

**Testimony of the New York City Department of Education and the New York City School Construction Authority on the FY2019 Preliminary Capital Budget**

**Before the New York City Council Committee on Education**

March 26, 2018

*Lorraine Grillo, President & CEO, School Construction Authority*

**INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW**

Good morning Chair Treyger and members of the Education Committee here today. My name is Lorraine Grillo, President and CEO of the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA). I am joined today by Aloysee Jarmoszuk, Chief of Staff for the Division of Operations at the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and Peter Quinn, DOE's Chief Information Officer. We are pleased to be here today to discuss the proposed February 2018 Amendment to the FY2015–2019 five-year Capital Plan. Since the last time we appeared before this Committee to discuss the Plan, we have opened 25 locations creating almost 8,400 new seats for our students, and we are on track to open 14 locations next September, for an increase of over 4,650 seats in the 2018–2019 school year, including new pre-K sites. We are grateful to the City Council for its strong support and generous funding to our schools.

The Proposed Amendment will allow us to site and create new capacity in districts with persistent or projected overcrowding and also continue to fund key Administration priorities to create additional high-quality full-day Pre-Kindergarten seats, remove all Transportable Classrooms Units (TCUs) from the system, and reduce class sizes. Additionally, the Plan targets much-needed improvements for our aging infrastructure. The proposed \$16.5 billion Capital Plan contains \$940 million in new funding from the spring 2017 Adopted Amendment. Main program increases include funding for new capacity and Pre-K for All seats, replacement seats, and a new Administration priority: Universal Physical Education.

The proposed FY2015–2019 Capital Plan Amendment is funded by State and City tax levy and \$783 million in proceeds from the New York State Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA). The DOE's proposed allocation of SSBA proceeds, known as the Smart Schools Investment Plan (SSIP), allocates funds to technology, Pre-K for All capacity, and removal of TCUs, and is available on the DOE's website. The SSIP was submitted to the State for approval. We look forward to hearing back from the SSBA Review Board.

**FY2015-2019 CAPITAL PLAN AMENDMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Capacity Program**

The proposed 2018 Amendment includes \$6.5 billion for the capacity program, an increase of over \$500 million over the 2017 adopted budget.

The proposed Plan Amendment creates over 44,600 seats that will address overcrowding as well as Pre-K for All expansion, class size reduction and facility replacement.

Of the \$6.5 billion allocated to capacity, \$4.8 billion is dedicated to creating more than 44,600 new seats through an estimated 88 projects within school districts experiencing the most critical existing and projected overcrowding. 18 projects have been identified since the last adopted Amendment, including P.S. 340 Annex in District 10, a new primary school on Fifth Avenue in District 15, and a large high school on Northern Boulevard in Queens.

The Proposed 2018 Amendment continues to identify a seat need of approximately 83,000 seats, which is partially attributable to the recommendations of our community partners on the Blue Book Working Group, who voiced long-standing concerns regarding the way school space is used, and how capacity is measured and reflected.

The Amendment also includes \$872 million for Pre-K for All seats, an increase of approximately \$70 million from the 2017 adopted budget, which will create almost 8,800 new seats across the City.

In addition, \$287 million has been allocated to the Replacement Program. This represents an increase of \$145 million. Two new projects were identified since the last adopted Amendment: I.S./H.S. at 715 Ocean Terrace on Staten Island and P.S. 2 minischool in District 30.

Finally, \$490 million is allocated in our Class Size Reduction Program to build additions or new buildings near school buildings that would significantly benefit from additional capacity. This program recognizes the need for targeted investments in areas of the city that may be geographically isolated and have unfunded seat needs. Schools in these areas may also have a high rate of utilization and TCUs. Under this program, three projects are currently in design or construction, one each in District 11 in the Bronx, District 19 in Brooklyn, and District 29 in Queens.

### Capital Investment

The Plan Amendment directs \$6.6 billion for capital investment. 75 percent or \$4.1 billion of the \$6.6 billion Capital Investment allocation, which includes Resolution A projects, will address the buildings identified in our annual building survey as most in need of repair, such as roof and structural repairs, safeguarding our buildings against water infiltration, and other facility projects. The Capital Investment category also includes funding for upgrades to fire alarms, public address systems, and removal of TCUs.

More specifically, \$395 million has been allocated to remove TCUs and redevelop the yard space where the TCUs had been located. To date, we have removed 171 TCUs and have developed plans to remove 63 more, leaving a remaining balance of 120 TCUs not yet slated for removal. It is important to note that the removal schedule is contingent upon capacity constraints within the area and the input of local school communities.

The remaining nearly 25 percent, or \$1.6 billion, will go toward school enhancement projects. The two main programs in this category are Facility Enhancements and Technology.

The proposed 2018 Amendment includes approximately \$974 million for facility enhancements. Some of the highlights of the program are bathroom upgrades, accessibility projects, upgrades to instructional spaces in existing buildings such as, the restructuring of classrooms, the creation of health centers in our Renewal Schools and schools with the highest concentrations of students in temporary housing, safety and security upgrades, and a program to renovate existing school cafeterias to better align our existing facilities with SchoolFood's mission of promoting healthy and attractive food choices to our students.

We are also tackling two issues that we know are important to many of you: air conditioning and physical education facilities.

Last year, the City dedicated funding to purchase and install air conditioning units in all classrooms by 2022, providing thousands of students with a more comfortable learning environment. The first cohort of schools has already been completed and we have installed 2,250 air conditioning units. The February 2018 Amendment supports this initiative by allocating an initial \$50 million for electrical upgrades. The allocation included in the Amendment will support electrical upgrades in some buildings that require additional electrical capacity to facilitate the installation of air conditioners. Work is already underway to assess buildings for electrical upgrades, and we hope to continue supporting this important initiative in the future.

As part of this Administration's Equity and Excellence for All agenda, the Plan Amendment allocates \$105 million to ensure all students have access to indoor space for physical education by 2021. In this first phase of the initiative, we are exploring options to construct new gymnasiums, renovate schoolyards, or convert existing space for schools that do not currently have sufficient access to indoor physical education space. We have identified three schools that will receive a new standalone gym annex — P.S. 81 in Queens, P.S. 18 in Brooklyn, and P.S. 6 in the Bronx.

