



**Advocate for  
after-school  
funding  
today!**



## The CAPE Network Ignites Two Exhibitions!

This Spring we were honored to present works by over 1,580 Chicago Public School students that participate in CAPE in-school and afterschool programs this school year. Representing each program respectively, the exhibitions *Convergence* and *Perspective(s)* highlighted the wide-ranging creativity of students, and the arts integration explorations between teaching artists and schoolteachers.

*Convergence* featured numerous artworks that reflect arts-integrated learning through the Artist/Researcher Partners program. The diversity of projects—ranging from personal history to math and poetry—displayed the depth and complexity of student-centered inquiry. *Perspective(s)* highlighted how the CAPE afterschool program used art as a Lingua Franca to navigate shifting linguistic landscapes, with students expressing identity, practicing language, and building community through themes like Ceremony, Play, Lingua, and Place-making.

Public programming for all ages included a family day with live performances and artmaking activities led by teaching artists, an exhibition reception, an educator workshop offered by teaching partnerships, and dialogues with public school principals, administrators, teaching artists, and schoolteachers. In addition, field trips brought students and families to see their own works on display.

Thank you to everyone for supporting student artists! Join us again!

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## Thank you, D'Addario Foundation!

CAPE was selected by D'Addario Foundation to receive an in-kind product donation for our music classes. North-Grand High School's Music Club selected items to keep rocking their rehearsals and concerts! Congratulations to The Midnight Sweaters (Yorgy V, pictured) and Music Director Fabian Lopez, and thank you D'Addario Foundation for the support and generosity!



## CAPE Dialogue: Arts Integration as a Cultural Bridge in Schools

In support of the Perspective(s) exhibition, public school principals, administrators, CAPE teaching artists, and schoolteachers came together to engage in a thoughtful dialogue about the shifting demographics of neighborhood schools and the impact these changes have on educational priorities.

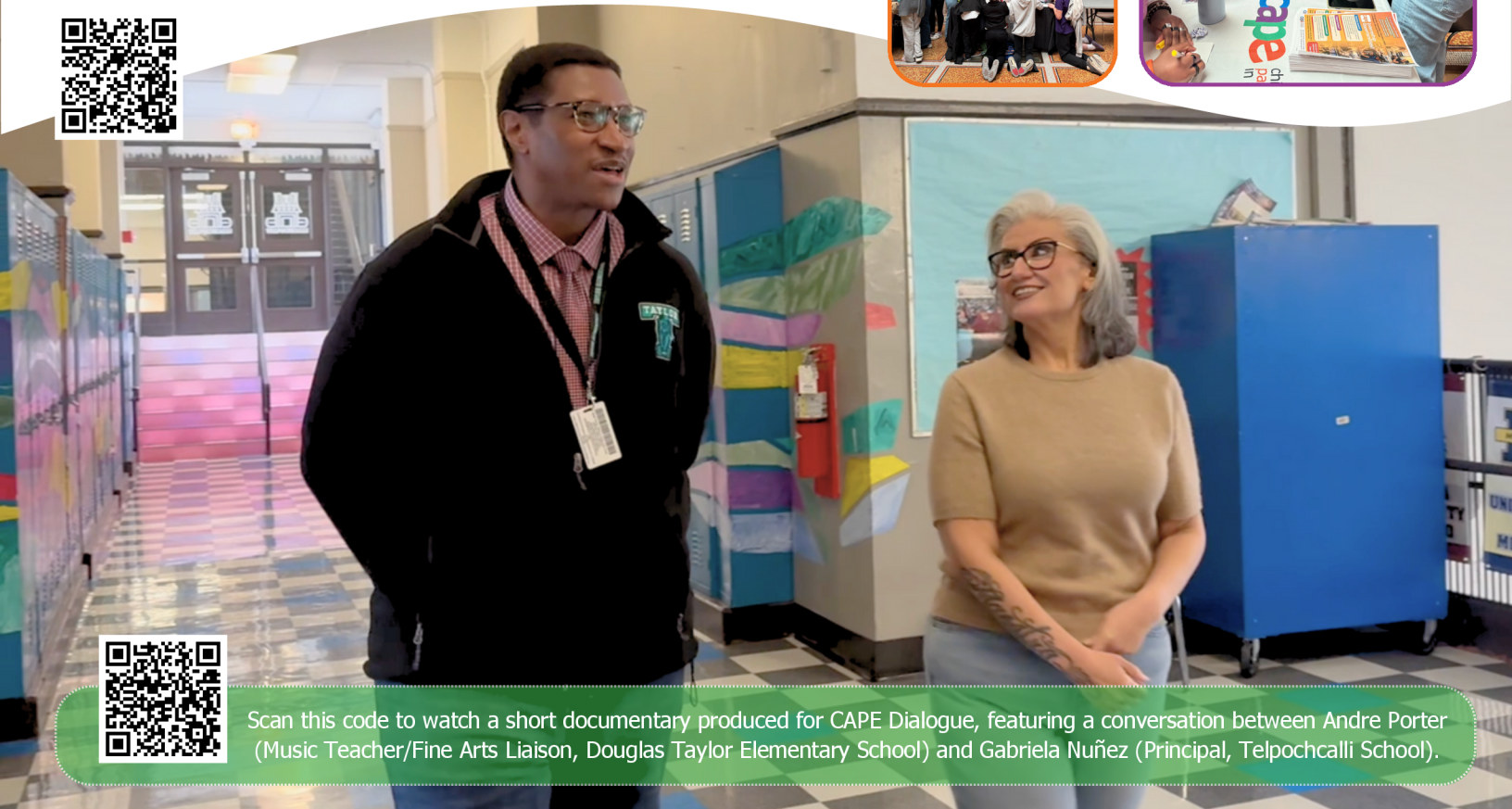
The discussion centered on how schools can respond to evolving community landscapes by fostering equitable learning environments and embracing diversity. Participants explored the powerful role of arts integration as both a curricular tool and a means of bridging cultural differences.

