

The Chicago High School for the Arts Board of Directors Meeting

May 10, 2021 at 4pm

Location: Online, via Zoom

**To attend via video conferencing, please reach out to Ursula McGregory
(umcgregory@chiarts.org), who will send the appropriate information.**

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call Cynthia Plouché

Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2021 Meeting Cynthia Plouché

Head of School Report Terri Milsap

Information & Presentations

Artistic Director Report

Tina Boyer Brown

Scholar-Artist Presentation

ChiArts Treble Choir

Finance / Treasurer Report

Dana Thomas

PSO Report

Liza Pappas & Janette Cortes-Duewel

Committee Reports

Public Participation

Other Items from Board

Overview of SB 2093

John McCambridge

Adjournment

Next Board Meeting: Special Meeting in June

Regularly Scheduled Meeting, TBD August 2021

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts®) develops the next generation of diverse, artistically promising scholar-artists through intensive pre-professional training in the arts, combined with a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum.

ChiArts Board Meeting May 10, 2021

The Chicago High School for the Arts
Board of Directors Meeting
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Online - via Zoom
Minutes for May 10, 2021

Present (on call): Duffie Adelson, Carlos Azcoitia, Deirdra Donahue, Lesley-Ann Brown-Henderson, Warren Chapman, Janette Cortes-Duewel, Chris Falcon, Carol Friedman, John McCambridge, Liza Pappas, Ron Grais, and Cynthia Plouché

Others Present: Terri Milsap (Principal & Head of School), Tina Boyer Brown (Artistic Director), Abbey Cullen (Assistant Principal), Dana Thomas (Finance), Ursula McGregory (Executive Assistant), Dwayne Jervier (HR Manager), Carolyn Burnes (Case Manager)

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, Cynthia Plouché (“Cynthia”) called the general assembly to order at 4:00 p.m. Ursula McGregory (“Ursula”) took the roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Cynthia requested approval of the March Board Meeting minutes. Carol Friedman (“Carol”) made a motion to approve the minutes as is, Carlos Azcoitia (“Carlos”) seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Head of School Report

Terri Milsap (“Terri”) shared her report. On Monday, April 26th, ChiArts began a phase-in approach to in-person instruction for academics, while conservatory classes remained remote. On May 3rd, ChiArts began to phase-in in-person conservatory classes. Beginning May 10th, ChiArts students will follow a hybrid 2-1-2 model. Students who have chosen in-person instruction will attend school 2 times per week (Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday) 8:00am-5:00pm. The other 2 days will be remote instruction. Teachers will simultaneously teach remote and in-person students. Below is the breakdown of students returning to in-person learning.

Terri shared that at the end of the 1st semester, ChiArts piloted a Remote Step-Up Plan (RSUP). The RSUP is an effort to support students who earned a failing grade of 50-59% in a class at the end of the semester. We will have a Hybrid Step-Up Plan for 9th-11th graders and a Hybrid Step-Up to Graduation Plan for seniors in academics and arts.

The Graduation celebration for the class of 2021 will be June 12th and June 13th. Students will have an opportunity to sign up to participate on either day. Each student will walk-through the school, decorated just for them and end in the auditorium to receive their diploma. Each graduate will receive 4 tickets for their guests. The virtual graduation will be streamed on June 22nd.

ChiArts is continuing to communicate with families to better engage students and improve attendance. Overall attendance is up a tenth from the previous month.

Academic teachers may volunteer to participate on the Consolidated Grant Committee to collaborate with administration on proposals for grant funding. This is a great opportunity for teachers to learn more about grant writing and have input regarding Title II and Title IV funding.

Academic and arts teachers have done a remarkable job at transitioning from remote to a hybrid model. It can be challenging to teach simultaneously. However, the teachers have done their research and have supported each other as we have all learned together. Support staff, arts department heads, and assistants have been essential in a smooth transition to hybrid learning.

Terri also shared that she and Ms. Boyer Brown continues to participate on the ASN Conference Committee to plan the upcoming conference that will take place in Chicago October 2021.

Student Performances

A video was shared of the ChiArts Treble Choir performing Can You Feel The Love Tonight.

Information & Presentations

Tina Boyer Brown (“Tina”) shared the Artistic Director report. ChiArts has been fortunate enough to outfit the classrooms and teachers with the supplies needed to transition to the hybrid schedule. Each classroom is in the process of being outfitted with TV’s, chromebooks, webcams, and the necessary cables that teachers and students need to see each other both in class and at home. The music and theatre students have received masks that make it possible to play/sing without removing their masks. The performance spaces are now classrooms, with powered air filters. The visual arts students have their own set of supplies, so there will be no cross use of items. All purchases were made possible thanks to a gift from an anonymous donor.

ChiArts extended offers of admission to 165 students. As of May 7th, we have 89 accepted offers, 21 declined, and 57 pending offers. The deadline for pending offers is May 14th. There is a current wait list of 21 students. The enrollment needed is 170. Due to ChiArts’ enrollment needs and the small number of candidates on the waiting lists, all conservatories will have a second round of virtual auditions from May 17-22.

Dana Thomas (“Dana”) presented the Treasurer report. There has been no changes to the status of the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) – COVID-19 related Paycheck Protection Program Loan since the last board meeting. The Tax Form 990 is completed and expected to be filed on time by May 17th. The CPS FY 2022 Initial Budget Allocation has been received. The FY 2022 budget process is underway.

Janette Cortes-Duewel (“Janette”) gave the PSO report. The PSO raised over \$4000 in a matter of days for gift cards and treats for staff appreciation week. With money left over, the PSO purchased carnations for the graduates at the graduation walk-through. The PSO also plans to sponsor coffee and donuts as an end of year celebration for staff.

Other Items from the Board

John McCambridge (“John”) shared an overview of a bill, SB 2093, that is pending in the Illinois House of Representatives. The bill is the latest version of legislation to make Contract Schools subject to the section of the Pension Code covering the Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund (“CPTF”). Attorneys for ChiTech, Hope and ChiArts presented position papers to the relevant House Committee detailing the issues with the bill. Most significantly, it would pull the Charter Schools, which are, by statute, private employers, into the CPTF, which is an explicitly public pension fund. To make that work, there would have to be a number of other changes to the laws dealing with Social Security to eliminate the possibility of double contributions. For that reason, the view of

the Charter Schools is that, if the House wished to go forward, there would have to be at least a one-year delay so these and other problems could be addressed. At the time of our Board meeting, the Committee vote was postponed.

Adjournment

Cynthia requested to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Warren Chapman (“Warren”) made a motion to adjourn, and Leslie-Ann Brown-Henderson”) seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Chapman
Secretary