

## Letter from the Visual Arts Curriculum Supervisor

Dear Readers,

During my first year with the Office of Arts Education, I've already had the opportunity to meet and work alongside many of you. Programs such as the All-City Art Exhibition, the Art of Teaching, and others have also allowed me to see first-hand the outstanding artwork being generated by students throughout the district. During 11 years with the Chicago Park District as Senior Program Specialist, my work involved developing artistic partnerships, public art programs, and cultural staff training in both visual and performing arts. My hope is to bring similar cultural opportunities to CPS while working with teachers to help strengthen the quality arts programs already ongoing in schools city-wide.

This year, the Office of Arts Education (OAE) team has initiated planning and development for the new Chicago Guide for Teaching and Learning in the Arts, a curricular mapping project funded by the Chicago Community Trust that will involve CPS teachers, arts specialists and artistic partners over the next two years. I'm also working with cultural institutions and arts organizations to offer new professional development opportunities for both elementary and high school art teachers during the summer and fall of '08. These new offerings include printmaking workshops through a special OAE partnership with Anchor Graphics at Columbia College, and two-day workshops connected to the new "Re-Discovering Chicago Public School Murals Project," which has just received full funding support for up to 60 teachers from the Terra Foundation for American Art. In addition to the creation of a new educator supplement to the CPS Mural Curriculum Guide (created in 2002), "Rediscovering CPS Murals" will include professional development to prepare teachers for a special exhibit of Lane Tech murals next Fall at the Chicago Cultural Center.

The 2008 All-City Art Exhibition is also well underway. Portfolio review and judging for all individual entries has now been completed. Notification of those works selected for the exhibition was sent via email on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Elementary art teachers should also expect to receive an information packet about the new "Sweet Home Chicago" thematic art exhibit to be featured at Gallery 37 Center Space from April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This thematic program will be an annual offering for students in grades 5 to 8 in lieu of the past elementary art competition. Lastly, I'm in the planning stages to begin an artist salon or discussion series in an effort to provide a format for Chicago artists, arts organizations and teachers to share and exchange information to support their own programs. If you have ideas for topics or possible presenters or would like to serve on this planning group please send an email or contact me.

I'm happy to have joined CPS and am looking forward to meeting many of you at these and other events in the near future.

Yours in Art,

Nancy A. Cortés  
Visual Arts Curriculum Supervisor

## In This Issue

Letter from the Visual Arts Curriculum Supervisor  
*Arts on the Agenda*  
Connecting to Resources  
Highlights in Each Discipline  
Calendar of Select Events  
Upcoming Opportunities  
On the List?

## Arts on the Agenda

The Office of Arts Education invites principals, AIOs, arts coordinators and other senior staff to **Arts on the Agenda**: A Day Long Symposium on the Importance of Arts Education on **April 29, 2008** the Chicago Cultural Center. This will be a chance to learn how to enhance arts education at your school. Activities will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and will include guest speakers, workshops, student performances and more. Details coming soon!

## Connecting to Resources

TeachersCount is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise the status of the teaching profession and provide resources to the education community. Their website can connect you to grants that can support arts in your classroom and your school as well as travel and professional development opportunities. For more information visit [www.teacherscount.org](http://www.teacherscount.org).

## Dance Highlights

OAE is pleased to be assisting American Ballet Theatre as it prepares to bring its "Make a Ballet on Tour" program back to Chicago in conjunction with the company's production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. The week long residency will take place in late March/early April in four CPS elementary schools.

We are also happy to recognize DanceWorks Chicago as it begins its inaugural season. Last month the company offered two high school workshops free of charge to area students. Congratulations to Melinda Wilson, dance specialist at Curie Metro High School, for being selected as one of three winners in DanceWorks' first Dance Chance choreography series!

## Music Highlights

Little Kids Rock organized a workshop with CPS on February 29 and March 1 which trained teachers with previous guitar experience to offer guitar lessons to students at their schools. Once trained, teachers are eligible for free guitars for their classes. This is a pilot program being offered to community schools in its first year with the hopes of expansion in the future.

## Theater and Literary Arts Highlights

OAE is pleased to highlight the annual "Louder Than a Bomb" teen poetry slam. Teams representing a number of CPS High Schools will participate in this nationally recognized event. The poetry slam engages schools and community organizations from all over the Chicago area. This friendly competition gathers the best and brightest young writers (age 13-19) from throughout the region with the winners going on to represent Chicago at the national level.

Semi-Finals Monday, March 3, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art  
Finals Sunday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. at The Vic Theatre

For more information, contact YCA Performance Manager Robbie Q. Telfer at 773-486-4331 or [robbieq@youngchicagoauthors.org](mailto:robbieq@youngchicagoauthors.org).

Chicago Public Schools are presenting some wonderful performances this year. Below you will find a few examples of the diverse program offerings. OAE encourages the CPS community to support these young artists as they practice their craft.

Jones College Prep High School  
OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD  
3/6-3/8 2008

Von Stueben High School  
WEST SIDE STORY  
3/6-3/8 2008

Roosevelt High School  
THE CRUCIBLE  
3/7/2008

Curie Metro High School  
INTO THE WOODS  
3/26-3/29 2008

## March 2008: Select Events and PDs

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Chicago Shakespeare Theater Student Matinee	5	6 Auditorium Theatre Student Matinee	7 The Dance Center Workshop	8 CPS HS Vocal Ensemble & Solo Contest
9	10 DanceWorks Chicago Dance Chance	11	12	13 Art Institute Open House for Teachers*	14	15 MCA Teacher Workshop*
16	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18	19	20	21	22 Steppenwolf "MaTEeNe" Series
23	24	25	26	27 Registration DUE for CPS Jazz Contests	28	29
30	31					* Indicates professional development opportunity.

## Upcoming Opportunities

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University is offering a special teacher discount on tickets to see Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater April 16-20. Call 312-902-1500 and mention professional code "teacher" to save \$10 on select performances!

Luna Negra Dance Theater presents an innovative student matinee performance series April 30 and May 1, 2008 at the Harold Washington Library. Please contact Monnette Garcia 312-337-6882 or [monnette@lunanegra.org](mailto:monnette@lunanegra.org) for more information.

Registration for youngARTS a program of National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts that presents cash awards, scholarships and recognition to high school seniors will begin in April 2008 for 2009 graduates. For details visit [www.youngARTS.org](http://www.youngARTS.org) or call 1-800-970-ARTS.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cjgerner@cps.k12.il.us) or call 773-553-2170.  
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