ABSTRACT: BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

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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.