



Welcome

The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts)

Virtual School Listening Session
Tuesday, December 2, 2025

5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

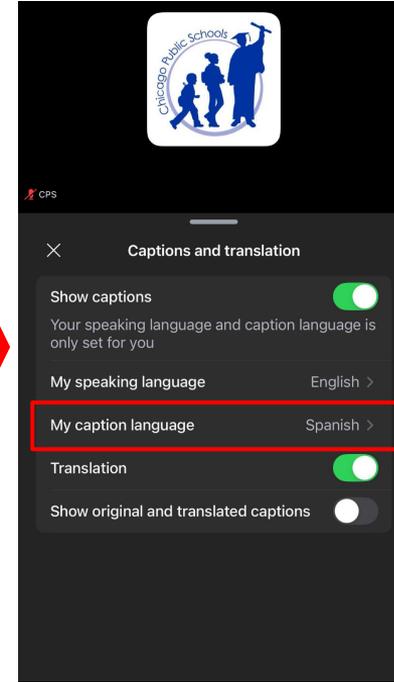
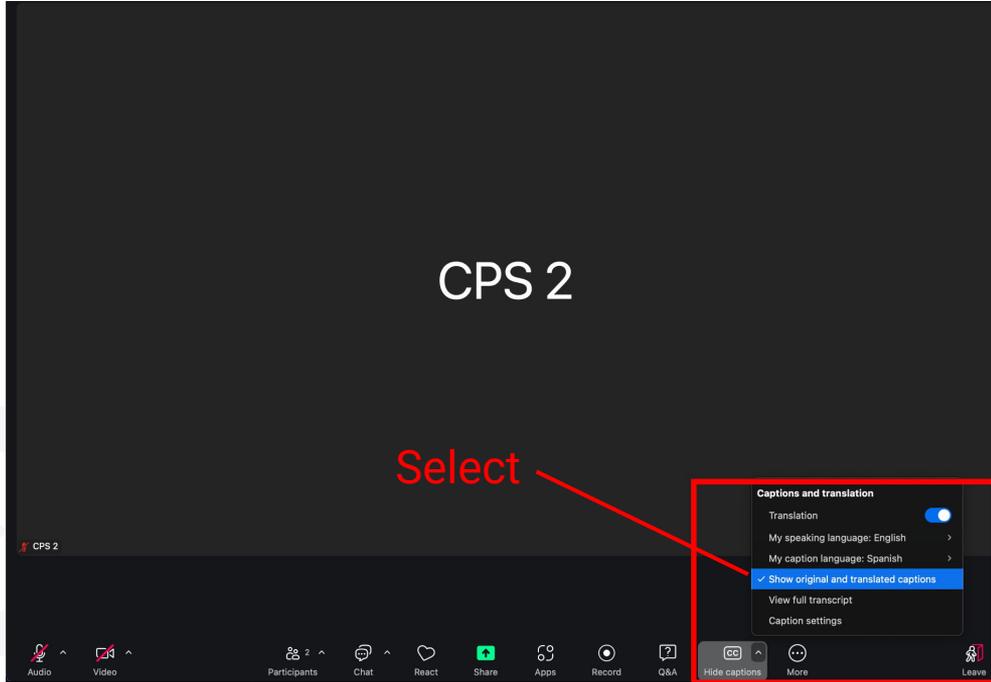


Spanish Translation is Available/Traducción al Español Está Disponible

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

Si necesita traducción al español, utilice el ícono de la mano para levantar la mano y uno de nuestros traductores lo ayudará.

Zoom Translation Instructions



Change
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Spanish

Welcome Remarks

Conrad Timbers-Ausar
Acting Chief Portfolio Officer

Objective and Purpose for Today

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.
- Share what we heard from Session #1 and survey data to date.
- Continue to identify the essential elements that define the Conservatory experience and share ideas for sustaining and funding the arts pathways and partnerships.
- Learn key transition updates re: the ChiArts incubation and principal selection process.

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Remarks• CPS Core Values• Chicago Board of Education Directives	Conrad Timbers-Ausar Acting Chief Portfolio Officer, Portfolio Office	5:00 – 5:05 p.m.
02	Introductions of Network Leaders & Administrator-in-Charge	William Klee Deputy Chief, Office of Network Support	5:05 - 5:15 p.m.
03	Principal Selection Process	Zabrina Evans Executive Director, Office of Innovation and Incubation	5:15 - 5:20 p.m.
04	School Advisory & Design Leadership Council	Omar Chilous Director, Office of Innovation and Incubation	5:20 – 5:35 p.m.
05	Recap Inaugural Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary Themes• Breakout Rooms	Conrad Timbers-Ausar Acting Chief Portfolio Officer, Portfolio Office	5:35 – 6:00 p.m.
06	Next Steps & Closing	Conrad Timbers-Ausar Acting Chief Portfolio Officer, Portfolio Office	6:00 – 6:15 p.m.

