

From: Susan Friel <Susan.Friel@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 4:07 PM
To: Steve Berlin <Steve.Berlin@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Meida McNeal <Meida.McNeal@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: Re: Ethics question

Greetings,

I attended the CPS Arts Leadership Celebration at Ravinia on Saturday, August 16 in my official capacity at the invitation of the sponsor and with the Departmental approval of my supervisor, Deputy Commissioner Media McNeal.

Many thanks,

Susan

Susan A. Friel (she/her/ella)

Arts Education

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

78 E Washington, Chicago, IL 60602

Office: (312) 744-1425

www.Chicago.gov/DCASE



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From: Susan Friel <Susan.Friel@cityofchicago.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 2:50 PM

To: Steve Berlin <Steve.Berlin@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Meida McNeal <Meida.McNeal@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: Ethics question

Greetings,

I'm checking in to see if it would be OK for me to join this celebration for CPS Arts Leadership at Ravinia.

I work closely with CPS and have served on the Arts Ed Leadership Advisory Council for the past 5 years.

Many thanks,

Susan

Susan A. Friel (she/her/ella)

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From: Torruella, Cesar <CJTorruella@cps.edu>

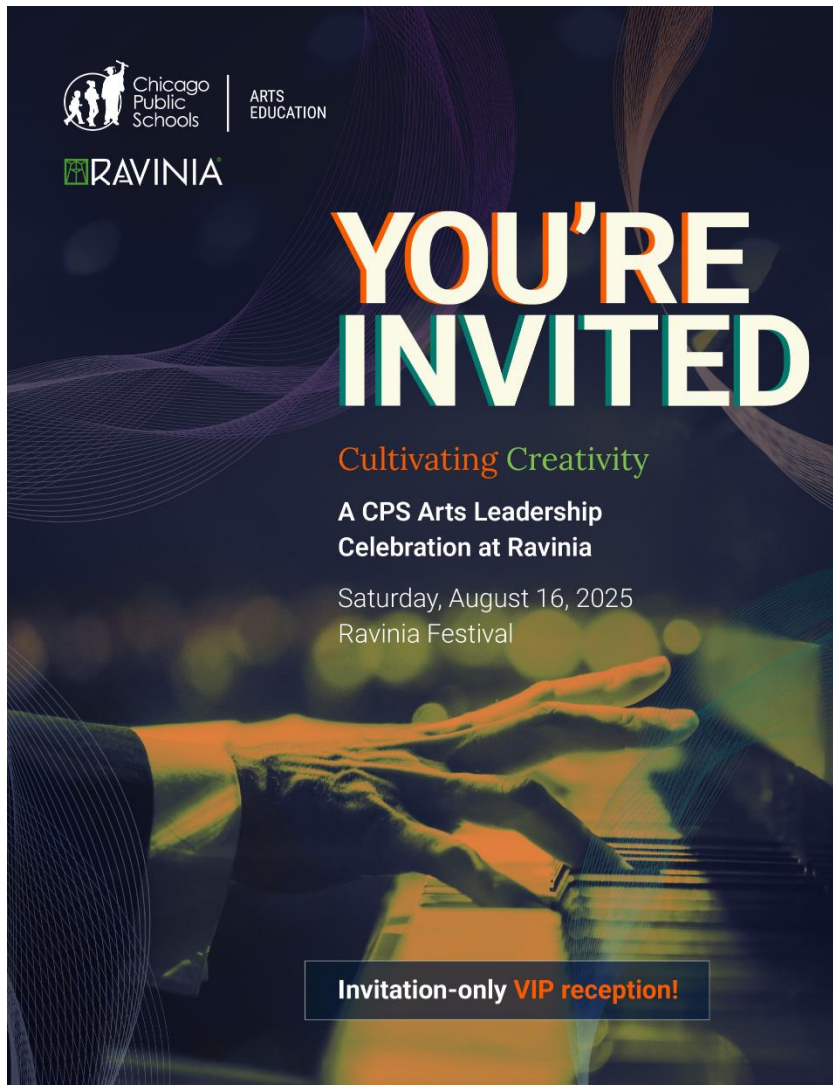
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:17 PM

To: Cesar Torruella <CJTorruella@cps.edu>; Jeffrey Waraksa <jtwaraksa@cps.edu>; Becca Hall

[<rmilligan1@cps.edu>](mailto:rmilligan1@cps.edu)

Subject: RSVP by July 28th: CPS Arts Leadership Celebration at Ravinia – August 16

[Warning: External email]



Join us for an unforgettable evening to celebrate the launch of the *CPS Arts Education Plan 2.0: Cultivating Creativity*, the start of the 2025–2026 school year, and the champions of arts education across Chicago Public Schools.

This invitation-only VIP reception will bring together CPS school leaders, educators, district staff, philanthropic supporters, and cultural partners for a night of connection, music, and inspiration. Enjoy remarks from CPS and Ravinia leaders, networking opportunities with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails,

followed by a performance under the stars at Ravinia's Pavilion, with one free reserved pavilion ticket for you.

Evening Program

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- 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | VIP Reception with remarks, hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails
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- 7:30 PM | Concert featuring Nobuyuki Tsujii, piano
- *Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2*
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Peter Oundjian
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Location: Ravinia Festival, Highland Park, IL

Attire: Summer cocktail

RSVP by Monday, July 28, 2025 - Space is limited

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- [RSVP](#)
- [Here](#)
-

We're also excited to offer complimentary lawn admission for the greater CPS community and their families to enjoy the CSO concert together. This only grants access to the public concert, not the VIP reception described above. Complimentary admission ticket information is below:

Simply use promo code CPSARTSED25 when reserving tickets.

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- There's a limit of 4 general admission lawn tickets per family. Children under 15
- and students with a valid ID are admitted free of charge, and they don't count toward the 4 general admission ticket limit.
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To reserve the lawn tickets:

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- Click
- [HERE](#)
- to go to the event page
-
-
-
- Click on
- Tickets
-
-
-
- Select
- Lawn (General Admission)
- and click
- Buy Tickets
-
-
-
- Enter the promo code
- CPSARTSED25

- and click Go
-
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- Select your ticket quantity
-
-
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- Click
- Continue
-
-
-
- Log in or create a new account to complete your transaction
-

We look forward to honoring your commitment to expanding arts access and excellence in our schools—and to celebrating what’s possible when creativity leads the way.

Hope you see you there!

César

César Torruella 



Executive Director of Arts Education

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Arts Education

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T (773) 553-2517 E cjtorruella@cps.edu

[Arts Education Plan 2.0: Cultivating Creativity](#) is now available!

Review the plan, find resources, and learn how to continue contributing to this important work.

