

June 11, 2015

Bridget Doherty Trebing
Art Educator/Visual Arts Department Chair

6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave
Chicago, IL

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to express my interest in the open position in [REDACTED] Art Department. Having recently completed coursework for my Master of Arts in Teaching Visual Art at Columbia College Chicago I am eager to begin my career in the Chicago Public Schools. My student teaching experience at Nicholas Senn High School affirmed my long-time career ambition of teaching art at the secondary level. I consider myself to be a highly qualified candidate, pairing my lifelong engagement with the arts and my skills as a creative thinker with experience gained through my graduate studies and with nonprofit arts organizations.

At Senn I worked with 150+ students in five Art I classes. I taught a unit inspired by multimedia installations that resulted in the creation of large-scale paper sculptures suspended from the ceiling at the Tickled Pink fundraiser for breast cancer, lessons that integrated music and technology with watercolor painting, and I advised students through self-directed projects—bringing elements of an IB curriculum into my lessons. Some of my greatest successes were in introducing students to contemporary art, helping students build creative confidence, and in fostering the development of written and oral communication skills through art critiques and essay assignments. I was able to see a measurable growth in the students' use of the language of the arts, as well as a greater confidence in sharing their thoughts. Following my time at Senn I worked with over 800 students, grades K-8, in the Neighborhood, Deaf and Hearing Impaired, and Options (gifted) departments at Alexander Graham Bell Elementary School. My experiences at the two schools have left me prepared to work with a diverse community of students of all ability levels.

Prior to my graduate studies I received a BFA with an Emphasis in Writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. I come with a dual background of teaching and working in the disciplines of visual art and creative writing. For over six years I have been a volunteer with 826CHI, a non-profit creative writing and tutoring center located in Wicker Park, through which I have given well over a thousand hours to working with students from every corner of Chicago, from all backgrounds and of all learning abilities, including English language learners. I also spent a year working with seventh and eighth graders at CPS schools through the TEAM program (Transforming Education Through Arts and Media).

I am passionate about the value of the arts in public schools as a staple of culture, but also believe in an approach to teaching that involves students in processes and dialogues that develop versatile skills that transcend a single application. I hope to speak further with you about the position. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or jenicrone@gmail.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeni Crone