This will allow more students to have fast access to essential Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) and computer science materials online, and serve as an effective conduit for teachers to access professional and/or curricula related resources.

In addition, approximately \$134 million is also being invested to upgrade and modernize essential business operation systems such as the student enrollment system and security systems for enterprise network sign-ons.

### Mandated Programs

The total cost to support the City's effort to remove and replace all polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-containing lighting fixtures throughout the entire school system was approximately \$800 million, over half of which was covered by the previous five-year Capital Plan. I am particularly pleased to

say that this long-term project was completed in December 2016, five years ahead of the original schedule. We are grateful to the Council for its support in this effort.

The Mandated Programs category also includes approximately \$750 million for boiler conversions in approximately 110 buildings currently using Number 4 oil. The remaining funds are assigned to cover other required costs, including insurance and completion of projects from the prior Plan.

### CONCLUSION

We understand that the public school system as a whole continues to experience pockets of overcrowding, and we are working to address these concerns through new school construction. We remain focused on remedying these issues and will continue to rely on your feedback and support as we do so.

Our annual capital planning process has already benefited significantly from your input, and our students have benefited from your generous support of capital projects. With continued collaboration and tens of thousands of seats slated to come online over the next five to seven years, we remain confident that the expansion and enhancement of school buildings across the five boroughs will improve the educational experiences for the City's 1.1 million school children as well as the teachers and staff who serve them.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify today and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



# **Five Year Capital Plan FY 2015 – 2019 February 2018 Amendment**

**March 26, 2018**

# Adopted 2017 FY 2015-2019 Capital Plan and Proposed February 2018 Amendment

- Adopted 2017 FY 2015-2019 Capital Plan: \$15.5 billion
- Proposed February 2018 Amendment: \$16.5 billion
  - Increase of \$940 million from adopted 2017 Plan
  - Main program increases include:
    - Pre-K Program (\$72 million)
    - Replacement Funding (\$145 million)
    - New Capacity (\$320 million)
    - Universal Physical Education Initiatives (\$105.5 million)
    - City Council and Borough President Funding (\$267.5 million)
    - DCAS ACE Program (\$25 million)

# Proposed February 2018 Amendment Funding

Capacity Program      \$6.5 billion

Capital Investments      \$6.6 billion

Mandated Programs      \$3.4 billion

**Total      \$16.5 billion**



## Capacity Program - \$6.5B

New Capacity \$4.8 billion

- Creation of over 44,600 seats

Pre-Kindergarten Initiative \$872 million

- Creation of nearly 8,800 new Pre-Kindergarten seats

Class Size Reduction \$490 million

- Identification of three projects

Facility Replacement \$287 million

# New Capacity Program

**Proposed Funding: 44,628 seats**

- **The program includes an estimated 88 buildings**
  - 82 PS or IS school buildings: 40,688 seats
    - Bronx
    - Brooklyn
    - Manhattan
    - Queens
    - Staten Island
  - Six IS/HS school buildings: 3,940 seats

# New Capacity By District

District	November 2017 Identified Need	February 2018 Funded Need	Additional Need (Unfunded)
2	3,232	3,150	82
3	692	692	0
5	245	245	0
7	1,028	456	572
8	1,028	344	684
9	572	0	572
10	5,692	2,948	2,744
11	2,492	548	1,944
12	1,484	912	572
13	3,417	2,593	824
14	1,563	991	572
15	7,546	3,925	3,621
19	1,000	1,000	0
20	10,322	4,869	5,453
21	2,436	924	1,512
22	1,300	416	884
24	9,403	4,701	4,702
25	5,123	2,064	3,059
26	2,504	924	1,580
27	1,736	972	764
28	3,638	1,920	1,718
30	5,975	4,357	1,618
31	3,348	1,737	1,611
78Q	6,880	3,595	3,285
78R	400	345	55
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>83,056</b>	<b>44,628</b>	<b>38,428</b>



# Capital Investment - \$6.6 Billion

## Capital Improvement Program: \$ 4.1 Billion

- Building Systems - \$3.6 billion
  - Evaluated through the Building Condition Assessment Survey (BCAS). Addressing only the most urgent conditions (primarily projects rated 5 under BCAS)
    - Exterior
    - Interior
      - Includes upgrades to life safety systems such as fire alarms and public address systems
    - Site Improvements
- Transportable Classroom Unit (TCU) Removals - \$395 million
  - Funds the removal of all TCUs (~190 remaining units)
- Athletic Field Upgrades - \$125 million

# Capital Investment Continued - \$6.6 Billion

## School Enhancements: \$ 1.6 Billion

- Restructuring - \$378 million
- Safety - \$100 million
- Physical Education Initiative - \$105.5 million
- Air Conditioning Initiative - \$50 million
- Middle School Science Lab Upgrades - \$50 million
- Accessibility - \$127.6 million
- Physical fitness, libraries, and auditorium upgrades - \$53 million
- Bathroom upgrades - \$100 million
- Technology - \$654 million



## Mandated Programs - \$3.4 Billion

Selected categories include:

**PCB Lighting Replacements** \$330 million

➤ Replacement of all PCB containing light fixtures

**Boiler Conversions** \$750 million

➤ Allows for boiler conversion of approximately 110 buildings with boilers burning #4 oil

