



Welcome

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts)

Virtual School Listening Session
Monday, November 10, 2025
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Spanish Translation is Available/Traducción al Español Está Disponible

If you need Spanish translation, please raise your hand and one of your translators will support you.

Si necesita traducción al español, por favor levante la mano y uno de los traductores le ayudará.

Welcome Remarks

Conrad Timbers-Ausar
Chief Portfolio Officer

To engage families, students, and staff in meaningful dialogue about how CPS and the ChiArts community can collaboratively prioritize and enhance the Conservatory model within the new district-managed structure.

By the end of the school listening session:

- Understand what the Chicago Board of Education vote means for ChiArts' future.
- Identify the essential elements that define the Conservatory experience.
- Share ideas for sustaining and funding the arts pathways and partnerships.

Our Core Values

These core values will continue to guide the work we do every day for our students. They will also guide our planning and practices as we work together with our educators, families, and communities to implement programs, services, and initiatives.



Student
Centered



Whole Child



Equity



Academic
Excellence



Community
Partnership



Continuous
Learning

What's Happening and Why

On November 4, 2025, the Chicago Board of Education voted to transition ChiArts into a district-managed Fine & Performing Arts High School.

The Board also directed the district to work with the community to develop ideas on prioritizing the Conservatory to the greatest extent practicable by exploring alternative financial strategies and partnerships.

Agenda

01

Welcome & Framing

Open Remarks
CPS Core Values
What's Happening and Why

Chief Conrad Timbers-Ausar

Chief Portfolio Officer, Portfolio Office

5:30 - 5:40 p.m.

02

Your Voice Matters: Let's Discuss

Breakout Instructions 5:40 - 5:45
Breakout Transitions 5:45 - 5:50
Breakout Discussions 5:50 - 6:35

Omar Chilous

Director, Office of Innovation & Incubation

5:40 - 6:35 p.m.

03

Community Groups Share Out

Omar Chilous

Director, Office of Innovation & Incubation

6:35 - 6:55 p.m.

04

Next Steps & Closing

Chief Conrad Timbers-Ausar

Chief Portfolio Officer, Portfolio Office

6:55 - 7:00 p.m.

Your Voice Matters: Let's Discuss

INSTRUCTIONS: We will break out into groups for the next hour, answering guided questions and additional questions that your table would like to explore. Your feedback will be recorded and provided to the CPS and Board leadership.

In your breakout groups (45 minutes):

- Introductions
- Select someone to give a 2 minute recap of the discussion
- Open discussion - use prompts
- Share any additional questions that you have with your facilitator
- Share out highlights with the full group

Conversation Norms

- **Be productive**
 - Volunteer your ideas, surface challenges and ask questions
- **Share your authentic thoughts**
 - All perspectives are invited, welcomed and encouraged
- **Low tech, high engagement**
 - Stay focused on the task at hand
- **Expect and accept non-closure**
 - Things might be surfaced that aren't fully addressed or resolved. This is a big process, make sure any feedback you have is given during the breakout session.
- **Assume Best Intent**
- **Listen with the intent to understand**
- **3 Before Me**
 - Ensure that 3 other people can share before I share again

Discussion Prompts

Prioritize: What are the most important elements of the Conservatory that must be prioritized?

Enhance: Which aspects could evolve or change to strengthen the program for future generations?

Sustain: What ideas or partnerships could help ensure the Conservatory remains strong and financially sustainable in the long term?

Engage: Who else needs to be part of this conversation? How can CPS continue to communicate and engage with your community as planning continues?

You will now breakout into randomized groups with a CPS facilitator & notetaker for 45 minutes!

Group 1 (Spanish) - Room 003 (*Omar & Maria*)

Group 2 - Room 005 (*Christie & Daphne*)

Group 3 - Left Side of Auditorium (*Cesar & Jeffrey*)

Group 4 - Right Side of Auditorium (*Rochelle & Kendra*)

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Group Report-Outs

Please share a two-minute recap of your discussion, focusing on:

- What did your group say about Prioritizing, Enhancing, and Stabilizing the Conservatory?
- Who isn't here today and who else do we need to engage from your school community?



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Next Steps

Your feedback is important. The community feedback gathered through this process will inform the final recommendation to the CEO. The Board of Education unanimously directed the District to conduct additional public engagement to help preserve the conservatory model of ChiArts and to explore financial alternatives that support its long-term sustainability.

- A survey for staff and parents, students, and community members will be shared with the school Principal & Community by **Thursday, November 13, 2025**
- Survey completion timeframe **November 13 - December 13, 2025; feedback will be shared with Board and CPS leadership**
- A virtual ChiArts school meeting will be held on **December 2, 2025, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**



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