

## DON'T BE A STRANGER!

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

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And please follow, like, and share on social media!



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facebook.com/CAPE.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 and make a new gift to support this vital work at: [www.capeweb.org](http://www.capeweb.org)



## CAPE VOCABULARY

**Arts Integration:** Key to CAPE's work, it's the highly adaptable process of weaving the arts into other subject areas to help students achieve a deeper understanding of each area. This can include- among MANY other things- dancing to teach patterns or graphing, or using photography to learn about plots, settings, and characters.

**Teaching Artist:** A person whose arts practice is intricately connected to their work as an educator, often in academic settings. CAPE's teaching artists are professional working artists who explore and expand the possibilities of art making as a tool for learning and teaching academic content and life skills, like critical thinking and collaboration.

Exploring civics through photography at Camras Elementary!



Teaching artist Jessica Rodrigue and a student laugh together during a civics and photography project at Camras Elementary in Belmont Cragin. Jessica and teacher Brian Calhoun have taught together for four years.

# The CAPE Quarterly

See what you're helping us accomplish!

May 2016

## Why CAPE Matters at North-Grand High School

History teacher Michelle Livas explains CAPE's impact in her classroom

When I first began working with CAPE and my Teaching Artist, Jessi, five years ago, it just seemed like a cool opportunity and a new, different experience, but it has been so much more valuable than I could have possibly imagined.

Working with Jessi helped me encourage my students to be free with their thoughts and ideas without fear of failure, and they see school, history, art, their peers, and even their teachers differently now. It gave some the chance to process particularly difficult life experiences like abuse, homelessness, violence, parenthood, and heartbreak in new ways,

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Michelle's students learning about water scarcity through game design!

## DID YOU KNOW...

Thanks to your support, this year CAPE is:

- Engaging more than 4500 K-12 students in arts programs during and after school
- Inspiring more than 300 teachers through training, mentorship, and partnerships with teaching artists



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and they have also made personal connections with the academic content that go deeper than just writing an essay or taking a test. CAPE taught them to have the courage to speak and perform in front of others and helped some to succeed in school when they usually do not.

As for me, my CAPE experiences and collaborations with Jessi have truly made me a better educator and human. I have been pushed to take chances and be creative when I'm not necessarily comfortable with such things. My perspective on my teaching practice has shifted, and now I see more possibilities of what I can attempt and accomplish with my students and within my profession. I have gained confidence, wisdom, and so many new ways of thinking about everyday lessons and student interaction, and I know that my students and I will all continue to benefit from our expanded outlooks, confidence, and abilities to express our thoughts and creativity.



Packing up supplies for the Telpochcalli students!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A big thank you to CAPE board member Shaun Goldfarb and his wife Tara for their efforts to bring much-needed art supplies to CAPE students! Their daughter and her classmates at B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (BJBE)'s Early Childhood Center held an art supply drive to benefit kindergarteners and first graders at Telpochcalli Elementary, a CAPE school in Little Village.

More details and cute photos are up on the CAPE blog at: [www.capeweb.org/capers-art-supply-drive-bjbe-telpochcalli-elementary](http://www.capeweb.org/capers-art-supply-drive-bjbe-telpochcalli-elementary)



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

At Williams Preparatory School of Medicine in Bronzeville, art teacher Phil Cotton and teaching artist Margy Stover have been CAPE partners for 14 years. Their classroom projects typically involve aspects of architecture, community, public spaces, and investigating and challenging the status quo. This year, their students are exploring a nearby vacant building that was once an elementary school, and trying to conceive of new uses for the building that would meet needs they've identified within their neighborhood.

Read more about it on our blog at: [www.capeweb.org/cape-events-naea-chicago-tour-cape-programs](http://www.capeweb.org/cape-events-naea-chicago-tour-cape-programs)



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

I'm excited to introduce you to the CAPE Quarterly, designed to keep you in the loop on the work we do to expand the arts in our public schools. Despite the deep financial challenges facing our schools and school district, our work with teachers and artists continues to engage and inspire students every day. From our perspective, teachers and teaching artists remain deeply committed to going the extra mile to help their students grow and succeed! As a supporter of our work, we can't thank you enough for believing in the potential of our students and for providing the support necessary to help them develop into the thoughtful, engaged, and creative citizens we need to lead our city in the future.

After reading the CAPE Quarterly, please let us know what you think! Your feedback will guide the development of this publication in the future -- we want to know what you want to know! Please email me directly to share your ideas or concerns.

Thank you for your commitment to CAPE and for getting involved in our work. I hope you will continue to serve as a witness to our work and as an advocate for the children of Chicago.

Sincerely,  
**Amy Rasmussen, Executive Director**  
[arasmussen@capeweb.org](mailto:arasmussen@capeweb.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We love showing off our work in action, and you have a standing invitation to join us for any of the events below! Times and dates do change, so please let us know in advance if you'll be coming, or if you'd like to be alerted to other upcoming events as they're scheduled.

- May 11, 5-6p- **CAPE Field Trip** at the office
- May 17, 4:30-6:30p- Year end sharing event at Washington High
- May 25, 4-7p- Year end sharing event at Waters Elementary
- June 1, 12-1p- **CAPE Field Trip** at the office
- June 10, 6-7:30p- Art Fest at Telpochcalli
- June 16, 4-8p- Parents' exhibition at Intuit Gallery

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! Check out [capeweb.org/fieldtrip](http://capeweb.org/fieldtrip) for more information!

