Alan Jagiello, Terry Mazany, Susan McKeever, Zarin Mehta, Pam Strobel

**Others Present:** Justin Cafferty, Nelson Campos, Nicole Fishman, Carol Friedman, José Ochoa, Kirti Patel, Jessica Ramirez, Doug Ray, Kelsie Thompson

**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 12 p.m. She conducted the meeting in accordance to the agenda, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

### **Approval of the June 17, 2014 Minutes**

Francee Harrington (“Francee”) moved to approve the June 17, 2014 board meeting minutes. Sandy Guthman (“Sandy”) seconded. The board unanimously approved.

### **Board Affairs**

Sylvia Neil reviewed the resume of Carol Friedman, who the Committee recommends for election to the Board. Ms. Friedman formerly served as the school’s Interim Principal during the 2013-14 school year. Although now retired, she has had a long history working in schools, most recently as Principal of Franklin Fine Arts Center in Chicago’s Old Town neighborhood.

Neal Zucker moved to nominate Ms. Friedman, Elissa Efroymsen seconded the nomination. The board unanimously approved.

### **Introduction of New Staff**

José Ochoa (“José”) introduced new staff members, Nicole Fishman, Principal and Chief Academic Officer; Mike Wang, Assistant Principal of Operations and Management (previously Freshman Academy Coordinator); and Nelson Campos, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. José also introduced Justin Cafferty, Design Manager of Cannon Design for CPS.

### **Executive Session**

Marge moved that the meeting move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Charles Slamar seconded. The Board unanimously approved. No action was required by the Board as a result of the session.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Joo Boe reported that ChiArts ended FY14 with a surplus of more than \$500,000, most of which was from an unexpected gift made in the last month. Without this gift, there would have been a \$32,000 deficit.

During the summer of 2014, ChiArts' preliminary budget for FY15 was submitted and approved by Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The board reviewed the preliminary budget (attached). Francee moved to approve the budget, Sandy seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

### **Development Report**

Jessica Ramirez ("Jessi"), Director of Development, reported that as of 9/8/14 the board raised more than 50% of its FY15 fundraising goal of \$2.5 million.

Jessi shared the Parent Support Organization's (PSO) new initiative, the "Buy a Brick Campaign," which will give supporters the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to be displayed in the new facility's courtyard. This new initiative will provide an opportunity for gifts under \$1,000 to be recognized in a permanent display. All proceeds will support beautification and facility updates for ChiArts students.

Jessi also presented two other opportunities to recognize donors. A "Founders' Board" will recognize cumulative gifts of \$100,000 or more since ChiArts' inception through the first five graduating classes (2017). It will be a permanent display. "ChiArts Creative Circles" will recognize individuals who donated \$1,000 or more during the previous fiscal year. The Creative Circles installation will be updated annually.

Mirja Haffner ("Mirja") voiced that she and Ron Grais are excited for their new roles as the Co-Chairs of the Development Committee. Mirja shared that she has identified a date for "ChiArts Fall Salon" at the Arts Club on October 22, which will serve as the official launching of the Creative Circles effort aimed at lower-tiered gifts of \$500-5,000 to bring in next-generation donors. In addition, Mirja reported that she is currently working to secure a location and April date for "*Kerfuffle!*" 2015.

### **Parent Support Organization**

Marge introduced parent representatives Jackie Bratland ("Jackie") and Michelle Esfahani, as well as the Parent Support Organization (PSO) President Kirti Patel.

Jackie gave an overview of PSO initiatives for the 2014-15 school year, including ChiArts merchandise sales, "Buy a Brick Campaign," and volunteer opportunities. The first PSO meeting will be held in October (specific date to be determined).

### **Executive Director's Report**

José reported that ChiArts is working to develop creative revenue-generating opportunities for FY15. In this regard, he and other administrative personnel are currently working on bringing two healthy vending machines for both students and staff, as well as a third machine for school and art supplies.

These earned revenue opportunities will be maintained by the PSO, and ChiArts will receive a 12% profit from the healthy food vending machines.

José also reviewed naming opportunities in the new facility, the “Buy A Brick Campaign,” and “Passport to ChiArts,” which will be ChiArts’ first ever public community event in the new facility on October 4.

José more formally introduced Nicole Fishman (“Nicole”), ChiArts’ newly appointed Principal and Chief Academic Officer, reviewing her background and qualifications. Nicole most recently worked as Assistant Principal and then Principal in the Waukegan Public School system. She holds a B.A. from Wilberforce University, and M.A. from Wright State University and is currently completing her Doctorate in Teaching and Learning from Northern Illinois University.

Nicole gave a brief report of her goals for the school, including bridging the gap between academics and the arts to create a more unified student body, and an enhanced counseling program. José added that ChiArts will no longer employ an evening building administrator or Freshman Academy Coordinator.

### **Facilities**

José gave an overview of the new facility, including the building’s history. José extended his gratitude to the board for their patience, support and advocacy as the school transitioned into its permanent home.

Justin Cafferty gave an update on the construction progress, reporting that the building had previously suffered large damages requiring major repairs, including the roof, walls, fixtures, floors, retained hardwood, elevator, auditorium stage, as well as major mechanical and electrical updates to bring it to current standards. Construction began in April 2014 and is still underway.

Marge thanked the board and outside organizations involved in the renovations for their tremendous efforts and patience.

Marge addressed enrollment discrepancies, stating that some grade levels have fewer students than usual, as some were lost during the move. She proposed the idea of possibly increasing enrollment via CPS slightly to 640, and hopes to gain more students from the Humboldt Park/Ukrainian Village neighborhoods. Marge also addressed the transportation issue, reporting that Southside families have arranged three different buses to transport students to and from school.

### **Public Comments**

None

There being no further business, Sandy moved to adjourn the meeting, Kay seconded, and the board unanimously approved. Marge then adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Slamar  
Secretary