

## 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.

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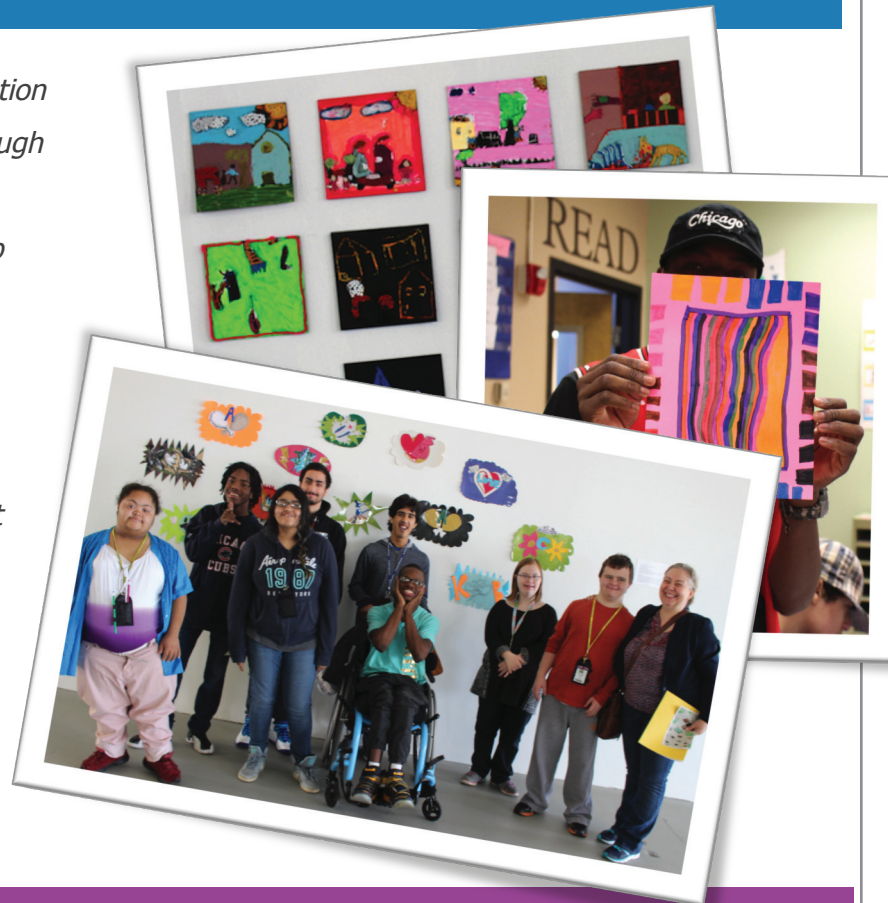
*CAPE inspires students' passion for education by bringing academic subjects to life through the arts. We partner teaching artists with Chicago Public School teachers to develop original, creative lesson plans that weave visual and performing arts into traditional classroom subjects. This type of teaching 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](http://CAPEchicago.org)

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

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



## CAPE VOCABULARY

**Documentation:** Each team of CAPE teachers and teaching artists is trained in how to document their own work and growth over the course of a project, as well as that of their students. This documentation may be writing, photos, video, audio, or exhibition, and is used by CAPE staff and researchers and the educators themselves to understand the process and outcomes of the project.

**Reflection:** A key piece of our work in schools is reflection. Through reflection on their experiences throughout a project, teachers, teaching artists, and students can understand their successes, struggles, and growth, and then use those new understandings as a jumping-off point for future work. The CAPE staff also uses reflection as a tool for program improvement.



*Working collaboratively is an important life skill these CAPE students are learning at Goudy Elementary!*



**cape** chicago arts  
partnerships  
in education

*Students at Telpochcalli Elementary working on their ongoing community art work titled Liberty's Promise, La Promesa de Libertad. Learn more in our Project Spotlight (page 2)*

# The CAPE Quarterly

See what you're helping us accomplish!

Mar 2017

## Collaboration Laboratory: A Program in Jeopardy

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is under attack, yet again, by members of Congress who have threatened for years to eliminate funding for our nation's cultural institutions. The NEA, with its current annual budget of \$148 million, or a minuscule 0.003% of the federal discretionary budget in 2016, enjoys widespread public support and has an outsized impact on the organizations and communities that its grant support. And yet, The Heritage Foundation, a conservative research think tank, calls the NEA "welfare for cultural elitists" and insisting that "the NEA does not promote charitable giving." CAPE is one of many NEA grant recipients who uses its funding to support struggling communities through hands-on programs; 80% of CAPE students are from low income families, and one would be hard-pressed to argue that the other 20% qualify as "cultural elitists."

