

**January 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting Written Comments**  
**Received between Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1	<p>Letter of Support for Chaste Hair Institute</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>This letter is written in strong support of Chaste Hair Institute and its proposal to repurpose the former Louis Armstrong Elementary School into a cosmetology, barbering, esthetics, nail technology, and natural hair and braiding training facility in Chicago, Illinois.</p> <p>The reopening of this long-vacant building as a professional training center represents a powerful opportunity for community revitalization and workforce development. Since the school's closure in 2013, the surrounding neighborhood has faced challenges related to economic stagnation and limited access to career education. Chaste Hair Institute's vision directly addresses these needs by providing accessible, hands-on training in high-demand beauty and wellness professions.</p> <p>This initiative will not only create pathways to sustainable employment but also foster entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency, and community pride. The beauty and grooming industry continues to grow, offering stable and creative career options for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. By transforming an unused educational space into a hub for skill development, Chaste Hair Institute will breathe new life into the area while preserving the legacy of education that the Louis Armstrong School once represented.</p> <p>The proposed school aligns with the broader goals of community empowerment, economic growth, and youth engagement. It will serve as a beacon of opportunity—especially for those seeking a second chance or a new direction in life.</p> <p>For these reasons, full support is extended to Chaste Hair Institute's bid for the former Louis Armstrong Elementary School. This project promises to bring lasting value to the community and stands as a model for how education and industry can work together to uplift neighborhoods.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Veris Van</p> <p>Executive Director, Bless'It Beauty Salon, NFP</p> <p>Director of Education, Next Level School of Cosmetology Arts</p> <p>510 E Apple Orchard Rd</p> <p>Springfield, IL 62703</p> <p>(217) 572-1306</p> <p>NL-MC.com   Blessitbeautysalon.com</p>