



OFFICE OF MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL  
CITY OF CHICAGO

October 4, 2017

Christopher House Charter School ES  
5235 West Belden Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60639

Dear Principal Novy and Ms. Carreira:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your school's achievement of the **Creative Schools Certification of Excelling**. Your decision to prioritize the arts in your school is evident in your work to meet the benchmarks laid out in the 2012 CPS Arts Education Plan. As a result, students in your school will benefit from a more comprehensive education to help them build the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills required for today's workforce.

As we celebrate the Year of Public Art by bringing murals, sculptures, and installations to every ward in the city, it seems fitting that we also celebrate the accomplishments of the Chicago Public Schools in bringing arts education to every neighborhood and nearly every student. An unprecedented number of schools – 631, or 97% of all CPS schools – completed the requirements necessary to receive Creative Schools Certification. We have also seen the proportion of schools that achieve *Strong* or *Excelling* status increase in the six years since benchmarks were set, reaching a new high of 68%. Chicago has taken incredible strides forward in the arts and arts education, making our city a more vibrant cultural hub and truly collaborative place to learn and live.

It has only been through your leadership and support that such gains have been possible. Thank you for the critical role you have played in our goal to provide a high quality arts education to every child in every school.

Sincerely,

Mayor