**Wrap Up Insurance** \$895 million

➤ Increasing cost of Owner Controlled Insurance Program

**Prior Plan Completion** \$660 million

➤ Allows for completion of 5<sup>th</sup> plan projects

# TCUs Removed

DISTRICT	BUILDING NAME	NO OF TCUS
3	P.S. 163 TRANSPORTABLE - M	2
6	P.S. 5 TRANSPORTABLE - M	2
6	P.S. 48 TRANSPORTABLE - MANHATTAN	2
9	P.S. 28 TRANSPORTABLE - X	1
9	I.S. 117 TRANSPORTABLE - X	1
10	I.S. 80/P.S. 280 TRANSPORTABLE - X	4
10	J.F. KENNEDY HS TRANSPORTABLE - X	2
11	P.S. 96 TRANSPORTABLE - X	11
11	P.S. 106 TRANSPORTABLE - X	5
15	P.S. 32 TRANSPORTABLE - K	7
18	P.S. 135 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
18	P.S. 208 TRANSPORTABLE - K	4
18	P.S. 219 TRANSPORTABLE - K	1
18	P.S. 235 TRANSPORTABLE - K	4
18	P.S. 268 TRANSPORTABLE - K	1
18	P.S. 272 TRANSPORTABLE - K	3
18	P.S. 276 TRANSPORTABLE - K	8
19	P.S. 214 TRANSPORTABLE - K	7
19	P.S. 290 TRANSPORTABLE - K	1
19	I.S. 302 TRANSPORTABLE - K	3
20	P.S. 170 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
20	P.S. 112 TRANSPORTABLE - K	1
22	P.S. 152 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
22	P.S. 193 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
22	P.S. 194 TRANSPORTABLE - K	1
22	P.S. 198 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
24	P.S. 19 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	5



## TCUs Removed (continued)

DISTRICT	BUILDING NAME	NO OF TCUS
24	I.S. 125 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	4
24	P.S. 143 - QUEENS	3
25	P.S. 24 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
25	P.S. 163 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
26	BAYSIDE HS TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
26	B. N. CARDOZO HS TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
27	P.S. 155 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
27	I.S. 226 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
27	RICHMOND HILL HS TRANSPORTABLE - Q	11
28	P.S. 40 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	3
28	P.S. 55 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	3
28	P.S. 121 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
28	P.S. 140 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	4
29	P.S. 35 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
29	P.S. 38 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	3
29	P.S. 52 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
29	P.S. 132 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
29	P.S. 156 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
29	P.S. 176 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
30	P.S. 11 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	4
30	P.S. 70 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
30	P.S. 92 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
30	P.S. 151 TRANSPORTABLE - QUEENS	11
30	WILLIAM BRYANT HS TRANSPORTABLE-Q	3
31	P.S. 37 TRANSPORTABLE - S.I.	2
31	CURTIS HS TRANSPORTABLE - R	2
TOTAL # OF UNITS REMOVED		164

# TCUs in Process of Removal

DISTRICT	BUILDING NAME	NO OF TCUS
7	CROTONA ACADEMY - X	8
8	P.S. 14 TRANSPORTABLE - X	2
8	ADLAI E. STEVENSON HS TRANSPORTABLE - X	2
11	P.S. 97 TRANSPORTABLE - X	4
19	EAST NY FAMILY ACADEMY TRANS - K	6
19	P.S. 159 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
19	P.S. 202 TRANSPORTABLE - K	4
21	P.S. 97 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
22	P.S. 236 TRANSPORTABLE - K	2
24	P.S. 81 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	3
25	P.S. 22 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
25	P.S. 79 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
25	P.S. 129 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
25	P.S. 193 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
26	B. N. CARDOZO HS TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
26	FRANCIS LEWIS HS TRANSPORTABLE - Q	4
27	P.S. 43 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	5
27	P.S. 66 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
27	JOHN ADAMS HS TRANSPORTABLE-Q	5
28	P.S. 30 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	2
28	P.S. 144 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
29	P.S. 33 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	1
29	P.S. 131 TRANSPORTABLE - Q	3
30	PRE-K CENTER @ 5-14/16 49TH AVENUE - Q	1
31	PORT RICHMOND HS TRANSPORTABLE. - R	2
31	P.S. 37 TRANSPORTABLE - S.I.	2
TOTAL # OF UNITS IN PROCESS OF BEING REMOVED		70
TOTAL # OF UNITS REMOVED AND IN PROCESS		234



# New School Annex



Curtis High School Annex – Opened 2017  
(District 31, 105 Hamilton Avenue)



# New School in Construction



IS 323 – Opening 2018  
(District 2, 75 Morton Street)



# New School Addition in Construction



PS 19 Addition – Opening 2018  
(District 24, 98-02 Roosevelt Avenue)



# New School Addition in Construction



PS 24 Addition – Opening 2018  
(District 25, 141-11 Holly Avenue)



