

LLOYD A. FRY FOUNDATION

SPOTLIGHT ARTS LEARNING



SPOTLIGHT Our Arts Learning Program

For nearly two years, the Fry Foundation's Arts Learning grantees have exhibited resiliency, creativity, and deep commitment to their students. When schools—with little warning—closed to in-person learning in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic,

grantees pivoted to remote instruction and, where possible, in-person instruction with socially distanced public health mitigations.

In the first half of the 2021-22 school year, most grantees happily returned to in-person instruction but remain prepared to return to remote instruction if necessary. And we are keenly aware that our grantees, and the schools they work in, continue to operate under enormous stress.

Click below to read more about how Fry Foundation grantees continue to provide high quality arts instruction and always put the needs of young people first, despite the continued challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic.

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News From the Foundation





**Keynote Speaker & Making a Difference
Honoree
Unmi Song
President
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation**

Chicago Women in Philanthropy Honors President Unmi Song

Each year, Chicago Women in Philanthropy's "Making a Difference" Luncheon celebrates a woman who has made a significant impact in the field of philanthropy. This year, CWIP will honor Unmi Song, President of the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation. We are grateful to Fry Foundation Board member Amina Dickerson who is serving as Honorary Co-Chair of the Event. Click below to learn more and register for the event.

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Girlhood (It's complicated)



Program Officer Yadira Montoya's story is featured at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibit *Girlhood (It's Complicated)*

Fry Foundation Program Officer Yadira Montoya is telling her story as part of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibition *Girlhood (It's Complicated)*. This exhibition commemorates the anniversary of woman suffrage by exploring the concept of girlhood in the United States, but also how girls changed history in five areas: politics, education, work, health, and fashion. The exhibition shows that girlhood has an unexpected and complicated history and that girls, like suffragists, used their voices to make a difference.



Yadira shares her story of applying to Deferred Action for the Childhood Arrival (DACA) program. Under DACA, eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States when they were children from deportation and provides them a work permit. Born in Mexico, she grew up in Little Village on the West Side of Chicago. When applying for DACA, she submitted artifacts of a girlhood growing up in Chicago. This included Chicago Public School report cards, certificates, and awards as proof of residency status, good moral character, and educational achievements.

Click below to read Yadira's story.



Over President's Day weekend, Yadira and her family visited the exhibit and celebrated Yadira and her journey.

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News From Grantees



In an effort to provide more frequent and actionable data on arts education in Chicago Public Schools, Ingenuity has launched the Data Snapshot series. Data Snapshots will keep the arts education sector informed on real-time opportunities and challenges to ensuring arts learning opportunities are available to all CPS students. The first Data Snapshot examines how school size, school type, and student demographics impact a school's ability to provide arts learning. Key takeaways are troubling, but not surprising.

Ingenuity reports that Black students are significantly less likely than their peers to have access to quality arts programming, even after controlling for the enrollment and type of school the students attend. Findings also show that students in Lower Enrollment District-Managed schools and Non-District Managed schools are less likely to have access to high-quality arts programs than students that attend other Higher Enrollment District-Managed schools.

While tremendous progress in arts education equity has been made since the publication of the Chicago Public Schools Arts Education Plan in 2012 and Ingenuity's founding 11 years ago, much work remains to be done.



KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

Chicago's Enrollment Crisis

Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the third-largest school district in the nation, has lost more than 100,000 students in the last 20 years. Today, just slightly more than 330,000 students attend CPS. But the reasons behind this decline are complex. Fry Foundation grantee **Kids First Chicago** provides [a thoughtful analysis](#) of the reasons behind enrollment declines and why we should care.

Enrollment declines are part of a national trend. In Chicago, these declines are linked to decreasing births, slowing of growth of Latinx families in Chicago, and increasing out-migration of Black families looking for economic opportunity and more hospitable environments for their families.

Enrollment matters because nearly a third of funding for CPS comes from the state of Illinois. This funding relies heavily on prior-year student enrollment. Because annual budgets are based on how many students the district serves, lower enrollment means less funding. At the same time, even with fewer students, many costs remain fixed. Fixed costs include maintaining buildings but can also include the range of experiences every student deserves like a fully stocked library, art and music teachers, and social workers.

This is the first of two reports. The second report will provide parent-led solutions to CPS' enrollment challenges.



