

**The Chicago High School for the Arts Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 17, 2020 at 3pm**

**Location: Online, via Zoom**

**To attend via video conferencing, please reach out to Paul Cook ([pcook@chiarts.org](mailto:pcook@chiarts.org)), who will send the appropriate information.**

---

Call to order Ronald Grais  
- Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2020 Meeting

Announcements & Board Business Ronald Grais  
- Bylaw amendments  
- Vote to adopt  
- Nomination of Officers  
- Vote to adopt  
- New Members  
- Vote to adopt

Short Break, New Members Join

Welcome Cynthia Plouché

Executive Director's Report José Ochoa

Principal's Report Terri Milsap  
- Including the current reopening plan

Managing Director of Arts Conservatories' Report Tina Boyer Brown

Finance Committee Christine Gallagher

PSO Update Liza Pappas & Janette Cortes-Duewel

New Business

Public Participation

5:00 pm Adjournment

Next Board Meeting:  
September 14

## ChiArts Board Meeting August 17, 2020

The Chicago High School for the Arts  
Board of Directors Meeting  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Online - via Zoom  
Minutes for August 17, 2020

**Present (on call):** Duffie Adelson, Warren Chapman, Janette Cortes-Duewel, Carol Friedman, Christine Gallagher, Ron Grais, Kay Mabie, Liza Pappas, Cynthia Plouché

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Tina Boyer Brown (Managing Director of Arts Conservatories), Paul Cook (Executive Assistant), Abbey Cullen (Assistant Principal), Shanan Egger (EAB), Dwayne Jervier (Human Resources), Jim Mabie (Founding Chair), Terri Milsap (Principal), José Ochoa (Executive Director), Omar Tabbara (Teacher), Dana Thomas (EAB), Andrew Van Herik (Teacher)

**Quorum:** Yes

The meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of The Chicago High School for the Arts (“ChiArts”) was held pursuant to a Call & Notice served on all Directors. Board Chair, Ronald Grais (“Ron”) called the general assembly to order at 3:04 p.m. Ron read aloud the legal proclamation from the Governor’s office, suspending the requirement to meet in person, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Approval of Minutes, Announcements, & Board Business

Ron requested approval of the June Board Meeting minutes. Kay Mabie (“Kay”) motioned to approve the minutes, and Cynthia Plouche (“Cynthia”) seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Ron announced that several Directors have resigned from the Board, as follows: Dana Berkowitz, Erin Clifford, Steven Collens, Elissa Efroymsen, Lori Faversham, Sandra Guthman, Mirja Haffner, John Hart, Betsy Holden, Tom Hurvis, Alan Jagiello, Shruti Jayaraman, Samera Ludwig, Jim Mabie, Gary Metzner, Sylvia Neil, Jonathan Plotkin, John Yonover, and Neil Zucker. These individuals are forming a separate, independent, non-profit entity intended to develop and provide continuing and long-term enhanced funding for the Arts at ChiArts.

Ron proposed an amendment to the Bylaws, lowering the number of directors to 10-15. Duffie Adelson (“Duffie”) motioned to approve the amendment, and Cynthia seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Ron proposed the induction of the following new group of Directors, who would be Class One directors, serving an initial one year term: Carlos Azcoitia, Lesley-Ann Brown-Henderson, Inger Burnett-Zeigler, Chris Falcon, Deirdra Lucas, and John McCambridge. Kay motioned to approve the new Directors, and Cynthia seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

As Warren Chapman's ("Warren") term was expiring, Ron indicated that he could be reinstated as a Class Two director, to serve another two years. Cynthia motioned to approve Warren's re-appointment, and Christine Gallagher ("Christine") seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

As Kay's and Christine's terms were expiring, Ron indicated that they could be reinstated as Class Three directors, to serve another three years. Cynthia motioned to approve their re-appointment, and Duffie seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

The Executive Committee put forth the following group of Directors to serve as new Officers for the Board: Cynthia as Chair, Carol Friedman ("Carol") as Vice-Chair, Warren as Secretary, and Christine as Treasurer. Duffie motioned to adopt the slate of officers, and Kay seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

With new officers in place, Ron made way for the remainder of the meeting to be led by Cynthia. Many people voiced appreciation for all the hard work that Ron has put in over the years. Cynthia announced that we would take a quick break, in order to admit the new Directors into the meeting.

Upon reconvening, Cynthia welcomed and introduced the new Directors who were present (Carlos Azcoitia, Lesley-Ann Brown-Henderson, Chris Falcon, and John McCambridge; Inger Burnett-Zeigler and Deirdra Lucas were unable to attend).

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

José Ochoa ("José") shared his report. There are many things to be proud of, including finishing the school year strongly, and graduation. Looking ahead, there are challenges with Remote Learning, made greater by our Arts focus (health guidelines in re: singing, dancing, etc). Jose noted everyone's gratitude that CPS had settled on a Remote Learning Model, rather than In-Person or Hybrid.

Cynthia asked about the Strategic Plan Notes in the packet reports; Jose shared that these were developed a few years ago, based on extensive research and goal-setting.

#### **Principal's Report**

Terri Milsap ("Terri") shared her report. Terri introduced Abbey Cullen ("Abbey"), the Assistant Principal, and Dwayne Jervier ("Dwayne"), the Director of Human Resources. Terri discussed the CPS-led plan for Remote Learning in the fall, with the possibility of moving to a Hybrid model in November.

Due to Remote Learning in the Spring, there are some expected learning gaps; plans are underway to address those.

Many teachers and staff attended Professional Development programs over the summer, focused on anti-racism training. Terri shared that plans are underway for a new internal position, a Professional Development Coordinator. Teachers also took part in summer projects, focused on various scholastic areas.

Plans are underway to ensure that all students have the technological support they need, in order to successfully participate in Remote Learning. In addition, Terri spoke about steps that have been taken to attend to the students' Social Emotional needs.

### **Managing Director of Arts Conservatories' Report**

Tina Boyer Brown ("Tina") shared her report. She spoke about some of the challenges in teaching the Arts via Remote Learning, but also spoke to the commitment shared by all to ensure that students receive a robust and engaging Arts education. She shared information about the recent ChiArts Summer Camps, which were well attended and successful

Admissions has held virtual auditions, to fill the last few spots for the new school year. This will have been a useful experience, in case auditions for 2021 need to be virtual. Conversation is ongoing about a virtual Production / Performance season.

A five-minute break was taken from 4:15 - 4:20.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Christine presented the Finance Committee report, which included unaudited year-end data for FY20. Christine also shared info about the PPP/SBA loan, which we hope will be forgiven. Our annual audit will begin in September.

Cynthia shared that the Development team, which provides funding to the Arts Conservatories, is beginning the new fiscal year with a strong start.

### **PSO Update**

Liza Pappas ("Liza") and Janette Cortes-Duewel ("Janette"), who are the two Parent Support Organization representatives to the board, introduced themselves. Liza shared that the PSO's focus right now is on community building, particularly in regards to the incoming Freshmen class.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

### **Public Participation**

Omar Tabbara ("Omar") shared his thoughts on the importance of getting physical books into the hands of students.

Some of the new board members asked questions about the Free Lunch Program, the Diverse Learning Program, the Racial Breakdown of the Student Body, and Students' Technology Access. Terri, José, and Abbey provided answers to their questions.

### **Adjournment**

Cynthia requested to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m. Carol made a motion to adjourn, and Warren seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Warren Chapman  
Secretary