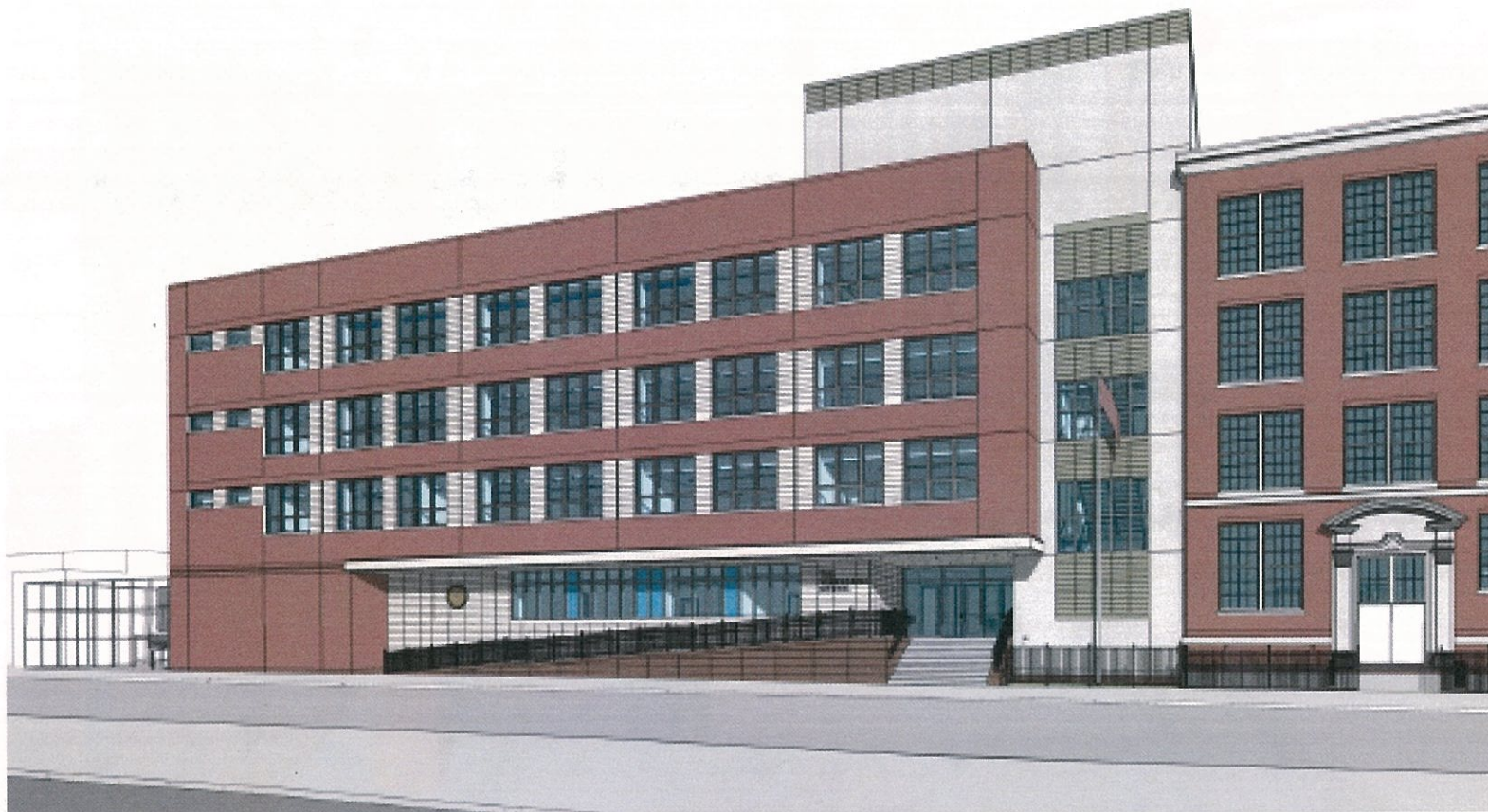
# New School Addition in Construction



PS 46 Addition – Opening September 2019  
(District 10, 279 East 196 Street)



# New School Addition in Construction



PS 101 Addition – Opening September 2019  
(District 21, 2360 Benson Avenue)



# New School in Construction



PS 398 – Opening September 2019  
(District 30, 69-01 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue)



# New School in Construction



PS 746 – Opening September 2020  
(District 20, 256 59<sup>th</sup> Street)



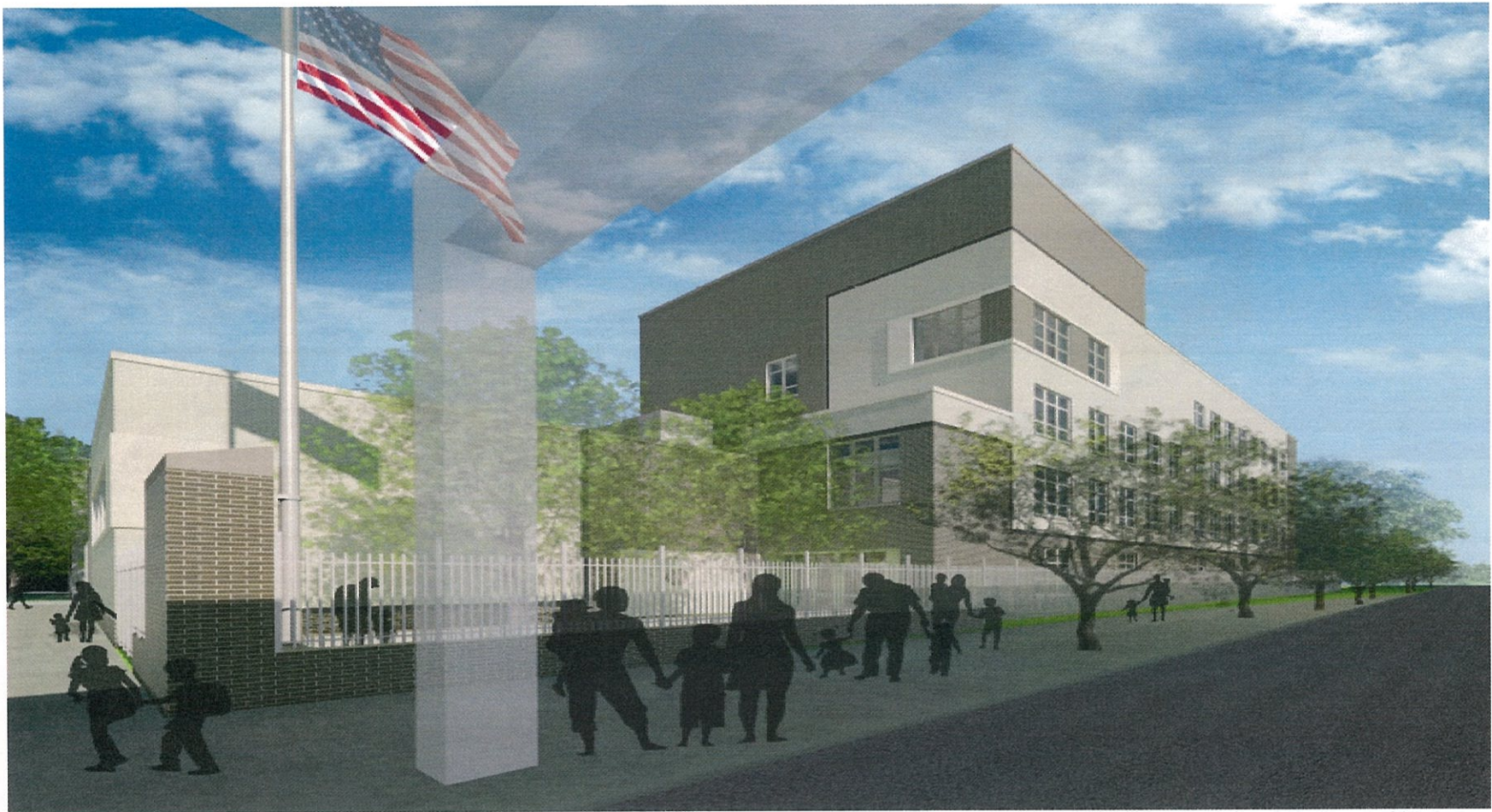
# New School Addition in Construction



PS 143 Addition – Opening 2020  
(District 24, 34-74 113<sup>th</sup> Street)