Scan to listen to excerpts from this event.



## CAPE Recruited Interns at RE•VER•BER•ATE

We took part in this year's RE•VER•BER•ATE, a free multidisciplinary arts festival for all CPS students and surrounding community, at the Chicago Cultural Center. High school students were invited to apply to a paid Summer internship at CAPE, which includes Teaching, Programs, and Communications assistance opportunities. We also invited students to create their own personalized buttons!



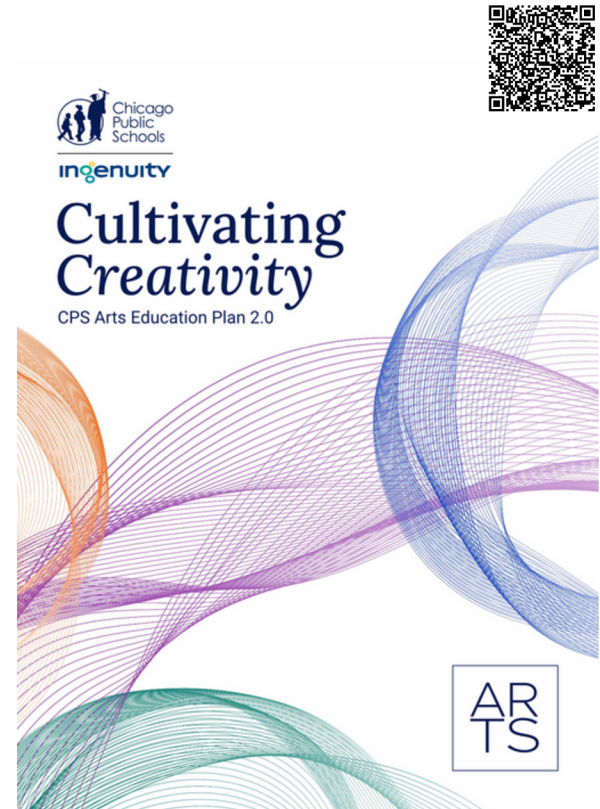
Scan this code to watch a short documentary produced for CAPE Dialogue, featuring a conversation between Andre Porter (Music Teacher/Fine Arts Liaison, Douglas Taylor Elementary School) and Gabriela Nuñez (Principal, Telpochcalli School).



