

Letter from the Theater and Literary Arts Curriculum Supervisor

Greetings!

It is April and we are busily preparing to greet Chicago Public School principals and administrators at **Arts on the Agenda: A Day-Long Symposium On the Importance of Arts Education**. The event will take place on April 29th from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center. This event will provide a vital opportunity for leadership within CPS to learn, network, exchange ideas and build toward the future as we focus on nurturing a meaningful educational environment for our students. The day will include: a keynote address by Ramsey Lewis, workshops for elementary and high school level administrators, and performances by award-winning Chicago Public School students. Contact our office for more information, look out for more details, spread the word, and make sure that this event is on your agenda!

As the Theater and Literary Arts Curriculum Supervisor, I have had the privilege of working with theater teachers, classroom teachers and partner organizations. Our office has been able to make critical connections between these constituencies. One innovative theater/literary arts program is our partnership with the Office of eLearning and Global Writes to direct a three year program, "Honoring Student Voices." Our office works directly with Young Chicago Authors to teach writing and performance skills to Chicago Public School sixth grade students who participate in poetry slam competitions against sixth grade students in the Bronx via video conference. This program demonstrates an important link between nurturing students as creative, disciplined thinkers.

A number of theater teachers and classroom teachers have given invaluable input to our work in the initial phases of developing the Chicago Guide to Teaching and Learning in the Arts (a curriculum map for Visual Art, Dance, Music and Theater). Similarly groups of music, dance and visual art teachers have convened as working groups to critique existing curriculum maps and to share feedback on the unique structure and identity of the Chicago Guide. This document will provide a common entry point for teachers and arts organizations outlining critical elements of arts education in Chicago in a progression from PreK-12 by discipline.

Please take a moment to carefully review our calendar. This is a busy time filled with important arts events throughout the Chicago Public Schools in dance, music, visual arts and theater. Let's come together to support the hard work and celebrate the success of our students and teachers.

All the best,

Emily Hooper Lansana
Theater/Literary Arts Curriculum Supervisor

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Grant Writing Tips & Tools

For the uninitiated, the process of grant writing and proposal submission can be daunting. Yet many foundations, corporations, and government programs are eager to support projects and programs in the arts and arts education. Here are some essential tips to get you started with grant writing process. Then visit our temporary [website](#) or contact our office for more information!

1. Start early: good proposals often take a month or more to research, write, review, revise, assemble, and submit.
2. Read through the guidelines and application very carefully several times, and follow the grantor's instructions to the letter. Applications are turned away when they do not meet the funding agency's requirements.
3. Research the donor organization and sources of information on grants and grant writing before writing your proposal. If possible, cite research to support the effectiveness of your program ideas.
4. Collect successful grant applications to use as models for your own proposal. The more good proposals you read, the more you'll understand the techniques of effective grant writing.
5. Make sure your goals are realistic, given the resources of your organization.
6. Write concisely, and to the point. Do not use extraneous or verbose language.
7. Have several readers – including at least one person not involved in the project – read and critique your proposal narrative.

Looking for further assistance? November Learning's site provides access to "Writing Winning Grants" by Alan November. This guide includes prompts, templates, and worksheets to take you step-by-step through grant writing skills. To read more visit <http://novemberlearning.com/images/stories/Documents/winninggrants.pdf>

Dance Highlights

OAE is pleased to recognize the ongoing work of CPS high school students and their teachers in upcoming dance performances. We encourage you to attend and help support these emerging young artists:

- CPS All City Dance Concert - Saturday, April 5
- Curie High School Advanced Dance and Touring Co. Performance - Saturday, May 10
- Whitney Young High School Dance Concert - Friday, May 16

We also welcome Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as the company presents master classes in 8 CPS schools in conjunction with its engagement at the Auditorium Theatre this month.

Looking for dance classes? Try www.takechicagodance.com for a listing of area opportunities.

Music Highlights

Native Chicagoan and jazz legend Ramsey Lewis will be the keynote speaker at the OAE *Arts on the Agenda* event on April 29, 2008. Mr. Lewis is a three time Grammy Award winner and recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award.

OAE is also pleased to highlight *Jazzin' Up Chicago Public Schools*, a workshop designed and presented by CPS jazz instructors in partnership with the Jazz Institute of Chicago.

Theater and Literary Arts Highlights

Please come and see the inter-school production of *Beauty and the Beast* presented by the award winning Drama Department at Roosevelt High School. The performance will also feature students from Peterson, Taft and Von Steuben schools. The production directed by Cliff Gabor will open on Wednesday April 30, 2008. Performances will continue at 10AM on 5/1, and 5/2. Evening performances will take place at 7PM on 5/1, 5/2 and 5/3. Contact Roosevelt High School at 773-534-5000 for more details.

April 2008: Select Events and PDs

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Hubbard Street 2 Student Matinee	3 Old Town School of Folk Music Field Trip	4 CPS All City Art Exhibition Opens at MSI	5 CPS All City Dance Concert Orchestra & Band Contest
6 River North Chicago Dance Company Workshop	7	8 CPS Choral Contest (HS) Alvin Ailey All City Wrksp	9 CPS Choral Contest (HS)	10 CPS All City Art Reception CPS Choral Contest (HS)	11 Jazzin' Up CPS* / Joffrey Ballet PD* / Adventure Stage PD*	12
13	14	15 CPS All City Art Awards Ceremony	16 Chicago Opera Theater's Workshop for Teens	17 Alvin Ailey Teacher Discount Performance	18 CPS Sweet Home Chicago Art Exhibit Opens	19 Art Institute Teacher Program/PD*
20	21	22 Joffrey Ballet Application Meeting for Middle School Dance Clubs	23	24	25 Sweet Home Chicago Art Reception / Riverca Student Matinee	26 Chicago Mosaic School Workshop for Teachers*
27	28 Pegasus Players ARTS Night (HS)	29 CPS Arts on the Agenda Symposium	30 Luna Negra Student Matinee			* Indicates a professional development opportunity.

For more information regarding events listed in this calendar please contact the Office of Arts Education or the host arts organization.

Upcoming Opportunities

The Children's Humanities Festival, a multi-disciplinary arts festival occurring May 3 - 10, offers student matinees with free tickets for teacher and students. In some cases bus stipends may be available. For more information call 312-661-1028 or visit www.chfestival.org

Northlight Theatre is pleased to offer two student matinee opportunities next month - May 6 for *Better Late* and May 23 for *The Lady with all the Answers*. For details contact Barbara Kanady at 847-679-9501 ext. 3305 or bkanady@northlight.org

On the List?

Do you know someone who should be receiving our monthly newsletter but isn't? Help us spread the word by forwarding this message to friends and colleagues or send us their contact information and we will be happy to add them to our mailing list. For details call Crystal Gerner at 773-553-2170 or email cjgerner@cps.k12.il.us

For more information about the Office of Arts Education or items featured in this newsletter please contact cjgerner@cps.k12.il.us or call 773-553-2170. [Click here](#) to visit us on the web.