ART INSTITUTE RECEIVES $1 MILLION GRANT FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gift to Fund TEAM Program Promoting Visual Literacy and Creative Thinking

The Art Institute of Chicago is pleased to announce a gift of $1 million from Cari and Michael J. Sacks to the Department of Museum Education. The gift, among the largest ever made to the department, will provide five years of funding for an innovative collaboration between the Art Institute and the Chicago Public Schools called TEAM: Thinking Experiences in an Art Museum. Designed by museum educators at the Art Institute and CPS teachers, TEAM is a program for arts learning and interdisciplinary curriculum development that brings the visual arts into Chicago’s public schools and encourages critical and creative thinking through engagement with original works of art.

“The Art Institute was founded more than 130 years ago with the mission of providing education about the arts to the city of Chicago,” said Douglas Druick, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the museum. “Our vital Department of Museum Education has for years partnered with the Chicago Public Schools to fulfill this mission, and this generous grant from Cari and Michael J. Sacks allows us to take this partnership to a new level. With this funding, we will be able to expand and deepen our role in the Chicago Public Schools, ensuring that the children and teachers of today can use the Art Institute as the resource that it is: a treasury of five millennia of creative thought and expression.”

“The CPS Arts Education Plan provides a long-term strategy to bring the arts to every student in the district,” said David Vitale, President of the Chicago Board of Education. “Through this investment the Art Institute partnership will play a critical role in achieving a vision for students that fosters innovation, creativity, and critical thinking.”
TEAM is a visual literacy program centered on the belief that experiences with original works of art are catalysts for creative thinking and learning, with broad application to multiple areas of study and knowledge, including language literacy, math, and science. From 2010 to 2012, with funding from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation and the Polk Bros. Foundation, the Art Institute and CPS developed a pilot program in three Chicago schools with positive results for both classroom instruction and student learning. The grant from Cari and Michael J. Sacks will now allow the museum and CPS to expand and scale the program over the next five years into 30 to 60 classrooms, with a focus on schools with limited access to arts education for their students.

“We are committed to providing support for Chicago Public School students and want to share our love of art by making the museum’s wonderful collection accessible to all,” stated Cari and Michael J. Sacks, the latter a longtime Trustee of the Art Institute.

TEAM is composed of multiple and interrelated elements: the development, by Art Institute educators and CPS teachers, of curricula built around original works of art; an online platform to make the curricula and related resources widely available to teachers across Chicago and beyond; student tours and engagement within the museum; and educator training and direct classroom support. Both the professional development of teachers and the student experiences will be geared toward the foundational activities of observing, inquiring, connecting, evaluating, creating, and reflecting—all of which skills are activated through engagement with visual art and can be transferred to learning in any subject area or discipline. TEAM program staff will work with participating teachers over a two-year cycle, and students over a school year, to develop these skills and promote their wider application in the learning process.

As a significant development in the collaboration between the Art Institute of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools, TEAM will provide an innovative model for integration of the visual arts into the city’s schools and the wide dissemination of creative ideas in teaching. Serving teachers as well as students, TEAM will become an integral part of arts education efforts in Chicago and nationally, and the program will bring the Art Institute to life for a future generation.

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MUSEUM HOURS
Daily: 10:30–5:00
Thursdays until 8:00
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days.
Children under 14 always free
Members always free

City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the eleven members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Art Institute of Chicago gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the citizens of Chicago.