# New School Annex in Design



PS 340 Annex – Opening September 2021  
(District 10, 25 West 195<sup>th</sup> Street)



# New School in Design



East New York Family Academy – Opening September 2021  
(District 19, 2057 Linden Boulevard)



**PIE's Testimony to New York City Council Education Committee**

**New York City Council Budget and Oversight Hearings on The  
Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget**

**March 26, 2018**

Good afternoon. My name is Jaclyn Okin Barney, and I speak today as the coordinator of Parents for Inclusive Education (known as "PIE"). PIE is a parent-led advocacy group of educational reformers that works to ensure that all students with disabilities in the NYC public schools have access to meaningful inclusive educational and community opportunities. PIE has been in existence for almost twenty years with members throughout the five boroughs. We are the only New York City group dedicated solely to advocating for the inclusion of students with disabilities.

We work in various ways to achieve our agenda, including collaborating with the Department of Education on different projects. Over the past year or so, we have been working with Department of Education administrators and other special education groups to advocate for students with physical disabilities to have equal opportunities in attending schools across our City by increasing the number of barrier-free school buildings and school programs available to students. We applaud the efforts the DOE officials have taken regarding this issue, however much more needs to be done and more money needs to be allocated in this regard.

We all agree that all students in our City deserve an equal education. But, this is not the case for students with physical disabilities. Their choices for high school in this City, is not equal because many high schools (middle and elementary schools too) are not fully accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act so that students with physical disabilities can access them. With data from the Department of Education, PIE believes that approximately 7%, or just 8 high schools, in Manhattan are fully accessible. For the Bronx, the number is approximately 19%, which is only 22 high schools out of 115 schools in the borough. In Queens, it is just 20% of high schools in the borough that are fully accessible. In Brooklyn, there is approximately 11% of high schools and 36% in Staten Island. These numbers are too low across all the boroughs.

In addition to fully accessible schools, students can consider schools designated by the Department of Education as "partially" or "functionally" accessible. However, the actual accessibility of these school varies significantly. Some of these schools may be accessible in a way that a student who uses a wheelchair can get to all areas of the school building, while other schools that are listed as "partially" or "functionally" accessible, are not actually accessible in a way that a student in a wheelchair can attend. For instance, we know of partially-accessible schools where students in wheelchairs cannot pass beyond the first floor or schools that may have elevators but have no bathrooms that can meet the needs of a student in a wheelchair. We also know of schools where a student may be able to get to some parts of the building, but are unable to access key areas such as the library, science labs, computer labs, auditorium, stages, or the lunchroom, making it difficult for



students with physical disabilities to be fully included in the school's program. Finally, we know of schools where students need to use a separate entrance in order to enter the building.

Many of the schools that are partially accessible do not provide students with physical disabilities an equal opportunity to all the programs and activities of the school, unlike their nondisabled counterparts. The Americans with Disabilities Act is almost 28 years old. The law is too old for their still to be so few accessible schools in the school system.

I am here today to implore you to provide the Department of Education with the funding it needs to make the changes necessary to school buildings so that they can be fully accessible to students and individuals with physical disabilities and so the Department can embark on new projects for more schools to become fully accessible. At minimum, we are asking for \$125 million to be added to the Capital Plan. This funding will enable the Department to build an additional 15-17 schools that are fully accessible and enable minor renovations to take place upon request by families who need accessible accommodations.

Despite the Department of Education's efforts in this area, unless appropriate funds are allocated to this need, students with physical disabilities are not going to have the same opportunities or choices as their non-disabled peers. All students deserve an equal education and equal opportunities to that education; this includes students with physical disabilities. To do this, the City needs to start aggressively addressing this situation and improve the accessibility of our school system. We hope you will seriously consider allocating the appropriate funds needed to make substantial changes in this area.

I leave you with one final note today. In NYC where students are able and encouraged to apply to schools that peak their interest and where they can hone their skills, it is ironic that among the high schools in Brooklyn that are inaccessible include: Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School, High School for Civil Rights and School for Human Rights.

Thank you for considering our testimony today.

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# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

## Testimony to be delivered to the New York City Council Committee on Education Re: Preliminary Budget Hearing: Capital Education

March 26, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Maggie Moroff, the Special Education Coordinator at Advocates for Children of New York (AFC). AFC is a not-for-profit organization that has worked for more than 40 years protecting the rights of the City's most vulnerable children, including students with disabilities. We work to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education. I also work as the Coordinator of the ARISE Coalition, a group of parents, educators, academics, and advocacy groups working with families of students with disabilities. ARISE is dedicated to improving day-to-day experiences and long-term outcomes for students with disabilities in NYC public schools. Several other members of ARISE are here today as well offering testimony. I offer mine today on behalf of Advocates for Children and will talk about public school accessibility.

NYC lacks a sufficient number of accessible schools at every level (pre-K, elementary, middle and high school). In December 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice found that only 17% of the City's elementary schools were fully accessible. Two years later, the numbers are still unacceptably low. Three of the 32 community school districts have no fully accessible elementary school buildings (Districts 12, 16 and 21). For middle school, 4 districts have no fully accessible options for students (7, 14, 16, and 32). For high school, 6 districts currently are without accessible options for students (14, 16, 18, 20, 21 and 32). As a result, families have limited options, and students often end up having to travel longer distances to attend schools that can meet their needs. Additionally, families are required to make difficult compromises regarding curriculum and programming for their students.