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Our parents at Washington High are creating stepping stones for their school courtyard!*

## Defend the Funding

Please take a few moments to call your Senators and Representatives and tell them you support the NEA and the incredible work it makes possible in Chicago and across the country. These very brief calls are a truly meaningful way to express yourself and to be heard by our elected officials.

**Find your reps at [govtrack.us](http://govtrack.us)**



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Further, grants provided by the NEA require recipients to match those grants with other private funding, from individuals, foundations or corporations. Every \$1 in NEA grant funds leverages another \$9 from other public and private sources, thus demonstrating that the NEA does, in fact, promote a significant amount of charitable giving.

Collaboration Laboratory (Co-Lab), the CAPE program that fuels our long-term work in Chicago Public Schools, is funded in part by a grant from the NEA. In Co-Lab, teachers and artists who are new to arts integration make a two-year commitment to learning the CAPE model and implementing it into their classrooms. During their time in Co-Lab, the teacher-teaching artist teams participate in intensive and ongoing training and mentorship, which set them up for long-term success. After their time in Co-Lab, many teams go on to teach together in our Artist/Researcher Program alongside dozens of other established, long-term partners. Thus, our teachers and artists continue, year after year, to use the arts as a tool for teaching critical thinking, creative problem solving, team work, reflection, and compassion to the students who enter their classrooms, all thanks to an investment by the NEA in their professional growth, personal passions, and life-changing potential.

To lose our Co-Lab program to NEA cuts would be to lose the engine of our entire organization.



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

At Telpochcalli Elementary, one of our after-school classes of K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are working on a powerful community art piece called Liberty's Promise, La Promesa de Libertad. The project is exploring and documenting the immigrant experience of Telpochcalli students and families, and the work will soon be exhibited for and opened up to the broader Chicago community.

Learn more about this project:  
[capechicago.org/origin-of-libertys-promise](http://capechicago.org/origin-of-libertys-promise)

Follow the journey and updates:  
**#LibertysPromise**  
**#LaPromesaDeLibertad**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you so much to Louanne Smolin, Niema Qureshi, and Karrie Sullivan for travelling with us all the way to Houston, Texas for an intensive training workshop!

And a big thanks to our volunteer Jackie Bowers for her help with our new look and logo, as well as our 2016 Annual Report!

And finally, welcome to Margaret Koreman, a CAPE teacher and the newest addition to our Board of Directors. We're thrilled to have you!



Our new annual report is better than ever!



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear CAPE Community,

With all of the troubling news coming from Washington, DC, Springfield, and City Hall, what can you do? If you are as passionate about arts education as we are, then get the facts and make your voice heard! As we've heard throughout the winter, calls and postcards to legislators are tremendously important, so speak up and let your representatives know where you stand on the issues!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

CAPE receives government support from multiple sources: The US Department of Education (for teacher professional development programs), the Illinois State Board of Education (for after-school programs), the National Endowment for the Arts (for our Co-Lab program), and The Illinois Arts Council and the CityArts Grant Program (both for general operating support). In each case, CAPE submits grant proposals that are **peer reviewed** and **rigorously vetted** before we are awarded grant funds -- there are no entitlements or formula grants for the arts! In each case, CAPE has been held up as an exemplary organization as compared to other groups, in terms of the quality of our program implementation and our ability to get results for students and teachers, as well as the efficiency and transparency of our organizational management.

As one of our supporters, we need your help in advocating for these government funds! We encourage you to ask questions and get involved. **Thank you for your support!**

Sincerely,  
Amy Rasmussen, Executive Director

## Get Involved!

CAPE's volunteers do a variety of things to help our organization grow and thrive. Check out the following list of volunteer opportunities and let us know what you'd like to do!

- Join us at our upcoming Convergence exhibition on June 1 (more details coming soon!). Attending with friends and witnessing the work of our students, teachers, and artists is a great way to connect and spread the CAPE love!
- Want to know more about CAPE? Then attend a CAPE Field Trip! This hour-long presentation illustrates our mission, vision and impact.
- Do you have a big network, lots of friends, but are short on time? Then consider serving as an Ambassador! Our CAPE Ambassadors sign on to get 10 of their friends to attend a CAPE Field Trip over three months. We'll do the hard work- we just need your networking skills!
- Are you a young professional looking to get involved? Consider volunteering for our CAPE Associate Board. The Associate Board meets monthly, hosts fundraising events, and participates in CAPE programs.
- Do you have a lot of time to give? Then consider helping out a partnership in a classroom. Our teachers and artists always need help with preparing supplies, taking photos, and other classroom tasks.

To show your support for CAPE by volunteering, please contact us!

