

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
MULTICULTURAL ARTS SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECCOMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Board approve the establishment of the Multicultural Arts School (MAS) at the Little Village Campus.

DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Establish Renaissance Schools), the Chief Executive Officer recommends to the Board that, upon the timely submission of a Performance Plan within ninety days following approval of this Board Report, MAS open in the fall of 2005 at the new Little Village Campus located at 3120 South Kostner Avenue as a Performance School. If no Performance Plan is submitted, the Chief Executive Officer recommends that the MAS open pursuant to Board Policy 02-0424-PO03 (Adopt Small Schools).

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing on the opening of MAS was held on Wednesday December 8, 2004 in accordance with the Modified Desegregation Consent Decree. The hearing was transcribed. A summary report of the hearing is available for review.

Enrollment

Students at MAS will come from both the South and North Lawndale communities. MAS will accept 100 students in the 2005-06 school year in grade 9, and will add one grade per year thereafter until the school reaches a 9 – 12 structure. Each grade after freshman year will enroll 84 students, with no more than 352 students total in grades 9 - 12. Thereafter, Little Village Campus boundaries will be regularly reviewed to effectuate these enrollment requirements.

Curriculum

MAS will be a small high school which focuses its lessons, extracurricular activities, and support services in order implement a multicultural, arts-infused place of learning. The school will make ample use of varies means of performance assessment, including exhibition, performance, publishing and technology applications. Special features of the school include "Arternships," immersion events which will bring students into contact with cultural art events and organizations, a focus on building portfolios of student work, and intensive personal advising with an adult coach-mentor throughout the four years of high school. MAS has established external partnerships with the Little Village Community Development Corporation, the Chicago Teacher's Center (in particular their hACE Arts and Culture in Education Project), and Chicago Arts Partnership in Education.

Governance

An advisory governing body will be established in a timely manner pursuant to the guidelines and procedures laid out in Board Policy 04-0922-PO4 (Establish Renaissance Schools) or Board Report 02-0424-PO03 (Adopt Small Schools Policy) and pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable

FINANCIAL: No cost to the Board at this time.


PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: None

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel