

ABSTRACT: BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

EXPANSION PROJECT LEAD: Miriam Raccah, Executive Director

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Bronx Charter School for the Arts (Bronx Arts) is a high-quality charter school located in the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx, a vibrant community of diverse New Yorkers who happen to reside in the poorest Congressional District in the country, Congressional District NY-015. A single school operator founded in 2002, Bronx Arts has educated more than 3,000 elementary school students, and currently enrolls 320 students—including significant numbers of *children with disabilities*, English Language Learners (ELs), and other *educationally disadvantaged students*—in grades K-5 annually. Bronx Arts students consistently exceed District, City and NY State averages on New York State examinations.

In 2015, the New York State Board of Regents granted a full five-year renewal of the school's charter through 2020. In recognition of Bronx Arts' success in improving student achievement, in April 2017 the Board of Regents approved a revision to the charter to allow Bronx Arts to expand grades served from K-5 to K-8. Bronx Arts' expansion into grades 6-8 will more than double enrollment, create a seamless, high-quality public charter school pipeline for our K-5 students, and add high-quality charter school seats to a community that has far too few.

Bronx Arts requests a \$1,000,000, five-year CSP grant to offer increased access to high-quality charter school seats by expanding to offer grades 6-8 in critically underserved Hunts Point. Specifically, Bronx Arts seeks CSP funding to fully underwrite salaries for an English Language (EL) teacher and a Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) provider, a portion of a Social Worker's salary to ensure ELs and *students with disabilities* continue to thrive as the school expands from K-5 to K-8.