Office of Network Support Leadership Introductions



Michael Boraz
Chief of Schools
Network 15



Carolyn Eggert
Deputy Chief of Schools
Network 15



Patricia Woodson
Administrator-In-Charge
Office of Network Support

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Principal Selection Process for School Year 2026 - 2027

The Office of Network Support (ONS) and Network 15 Leaders will:

- Open a city-wide principal position for eligible applicants to apply
- Conduct the first review of candidates resumés, screening, and narrow down applicants
- Advisory & Design Leadership Council will interview the top three applicants, and plan a community meet and greet with the applicants (i.e. Principal Candidate Forum)
- Advisory & Design Leadership Council will make a recommendation to the Network 15 Chief of Schools for who will engage in a final interview with the CEO or CEO-Designee
- CPS Network Chief and CEO or CEO-Designee will make the final decision regarding Principal Selection

Principal Corona and Assistant Principal Stolle will remain at ChiArts through the end of this school year. They will continue to be the school's instructional and operational leaders, with Ms. Woodson providing additional leadership support specific to the transition of ChiArts to a district-managed school.

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Overview | Advisory & Design Leadership Council

- Composed of parents, staff, students, and community representatives, this group supports the successful transition and incubation process of ChiArts as it opens as a new CPS performing arts high school in summer 2026
- Will be initially led by Network 15 Leaders in partnership with the CPS Office of Network Support (ONS) and CPS Office Innovation & Incubation (I&I)

Potential Workstreams	
Advising and supporting the facilitation of the principal selection process	Identifying needs and concerns during the CPS transition
Advising on school culture and climate priorities	Reviewing and responding to key district proposals or changes
Recommending course offerings, electives, enrichment, and/or other specialized programs and supports for students and families	Helping CPS Network Chief + Principal make final decisions, key to school readiness for SY2026-27
Helping define the student and family learning experiences Developing and executing effective family and community engagement plans	Meeting with CPS academic departments to understand program implementation, timeline, and limitation

Composition | Advisory & Design Leadership Council

- The structure, composition, and selection process of the ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council will be modeled after that of Local School Councils (LSCs) to the fullest extent possible.
- The composition of the ChiArts Advisory and Design Leadership Council, which will be comprised by a majority of students and parents, will be as follows:
 - 6 parent representatives
 - 3 student representatives (currently enrolled in grades 9-12)
 - 2 community representatives
 - 2 teacher representatives
 - 2 teaching artists/conservatory teachers or staff
 - The Newly Selected CPS Principal (Selected in Winter 2026)

Selection Process Overview | Advisory & Design Leadership Council

- The ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council Member Selection process launches on **Thursday, December 4, 2025, and concludes on Friday, January 9, 2026.**
- **Democratic-Oriented Process**
 - The District will facilitate a selection process that:
 - Allows key school stakeholders to decide who will serve on the ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council
 - Balances the collective voice of various stakeholder groups, yielding a council membership that represents the diverse swaths within and across the ChiArts community
 - Ensures that a fair, equitable process is facilitated for membership selection

Selection Timeline | Advisory & Design Leadership Council

- **December 4th - 16th:** ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council Candidate Interest Form Submission Window
 - **Note:** To be added to the ballot, completion of the Candidate Interest Form is **mandatory**.
- **December 18th - January 7th:** Public Posting and Review of Responses from Candidate Interest Forms
- **December 18th - January 7th:** Advisory & Design Leadership Council Voting Window
 - ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council Voting Window Opens at 5pm CST on 12/18/25.
 - ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council Voting Window Closes at 5pm CST on 1/7/26.
- **January 9th:** Poll Results Published and ChiArts Advisory & Design Leadership Council Members Announced

Next Steps for Candidates | Advisory & Design Leadership Council

- Complete the Advisory & Design Leadership Council Candidate Interest Form (***distributed on Thursday, December 4th***)
- Responses can be submitted in the Candidate Interest Form in English or Spanish.
- To ensure that all candidate responses are included in the public review ahead of and during the voting window, **all candidates should complete and submit the Candidate Interest form by 5pm on Tuesday, December 16th. To ensure fairness**
- To support the ChiArts school community in making an informed decision about who serves on the Advisory Council, **it is mandatory that interested candidates complete a Candidate Interest Form to be formally added to the candidate pool and voting ballot.**
- All candidate responses (both English and Spanish translations) will be posted on the [CPS ChiArts Transitions Webpage](#) for public review as noted (***Launching December 4th***)

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What We Heard: Preserve

What Families, Students, and Staff Say Should Be Prioritized

Teaching Artist Model: Keeping professional teaching artists at the center of instruction

Depth & Rigor: Protecting the long school day and dedicated conservatory block that give students the time they need to grow as artists; 8am–5pm school day and 2pm–5 pm conservatory block