Because full accessibility is so limited, the DOE places many students with accessibility needs in schools that are only partially accessible – meaning that students can get to some, but not all, of the school building. Unfortunately, those partially accessible schools run a wide range. Key parts of those partially accessible buildings may remain inaccessible. Students who use wheelchairs or walkers may be required to enter their buildings through separate entrances – often the same doors used to bring food into the building and trash out of the building. Cafeterias, science labs, auditoriums, and libraries are often ill-designed and can't accommodate students who use wheelchairs. For those students facing accessibility

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challenges in a building not fully accessible, their time in school is, from the start, likely to be experienced very differently from their more typical peers.

For the past several years, we have been speaking with City Hall, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, and the DOE about accessibility in our schools. On the heels of these efforts, the DOE's Office of Space Planning is about halfway through completing accessibility surveys of public school buildings. Those surveys confirm just how much work there is to be done to make NYC public schools truly accessible and welcoming to students, families, and school staff with mobility, hearing, and vision needs.

The 2015-2019 Capital Plan allocates \$100 million for improving school accessibility and \$28 million for ensuring that a number of schools can serve as accessible emergency shelters. Together, that represents *less than one percent* of the total funding in the Plan. Furthermore, the City has already spent the vast majority of this funding, leaving little, if any, funding for accessibility projects in the coming year.

The clock is ticking, and the time has come for the City to increase its commitment to improving school accessibility. If the City does not increase funding for accessibility projects in this year's budget, we will not see additional progress over the next year. We are grateful that, last year, the City Council included increased funding for school accessibility in your response to the Preliminary Budget. We urge you to do so again this year.

Given the current lack of accessible schools, we recommend doubling the amount of funding dedicated to making schools accessible—adding **\$125 million to the Capital Plan**:

- » **\$100 million to make another 15-17 additional schools fully accessible** and to improve the accessibility of additional schools through minor renovation projects. These may include, for example, the addition of a ramp to enable entry to the building by all, a lift so students can get onto auditorium stages, and bathroom renovations.
- » **\$25 million for a fund to facilitate families' requests for minor renovations** and accommodations in school buildings based on individual accessibility needs.

Thank you for your time today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about the proposal we've put forth.



**FY19 \$1.815 Million Overall Capital Request for the  
LaGuardia Arts Education & Performance Space Infrastructure Project**

**Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts  
(aka “LaGuardia Arts”)**

***Testimony for*  
The Committee on Education Capital Budget Hearing  
March 26, 2019**

My name is Christine Denham and I am a former LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts Parent Association President, a Mother of a Technical Theater Studio graduate, and LaGuardia Alumni & Friends Board Member.

Thank you Chair Mark Treyger for the opportunity to testify today regarding one of the largest City Council Reso A projects in recent years that received its first funding in FY14 and has raised \$5.285 million from NYC Council funds and the Manhattan Borough President to date for LaGuardia’s ***Arts Education and Performance Space Infrastructure Project***.

At a meeting with the School Construction Authority in late February this year we learned that, rather than breaking ground this summer, the SCA has asked the school to raise an additional \$1.89 million before they will put the project out to bid. We have submitted a request for funds to Speaker Corey Johnson and are asking him to please negotiate a deal with the SCA where they contribute funds. The logic here is that a school with a 1,115 person Concert Hall, a 500 person theater, a 100 person black box theater, dance classrooms with special dance flooring, acoustic orchestra rooms, recording studios and large Art studios and more will NEVER fall within the SCA’s boiler plate school “needs assessment” so we aren’t eligible for SCA funds for upgrading our special needs. We have learned that the SCA has in the past, when merited, contributed exceptional funding to Reso A projects. LaGuardia’s project is the perfect case!

LaGuardia’s four-year capital campaign and creeping SCA budget to today’s \$7.1 million total must stop. The Speaker provided \$3 million over 3-4 years, as prioritized by our greatest supporter, District Council Member Helen Rosenthal, and the rest of the \$5.285 million from Council Member Daniel Garodnick and Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer. The school and the elected officials are frankly fatigued with this financial burden and we ask for this committee’s help in negotiating with the SCA to bring this project over the finish line in FY19 with some commitment of their funds.

**LaGuardia’s 2,803 Student Demographics**

LaGuardia Arts is NYC’s most famous and original specialized high school for the arts where all 2,803 students stay an extra hours daily after school dedicating themselves to either Art, Dance, Music, Drama, Vocal or Technical Theater studios. One central reason that LaGuardia has deserved Citywide

capital funds is that our students hail from Brooklyn (36%), Manhattan (29%), Queens (24%), the Bronx (7%) and Staten Island (4%). Unlike all other Specialized High Schools, our students body more closely represents this great City's people being comprised of 20% Asian, 11% Black, 17% Hispanic, 44% White and 8% Other. More than 50% of the students are female. We take great pride in our sizeable LGBT & Q student community and are proud to serve economically disadvantaged students who comprise 29% of all students.

LaGuardia Arts Parents Association (PA) is one of the most active in the City and its families raise \$700,000 annually through donations, concert ticket sales, benefits and more. These funds subsidize the sets, costumes, arts and technical theatre professionals, annual arts program expenses, supplemental materials for academic and professional teachers, et al. We also help fund the four weekends, 12 hours per day it takes to audition 20,000 perspective students annually. And yes, we are always looking for those one or two angels to write million dollar checks. None have come along.

### **Invest in NYC's Cultural Future**

An investment by the City officials in this project is an investment in the future of New York City's economy. Data from the latest "BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages" highlights the impact and value of the creative arts to New York's economy: one of every four creative arts industry jobs in the United States operates out of New York City. Today's students at LaGuardia are NYC's futures dancers, artists, actors, academics and more. Notable LaGuardia Arts alumni have gone onto Broadway (Liza Minnelli, Al Pacino), Television and Film (Timothée Chalamet, Stephen Bochco, Jennifer Aniston, Ansel Elgort, Omar Epps), Dance (Arthur Mitchell, Edward Villella, Keisha Clarke), Art (Milton Glaser, Jerome Witkin, Wolf Kahn) and almost every facet of the music world (Pinchas Zuckerman, Murray Perahia, James Conlon, Don Byron, Jerry Gonzalez, Indira Mahajan, Catherine Malfitano, Cy Coleman, Nicki Minaj), and Fashion (Isaac Mizrahi, Anne Crimmins).