## Cultivating Creativity: CPS Arts Ed Plan 2.0

On May 7, Chicago Public Schools unveiled "Cultivating Creativity: CPS Arts Education Plan 2.0," a follow up to the 2012 plan. Cultivating Creativity aims to guarantee all CPS students access to top-tier arts education, building on the past decade's efforts by teachers, artists, nonprofits, government, and funders in developing arts infrastructure, funding platforms, and data systems.

Spearheaded by CPS and Ingenuity, with input from thousands of stakeholders, the new plan emphasizes improving instructional quality, with a particular focus on arts integration for grades 3-5. CAPE's work is featured as a best practice, leveraging CAPE's research and Artist/Researcher Model as evidence of effectiveness. Over the coming months, CAPE will be working with the CPS Department of Arts Education to put this plan into action.



## CAPE SUMMER IS LOOKING BRIGHT!

We are preparing to offer six different Summer Camps at Taylor Elementary, Ashe Elementary, New Sullivan Elementary, Telpochcalli Elementary, Nash Elementary, and Currier Elementary (West Chicago). Students will rotate through a number of arts-integrated classes throughout the day at each camp, engaging in art forms such as theatre, dance, visual arts, graffiti arts, digital arts, and gardening! Camps will run between one to five weeks depending on the school site.





Dear Friends,

As we wrap up the school year and look forward to summer programs, your continued support for CAPE is invaluable. The heart of our work is always the art and imagination of the students. In our gallery, you can currently see 250 brown paper bag puppets, a project where 2nd graders from Pasteur Elementary, led by teaching artist Chuck Jones and teacher Cande Rodriguez, depicted their future selves, showcasing each student's evolving journey.



*I'd love to connect!  
Reach out to me  
at [amy@capechicago.org](mailto:amy@capechicago.org)*

CAPE itself is also experiencing transitions. Despite a tough political and funding environment for education, our classroom collaborations remain strong. However, our once reliable funding sources are now uncertain. Federal after-school funding was left out of the initial budget draft, and state legislators have only slightly increased educational funds, grappling with federal cutbacks.

Thanks to our committed supporters like you, we are prepared to adapt and flourish. CAPE's board, staff, and partners have crafted a new strategic plan over the last year to ensure our mission's longevity. This plan promises enhanced communication, revitalized programs, more gallery showings, and ideally, expanded arts learning opportunities for students.

Your donation today would greatly help us reach our future aims. With a solid start to the 2025-2026 school year, we can explore new program ideas, mirroring the creativity we encourage in classrooms.

Sincerely,

Amy Rasmussen  
Executive Director

### SCAN TO DONATE!

Your gift will immediately go towards providing meaningful arts education partnerships for students, teachers and teaching artists in Chicago and West Chicago.  
Please consider making your gift a recurring donation.



## Support CAPE's mission! Give with Confidence!

CAPE has been recognized by Charity Navigator and Guidestar as having the highest level of transparency, accountability, and management ethics. You can make a contribution knowing that CAPE has been independently reviewed and judged to have excellent management practices.

→ Review our annual reports and financial statements at [capechicago.org/financials](https://capechicago.org/financials)

## Make Your Mark, Leave a Legacy

CAPE launched the Creative Legacy Society, a special group for donors who are ready to include CAPE in their future planned giving. Including CAPE in your estate plans is a wonderful and flexible way to support our students for the long term.

→ Learn more and download a brochure about the Creative Legacy Society at [capechicago.org/planned-giving](https://capechicago.org/planned-giving)



1010 W 35th Street, Suite 697

Chicago, IL 60609-1401

312.870.6140

[info@capechicago.org](mailto:info@capechicago.org) | [capechicago.org](https://capechicago.org)

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**CAPE inspires students' passion for learning  
by bringing academics to life through  
original, creative learning projects, designed  
by artists and teachers, leading to improved  
grades and confidence.**