Culture of Belonging: Making sure ChiArts continues to feel like a second home, prioritizing mentorship, and maintaining strong arts identity

Artistic Leadership: Preserving artistic leadership, discipline leads and artistic directors

Arts + Academics Integration: Holding onto the scholar–artist model that prioritizes both academic and artistic excellence

What We Heard: Enhance

What Families, Students, and Staff Say Could Be Enhanced

Quality Framework for Teaching Artists: Build a system of professional development, mentoring, and feedback that helps teaching artist grow, without requiring certification

Professional Learning & Growth: Create pathways for ongoing training, artist residencies, and collaboration with CPS-aligned learning opportunities

Facilities & Technology: Improve performance spaces, studios, instruments, equipment, and digital resources

***Scheduling Improvements:** Address lunchtime congestion, improve daily transitions, and explore schedule options for athletics/other programs

Visibility & Marketing: Strengthen public narrative and recruitment through community showcases and consistent media presence

*Scheduling improvements and other student opportunities were not directly tied to the conservatory but enough families have mentioned this as an area of improvement.

What We Heard: Sustain

What Families, Students, and Staff Say Must Be Sustained Over Time

Stable CPS Funding Commitment: Establish a baseline operating budget and commitment that ensures continuity regardless of external fundraising

Purpose Aligned Philanthropy: Outside partners to focus on capital improvements, productions, scholarships and not core staffing

Fair Compensation & Stability for Teaching Artists: Provide healthcare, consistent pay and contracts to retain veteran arts staff

Shared Leadership: Create a Transition/Advisory Council with students, families, and staff to maintain transparency and shared leadership

Recognition of Artistic Achievement: Provide students with credentials to honor conservatory achievement

Your Voice Matters: Let's Discuss

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

In your breakout groups (25 minutes):

- Introductions
- The Facilitator will 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 specific stakeholder groups with a CPS facilitator & notetaker for 25 minutes!

Breakout Room 1: Community Members

Breakout Room 2: Parents/Students

Breakout Room 3: Staff

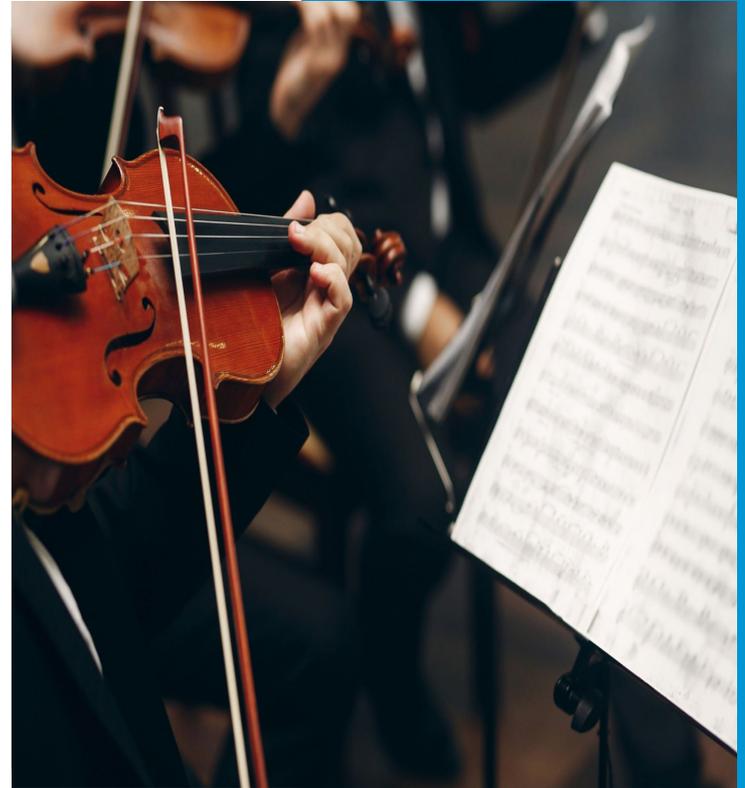
Breakout Room 4: Spanish-Speaking School Community Members

Choose Your Breakout Room

Group Report-Outs

Facilitators 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.

- Survey completion timeframe **November 19 – December 19, 2025; feedback will be shared with Board and CPS leadership**
- Advisory & Design Leadership Council Timeline
 - Dec 4 – Dec 16 | Candidate Interest Form open. Form is required to appear on the ballot
 - Dec 18 – Jan 7 | Public posting of Candidate Interest Form responses
- Voting window for Advisory & Design Leadership Council
 - Opens: Dec 18 at 5:00 p.m. CST | Closes: Jan 7 at 5:00 p.m. CST
 - Jan 9, 2026 | Poll results published | Council members officially announced
- A virtual ChiArts school meeting will be scheduled for February 2026



Q

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Chicago
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Schools