



Students at Jahn Elementary surprised themselves and each other while creating clay sculptures that conveyed their dreams and emotions.

The CAPE Quarterly

See what you're helping us accomplish!

Dec 2016

Convergence: Our Annual Exhibition of Art & Learning

CAPE's Convergence exhibition, now in its seventh year, featured work representing the 1000+ students who participate in CAPE's in-school programs, which reach all regions of the city, elementary age students, high school students, and students with disabilities. This year, Convergence was held in a 5,000 square foot gallery at Mana Contemporary Chicago in Pilsen from November 14 to November 19.

Convergence displayed the ongoing innovations in teaching, learning, and art making that are central to CAPE's work. One exhibition highlight was the student work from Boone Elementary, a highly diverse community school with over 40 languages spoken within the student body. Students studied bird anatomy and behaviors and then designed wearable bird structures that represented their personal and cultural identities. Finally, the students created and performed for the community individual and group choreography to match each of their sculptures.

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Learning about birds and biology through sculpture and performance at Boone Elementary!

CAPE'S NEW LOOK

For the past two years CAPE has engaged corporate volunteers to help us update our messaging and visual identity, including a new logo. Now, we are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website at **CAPEchicago.org**

Please take a look and let us know what you think!

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From November 14 to 19, CAPE held three professional development sessions for a total of 120 teachers and teaching artists who learned from experiencing our students' work in the Mana Contemporary gallery. The professional development meetings included CPS music, visual art, dance and theatre teachers who are a part of the CPS Fine and Performing Arts Magnet Cluster Program, teachers and teaching artists who are working in newly established CAPE partnerships, and a group of 30 teachers from Waukegan Public Schools who are learning about CAPE's approaches to collaboration and arts integration.

More than 100 CAPE supporters, teachers, artists, and Board and Associate Board members attended a reception on Wednesday November 15, where veteran CAPE Teaching Artist and recent 3Arts Awardee William Estrada gave a striking speech on the value of CAPE's work in supporting community empowerment through the arts. You can read William's comments and see a few photos from the event at:

capechicago.org/blog/teaching-artist-william-estrada-apes-impact-work/



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

At Vaughn Occupational High School, students worked with teacher Laura Smith and Teaching Artist Chuck Jones to identify their personal super powers and create logos that effectively communicate those powers to others. These students, many of whom have severe disabilities, spent time focusing on the step-by-step processes required to complete such a project and considered the meanings of different colors, shapes, and symbols. Their work was featured at Convergence 2016.

Read more about this project and others on our new website at:

capechicago.org/curriculum-examples/



Our awesome Associate Leadership Board at a fundraising event they hosted in September!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We'd like to offer a big thank you to CAPE board members Tom Silva, Igor Vasquez, and Niema Qureshi, who have all hosted recent events aimed at introducing CAPE's work to their friends and colleagues!

We also want to welcome and thank all the members of our new Associate Leadership Board, founded by Blase Viti III, who have already contributed to so much time, energy, and resources to our organization!

VISIT US!

CAPE reaches over 50 schools with school-day and after-school programs. There's always something going on! If you would like to visit a classroom to see a teacher and artist working together, please contact us!

- Dec 21, 12-1p: **CAPE Field Trip** at the office
- Jan 11, 5-6p: **CAPE Field Trip** at the office
- Feb 15, 12-1p: **CAPE Field Trip** at the office

About our Field Trips

The CAPE Field Trip is a one-hour, free information session about CAPE's mission and impact. We host Field Trips each month in our office and at the homes, offices, and favorite haunts of our supporters. These casual, no pressure events are a great way to introduce your friends and colleagues to CAPE.

For more information and the sign up, check out **CAPEchicago.org/visit-cape**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear CAPE Community,

The past few months have been quite extraordinary for CAPE! We held our third annual Impact Arts luncheon which raised a record amount of funds for our mission, presented our annual Convergence exhibition which was visited by more attendees than in any of its prior six years, hosted our first CAPE Associate Board fundraising event with dozens of new supporters, and launched a new website. We're thankful each and every day for the growing level of support we're receiving from our community. And going forward, we're going to need it!

We're building our organization to provide students with the creative learning opportunities to help them succeed. Our partnerships are a source of stable and long-term support for the arts in schools, which are under increasing threat from all directions. With a new federal administration taking over in January, and CPS budget concerns looming in Springfield and at City Hall, it is quite likely that our schools will be asked to do even more for their students with fewer resources. We will continue to listen to parents, teachers, and school leaders to understand and address the challenges and obstacles they face. With your continued support and advocacy, we will collaborate with our schools to build resiliency and sustainability for creative learning for all students.

Sincerely,
Amy Rasmussen, Executive Director



DON'T BE A STRANGER!

We love connecting one on one, by phone or email, and in person! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to share ideas or feedback, ask questions, or arrange a visit to a school or CAPE event.

Amy Rasmussen, Executive Director: amy@capechicago.org ; 312-870-6144

Scott Sikkema, Education Director: scott@capechicago.org ; 312-870-6145

Michelle Green Arnson, Communications Manager; michelle@capechicago.org

CAPE inspires students' passion for education by bringing academic subjects to life through the arts. We partner teaching artists with Chicago Public School teachers to develop original, creative lesson plans that weave visual and performing arts into traditional classroom subjects. This type of teaching has been proven to better engage students, improve their grades, and boost their self-esteem and confidence.

Learn more online:

Our new website: CAPEchicago.org

On Facebook: [CAPE.org](https://www.facebook.com/CAPE.org)

On Twitter: [@CAPEchicago](https://twitter.com/CAPEchicago)



CAPE VOCABULARY

Inquiry Question: Each team of CAPE teachers and teaching artists work together to identify an open-ended inquiry question that will guide them and their students. These inquiry questions are often inspired by the students' own interests and provide a framework for the project without dictating the end results.

Professional Development (PD): PD is how we describe the ongoing series of interactive workshops that our teachers and teaching artists attend together. PD sessions are led by CAPE staff, researchers, visiting artists, and experts from the field, and help our teaching teams plan, share, and reflect on their projects with peers who share their goals and struggles.



It's show time for these after-school students at Waters Elementary!