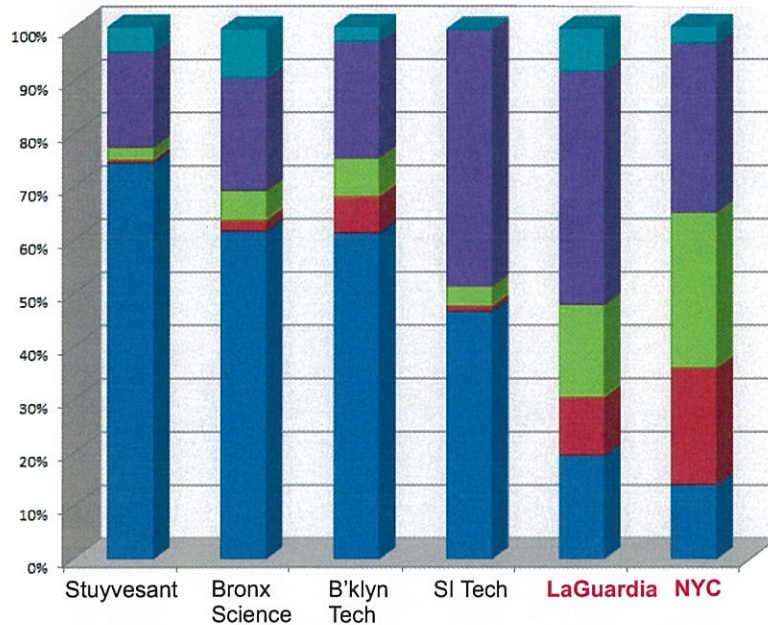
The legacy continues. Jharrel Jerome, LaG Class of 2015, featured in "Moonlight", winner of the 2017 Oscar for Best Picture. Ansel Elgort, LaG Class of 2012, nominated for a 2018 Best Actor Golden Globe in "Baby Driver". One of NY City's most impressive moments this year was when LaGuardia graduate, and the youngest male Oscar nominee, Timothée Chalamet, was nominated for Best Actor for "Call Me By Your Name". He took to the stage with his LaGuardia alum mother giving a huge shout out to the world, saying: invest in Public Arts Education, and that he would not be where he is without LaGuardia Arts High School! The world heard him!

We ask you to help make this kind of future a possibility for all our graduates! Let's get this capital project show on the road!

Thank you Chair Treyger and all the members of the Education Committee



## The Numbers



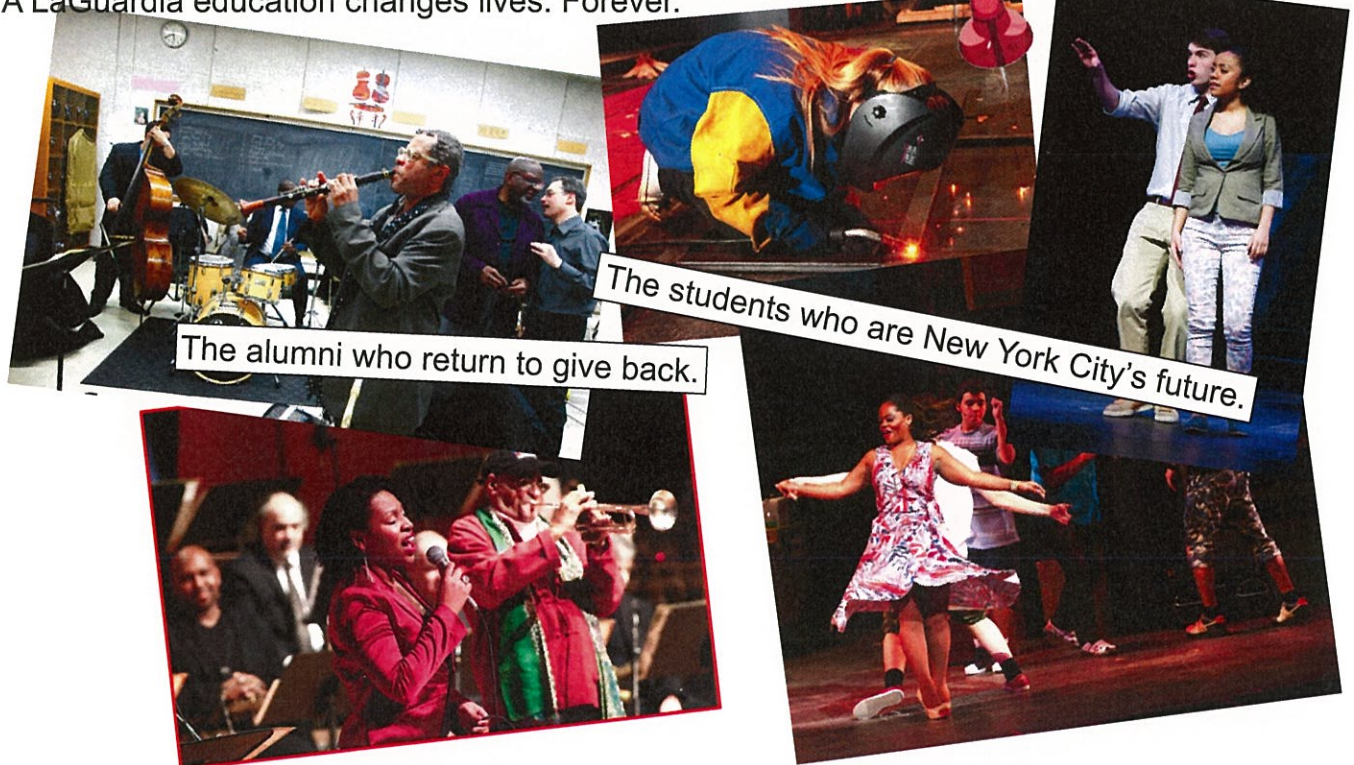
School Name	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Other
Stuyvesant H.S.	75%	1%	2%	18%	5%
Bronx H.S. of Science	62%	2%	6%	21%	9%
Brooklyn Tech.	61%	7%	7%	22%	3%
Staten Island Tech.	47%	1%	4%	48%	0%
Fiorello H. LaGuardia H.S.	20%	11%	17%	44%	8%
<b>NYC</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>3%</b>

Enrollment data is taken from the latest 2016 - 17 NYC DOE Demographic Snapshots. NYC census data is taken from the latest year ending 2016 NYC government reporting.

