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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE) receives a \$450,000 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Illinois State Board of Education

SGA Youth Services (SGA) will also serve as a partner in an arts-based after-school program serving Telpochcalli, Waters, and Williams Elementary Schools in Chicago.

CHICAGO--- Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE), in partnership with three Chicago public schools – Telpochcalli, Waters, and Williams Elementary – today received a grant of \$450,000 to support an after-school arts program from the Illinois State Board of Education, as part of the U. S. Department of Education’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. The **Supporting Communities through Arts Learning Environments (SCALE) project will apply the arts in an after-school setting to improve students’ academic achievement, to support families in their efforts to nurture children’s growth and development, as well as demonstrate excellence in arts learning.** Experienced CAPE teaching artists and SCALE project teachers will work together to provide the development and teaching of arts through and integrated curriculum. **The three schools served in this program had earlier this year been identified on the “academic watch” list by the ISBE.**

SGA will serve as a partner to the SCALE project by providing mental health services to students and families in the 3 schools. Counseling, treatment and prevention programs and service for individuals, families and groups of students will all be provided within this program. CAPE will also provide cross-school professional development for classroom teachers, teaching artists, administrators and parents.

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CAPE is a non-profit organization that serves children by advancing the role of the arts in Chicago’s public schools. CAPE enacts these beliefs by creating partnerships that connect teachers and schools with artists and artistic resources. These partnerships develop sustainable, coherent, challenging curricula through collaborative planning and teaching of arts integrated instruction. The partnerships are located throughout the city of Chicago, the student populations are culturally diverse, and the arts organizations range from small, grass-roots organizations involved in specific communities, to large nationally recognized institutions.