

Establishment of the new Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts

Chief Education Office
September 29, 2015



Recommendation:

Chicago Public Schools is opening a new open enrollment, arts-focused neighborhood high school with a technology lab and training center at Walter H. Dyett High School. This high school is deeply rooted in Walter H. Dyett's legacy and role in the community.



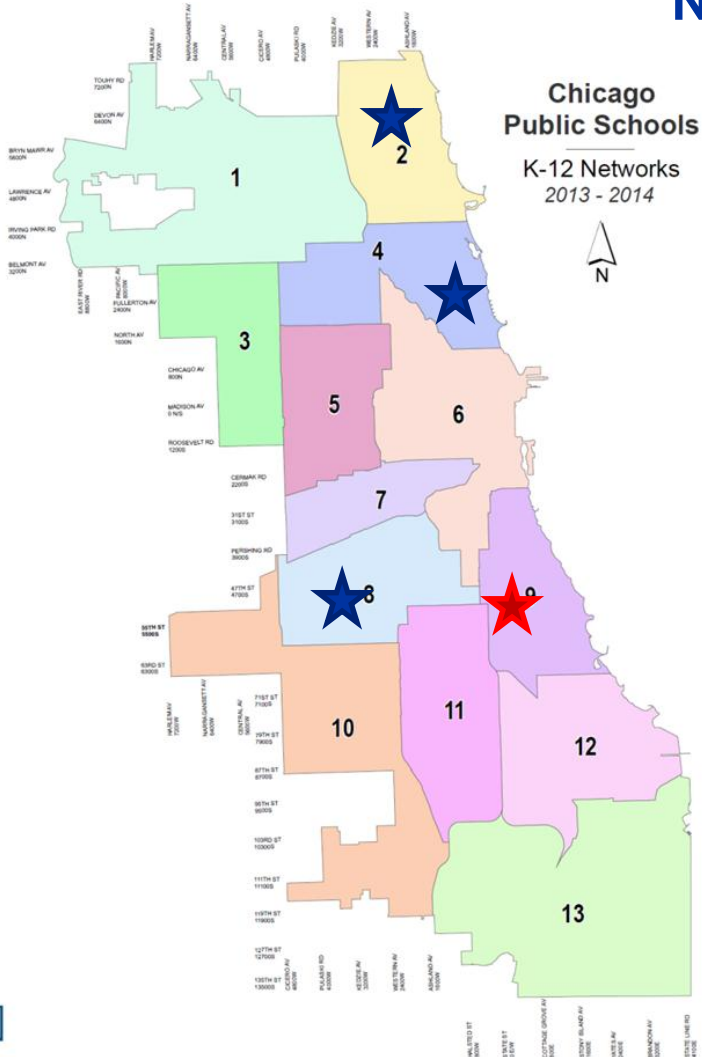
Background: Previous Walter H. Dyett High School


- Dyett was phased-out in 2012 due to low performance ratings (Level 3) for four (4) consecutive school years
- Dyett was on probation for seven (7) consecutive years
- In 2013, the Bronzeville Community Action Council (CAC) recommended an arts program, along with a request for increased technology resources to equip students with 21st century skills, as part of the 2013 CPS Educational Facilities Master Plan.
- Community advocacy to safeguard a neighborhood school
- CPS conducted a district-wide analysis of the types of high schools available to each neighborhood. Data showed that only 3% of high schools have an arts focus: Curie, Senn and Lincoln Park. High school students living in south/southeast neighborhoods of Chicago do not have equitable access to a school focused on the arts.



Recommendation: New Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts

- Enrollment: 500-600 at full capacity
- The school will offer a college preparatory curriculum with arts education as the thematic focus. There will be an infusion of arts through visual (i.e. digital media, multimedia, drawing) and performing arts (i.e. dance, theatre, choir and band)
- Dyett will have an incoming 9th grade class in the Fall of 2016 and phase in one grade per year thereafter.
- All students living within the attendance boundary will be accepted; additional seats will be determined through a lottery and help provide options to the more than 500 students from the South Side who applied but were not accepted to arts programs at Curie HS and Senn HS.



 Existing arts-focused high schools

 Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts



Recommendation: Technology Lab and Training Center

- The new Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts will feature a technology lab and training center to leverage Chicago's rapidly growing technology sector.
- The creation of a new Technology Lab and Training Center, in partnership with the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), solves a community need to help address the digital divide. It also supports one of the CEO's major initiatives around personalized learning for students.
- It will create an innovative space for entrepreneurs, community groups, educators, builders and thinkers to converge to develop new programs and ideas to expand school learning opportunities for students, both during and outside of school hours.
- The lab will support Dyett students as well as students from other schools; and provide professional development and learning opportunities for teachers, principals, parents and staff from community organizations.



New Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts: Technology Lab and Training Center- Digital Rendering



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Financial Implications:

- The Chief Education Office would request additional funding of approximately \$396,000 in the FY16 budget to be used to support start-up services, equipment, materials, professional development, principal and one supplemental coach/teacher position for the Digital Art, Dance, and Digital Media Academies.
- An additional amount of approximately \$1,690,500 will be requested during the FY17 & FY18 budget process to support ongoing costs and start-up costs of the Theatre and Music Academies.
- Capital Improvement costs associated with the project are estimated between \$11M - \$13M
- Funding is contingent upon budget approval

Next Steps:

- Engage the community throughout the process
- Support the principal during student and teacher recruitment



Questions?

