In-school Program • After-School Program • Exhibitions and Events • Research • After-School Advocacy

cape

chicago arts partnerships in education

Impact Report

2023-2024

capechicago.org

growth and challenges

Dear Partners, Donors, Advocates, and Allies,

We are proud to share this summary of CAPE's many accomplishments and challenges. The impact CAPE is having today will have a ripple effect on students' lives for years to come. We see that impact reflected in the hope, creativity and commitment shared in the stories on these pages.

What's next for CAPE? Only good things. CAPE's Board of Directors is embarking on a new strategic plan to sustain the organization's impact. Among its top priorities is to continue to support teaching artists and their roles in schools and communities, as well as to continue to highlight our students' work in performances and exhibitions at our gallery space in Bridgeport.

Thanks to your generous support, CAPE ended the year in a strong financial and programmatic position. However, we still face ongoing challenges: our after-school program funding remains uncertain, and we must continue our advocacy work for Illinois students.

We thank you for your commitment to Chicago's children and for your support of CAPE's mission. Without you in our corner, we simply couldn't do what we do.

Kyle Johnson
Board President

Amy Rasmussen
Executive Director

Fiscal Results July 2023–June 2024

To download the complete CAPE audit visit capechicago.org/financials

voices with impact

"CAPE has been an integral part to my children's experience at the school. Many friendships were made and deepened as kids spent time together after school, making my children motivated and excited to come to school day after day."
–Telpochcalli School parent Carla Lents

"One of the things that I love most about CAPE, after being with them for 11 years, is the fact that children have such agency in creating and in being able to express their voice."
–Waters Elementary teacher and 2024 Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence winner Mrs. Olga Nuñez-Johnson

"Our students are caring, hard-working, talented, and wise."
–Community Class teaching artist Victoria Mendoza and teacher Rachel Stempel

"CAPE classrooms teach collaboration and emphasize the co-creation of knowledge between teachers and students. Students often propose new questions/projects/ideas that can foundationally inform curriculum."
–Teaching artist Nick Meryhew

"My favorite school subject is CAPE."
–Jaqueline (1st grade student at Pioneer Elementary)

"So many of our students believe that access to quality performance spaces, galleries, and other arts spaces are beyond the reach of the everyday CPS student. With a partnership like CAPE, we can bridge the gap to allow students to help them feel like this is their city too and they can access some of the most amazing and tangible art that the City of Chicago has to offer."
–North-Grand High School Music Director Fabian Lopez

partnerships and programs

Year round, CAPE in-school and after-school classes integrate diverse art forms (visual, media, writing, performance, and gardening) with school subjects and social-emotional learning (SEL).

4 programs

43 partner schools

81 teaching artists

146 educators (teachers and non-teaching school staff)

3,240+ students served

23 professional development sessions offered to teaching partners across programs

59 professional development hours

Teachers observe robust engagement in CAPE after-school students during the school day[1]

[1] Survey of 2023-2024 CAPE after-school teachers at Ashe, Taylor, Telpochcalli, and Waters Elementaries.

*Taking place in Chicago and West Chicago, the SCALE program (Supporting Communities through Arts Learning Environments) offered after-school classes during the school year, as well as summer classes, including a total of 16 community classes for parents and adults, and one high school summer club in partnership with After School Matters.

CAPE after-school students demonstrate positive attitudes through the arts[2]

[2] Survey of 2023-2024 CAPE after-school students at Ashe, New Sullivan, Taylor, Telpochcalli, and Waters Elementaries, and Dyett, George Washington, North-Grand High Schools in Chicago; and Currier, Gary, Pioneer, and Turner Elementaries, and Leman Middle School in West Chicago.

exhibitions and events

4 exhibitions at CAPE

1,700+ exhibiting student artists

15 field trips to CAPE

1,400+ CAPE field trip guests

25+ additional CAPE-sponsored field trips across the city

7 WORKROOM resident artists in the summer

CAPE students, teachers, and artists build community by sharing their artwork at CAPE and throughout Chicagoland. Among free public events, such as educator workshops, dialogues, music student performances, family days, and many others, 850+ guests visited our gallery in Bridgeport.

We were honored to have hosted the Young Audiences National Conference, and a celebration that included performances by teaching artists for 220+ conference attendees and guests.

Young Audiences Arts for Learning

CAPE engages external, university-based researchers who work with our program staff to create research plans, define methods of measurement, and collect, analyze, and report on data from our classrooms. This approach to arts education research allows us to continually improve our programs and contribute proven best practices back to the field.

Researchers and CAPE staff presented findings at the following conferences:

- 4th International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS) in Buffalo
- International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Champaign-Urbana
- Young Audiences Arts for Learning National Conference in Chicago
- Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) in Denver (virtual)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Chicago

Learn more about our researchers and find links to publications and presentations by visiting the Research section of capechicago.org.