When the voices of 250 high school students speak together in conversation with Shakespeare's stories, it is pure magic. Chicago Shakespeare SLAM, now in its fifth year, is first and foremost about building community. Participants forge connections with fellow students from across the region through creative collaboration and discover the shared experiences that unite them. SLAM breaks down barriers as students become part of something bigger than themselves.

This year, teams from 30 high schools rehearsed with their teacher coaches, gathered (virtually) with the entire SLAM community for a series of workshops, and then designed, directed, and performed a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The experience culminated in two collective, filmed productions, each inextricably bound to the students' own stories as their lives continue to collide with history in the making.

Get a taste of the program with the ***Spotlight on Chicago Shakespeare SLAM*** feature, or ***stream the full student performances*** online.

What We're Reading, Watching, and Hearing



The State of Health for Blacks in Chicago

2021 brief report by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

While the Chicago Department of Public Health has produced many reports describing racial inequities in the city, this brief is the first of its kind. As part of an effort to amplify Black voices within CDPH, this report is written by a group of five Black women who present their unique perspective on how to define, measure, analyze and discuss health and health equity for Black Chicagoans.

[A Different Kind of Public Option](#) from the America Dissected Podcast. America Dissected host is Dr. Abdul El-Sayed — a physician, epidemiologist, and the former Detroit health commissioner. His podcast offers perspectives on health issues by talking to doctors, scientists, culture makers, and policy leaders. This episode explores “public options” beyond health insurance to increased public investment in clinics and hospitals with Dana Brown, the Director of Health and Economy at the Democracy Collaborative.

[Community Health Workers Connecting Communities During COVID-19: A Case Study from Chicago](#) (Journal of Ambulatory Care Management) This recently published journal article describes the critical work of community health workers (CHWs) in the Little Village neighborhood and presents recommendations for CHW workforce development and policies to strengthen the health care and public health systems.



Why is Murder Spiking? And Can Cities Address It Without Police?

The Ezra Klein Show

In 2020, the United States experienced a nearly 30 percent rise in homicides from 2019. That’s the single

biggest one-year increase since we started keeping national records in 1960. And violence has continued to rise well into 2021.

Patrick Sharkey is a sociologist at Princeton University and the author of “Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, the Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence.” The central claim of his work is this: Police are effective at reducing violence, but they aren’t the only actors capable of doing so. Sharkey has studied community-based models for addressing violence in places as varied as rural Australia and New York City. As a result, he has developed a compelling, evidence-backed vision of how cities and communities can tackle violent crime without relying heavily on police.



Public Education is Facing a Crisis of Epic Proportions: How politics and the pandemic put schools in the line of fire

By Laura Meckler of The Washington Post January 30th, 2022

Political battles are now a central feature of education, leaving school boards, educators and students in the crosshairs of culture warriors. Schools are on the defensive about their pandemic decision-making, their curriculums, their policies regarding race and racial equity and even the contents of their libraries.

Republicans — who see education as a winning political issue — are pressing their case for more “parental control,” or the right to second-guess educators’ choices. Meanwhile, an energized school choice movement has capitalized on the pandemic to promote alternatives to traditional public schools.



Abbott Elementary

A group of dedicated, passionate teachers -- and a slightly tone-deaf principal -- find themselves thrown together in a Philadelphia public school where, despite the odds stacked against them, they are determined to help their students succeed in life. Though these incredible public servants may be outnumbered and underfunded, they love what they do. Abbott Elementary can be watched online at ABC.com.

Grants Approved at the February Board Meeting

The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation is pleased to announce 25 grants totaling to \$2,569,000 in support of Education, Employment, Health, Program Special Purposes and World Relief.

Education

[UIC College of Education Center for Urban Education Leadership](#)

[Teachers Supporting Teachers](#)

[Leading Educators Inc](#)

[Civic Engagement Research Group, UC Riverside](#)

Employment

[Revolution Workshop](#)

[Safer Foundation](#)

[Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition](#)

[Instituto del Progreso Latino](#)

[Poder Learning Center](#)

[New Moms, Inc.](#)

[Community Based Organization Collective](#)

Health

Asian Human Services Family Health Center Inc

Chicago Family Health Center, Inc.

Christian Community Health Center

Near North Health Service Corporation

Chicago Children's Advocacy Center

Center on Halsted

St. Bernard Hospital

Enlace Chicago

Program Special Purposes

Chicago Public Media Inc

World Relief

CARE

Doctors Without Borders USA Inc

International Rescue Committee, Inc.

Oxfam-America Inc.

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