4 research reports

5 conference presentations

4 publications

research

fighting for after-school funds

Dear Representative or senator of Illinois

My name is Gael [redacted] and I am a 6 grader at Tenochtitlan Elementary school. I am writing to express my sadness when I heard that my afterschool programs have not started because our school's partnership, CAPE, is not receiving funding.

CAPE has been an important part of out school and our learning CAPE has been an important part of our school and our learning for the past 20 years. I have learned not only to paint, draw, sketch but most importantly I have found confidence in myself. I have learned how to have my voice heard. I have learned to appreciate where I am and to be proud of where I come from.

I know I have much more to learn and I would like to have CAPE continue to be part of my learning, growth in becoming a better student, as well as an involved citizen

Respectfully,

Gael [redacted]

291

programs throughout Illinois have been cut as of August 2024 with limited prospects for renewal

10

partner schools in CAPE's after-school program have been affected

1,000+

letters to legislators have been written by students, parents, educators, and community members

ACTNOW! Afterschool for Children and Teens

ACT Now and CAPE persistently gathered in Springfield, Illinois, to encourage elected officials to develop a new funding line to support after-school providers. Legislators recognized the benefit of these programs and chose to include $50 million in additional state funding in the Illinois budget to stabilize the field. By early June 2024, the Governor signed the state budget and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) voted to release the funds. However, delays in disseminating these funds are forcing programs to shut down.

Scan the code to stay up to date, and follow @actnowil on Instagram.
Join us in getting involved to urge the state to issue after-school funding.

donors

thank you for supporting innovative arts education programs for students, families, teachers, and artists in Chicagoland

Above $50,000

Polk Bros. Foundation
U. S. Department of Education
Arts in Education Program
Illinois State Board of Education
Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program
Illinois State Board of Education
After School Program
Chicago Public Schools
Community Schools Initiative

$10,000-$49,999

Adobe
Albert and Anne Mansfield Foundation
Alfred Bersted Foundation
Nancy Breseke
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
Crown Family Philanthropies
Carol Eastin
Illinois Arts Council
Laird Norton Family Foundation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Lohengrin Foundation
McVay Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Ms. Donna Van Eekeren
Venable LLP
The Wildflower Foundation, Inc.

$5,000-$9,999

Richard Assmus and Leah Welty Assmus
Sahara Enterprises, Inc.
Farny R. Wurlitzer Foundation Fund Grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation

$1,000-$4,999

Dawn Bowen Bolles
The Chicago Community Trust
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Mr. Adam Engle
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Margaret & Neil Koreman
Justin Lehmann
Olivia Manning
P. Loreen Mershimer
Microsoft
Lorena Mora-Martinez
Elvia M. Moreno
Laura Paradis
Kirti Parakh
Kim Boike & Tim Slomka
William Zant

$500-$999

Rebecca Allard
Linda DeGuzman
Maureen Egan
Mr. Jan Feldman
Lionel & Mary Go
Charlie & Katie Hoover
Mr. Edward Johnson
Judi Lapinsohn
Susan Murphy
Dr. Lawrence and Mrs. Grace Roebel
Mel and Janet Carl Smith
Artists for Harmony
Gianni Truzzi

$100-$499

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Tim Amrein
The Auto Club Group
Rex Babiera
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Baird Foundation Inc
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TIAA
UBS
Luis Valadez
Joanne Vena & Rick Graham
Elizabeth Whiting
Mary Ziegler

to $99

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Susan Blackman
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Chicago Public Schools

Adlai E. Stevenson Elementary School
Arthur R. Ashe Elementary School
Columbia Explorers Elementary Academy
Douglas Taylor Elementary School
Dr. Jorge Prieto Math and Science Academy
Durkin Park Elementary School
Fort Dearborn Elementary School
George Washington High School
Gillespie Technology Magnet Cluster
Hamilton Fine and Performing Arts School
Harriet E. Sayre Elementary Language Academy
Henry H. Nash Elementary School
Infinity Math Science and Technology High School
Jacqueline B. Vaughn Occupational High School
John Barry Elementary School
John B. Murphy Elementary School
John Hay Community Academy
John T. Pirie Fine Arts and Academic Center
Joseph Lovett Elementary School
Julia Ward Howe School of Excellence
Lake View High School
Lionel Hampton Fine & Performing Arts School
Louis Pasteur Elementary School
Mosaic School of Fine Arts
Newton Bateman Elementary School
North-Grand High School
Patrick Henry Elementary School
Ray Graham Training Center High School
Spry Community Links High School
STEM Magnet Academy
Telpochcalli School
Thomas J. Waters Elementary School
Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts
William E. Dever Elementary School
William Howard Taft High School
William K. New Sullivan Elementary School

West Chicago School District 33 Public Schools

Currier Elementary
Gary Elementary
Leman Middle School
Pioneer Elementary
Turner Elementary

Cover image: Students of teaching artist Margy Stover and teacher Sarah Ramirez at Murphy Elementary, 2023.

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CAPE inspires students' passion for learning by bringing academics to life through original, creative lessons, developed by artists and schoolteachers, leading to improved grades and confidence.

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