- Of NYC's five large specialized high schools (those with an enrollment of over 1,000) LaGuardia's student population most closely mirrors the racial/ethnic diversity of the city.
- LaGuardia Arts is the only one of all nine specialized high schools with a female student population greater than 50%.
- The school's students come from every borough in the city – Brooklyn (36%), Manhattan (29%), Queens (24%), and the Bronx and Staten Island (10% combined).

## Behind the Numbers

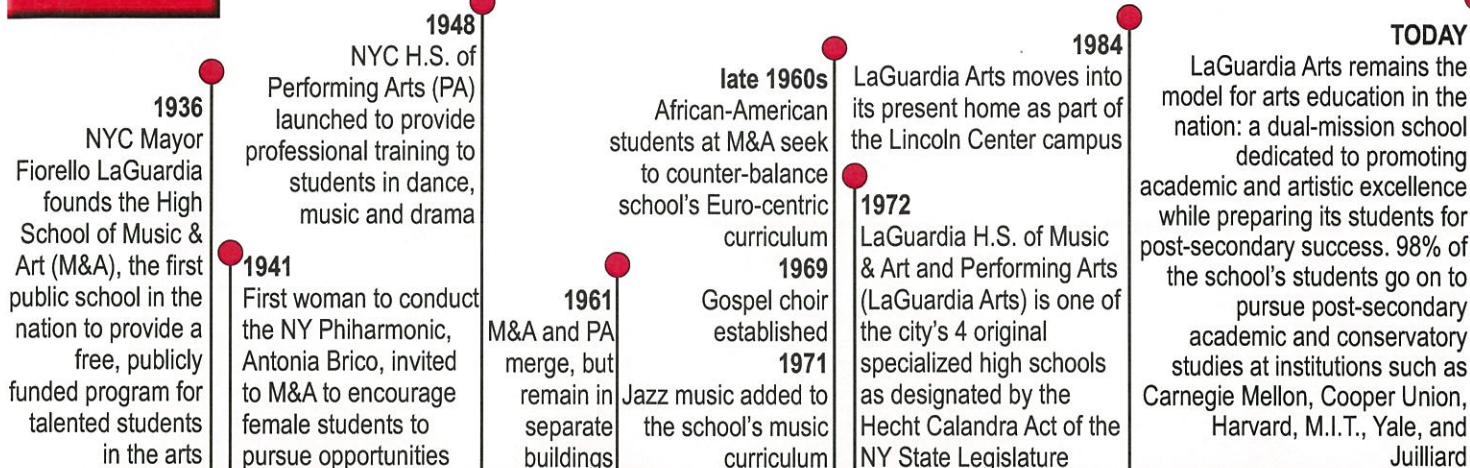
A LaGuardia education changes lives. Forever.







# A Tradition of Excellence



1930

1950

1970

1990

2010

**1936**  
FDR reelected as President

**1939 - 1945**  
World War II

**1942**  
First African-American to conduct the NBC Symphony Orchestra, Dean Dixon, invited to lead M&A orchestra

**1964**  
President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act

**1972**  
Equal Rights Amendment passed by Congress; fails ratification by state legislatures

**2017 - 2018**  
The legacy continues.  
**Jharrel Jerome**, LaG Class of 2015, featured in "Moonlight", winner of the 2017 Oscar for Best Picture  
**Timothée Chalamet**, LaG Class of 2013, nominated for a 2018 Best Actor Oscar in "Call Me By Your Name"  
**Ansel Elgort**, LaG Class of 2012, nominated for a 2018 Best Actor Golden Globe in "Baby Driver"

## It Begins Here

LaGuardia's two theaters are in constant use by the school's students; the performance calendar for both spaces is completely booked a year in advance.







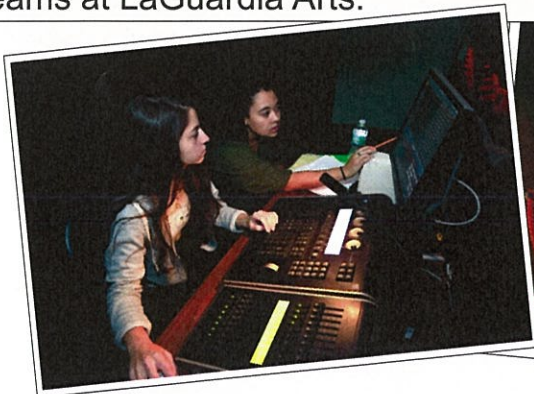
# Arts & the NYC Economy



The economic importance of the creative arts industries to New York is enormous. **In 2016 the theater industry contributed more than \$12 billion** to New York City's economy. That adds up to more than \$1 billion paid to city and state taxes. Broadway also directly supported **87,000 jobs** associated with high-paying wages. **An investment in the education provided by LaGuardia Arts is an investment in the future of that economy.**



Every day over 2,400 students travel by subway, bus and ferry - up to 90 minutes each way from the furthest reaches of New York City's five boroughs - to pursue their dreams at LaGuardia Arts.



1,145 seat theater



Good afternoon Chairman Mark Treyger and members of the committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today .

My name is Mia Enmanuel and I am a 16 year old student born and raised in Washington Heights. And I am currently a member in the Girl Scouts advocacy committee.

New York is one of the most diverse cities in the U.S. Unfortunately it is also the most segregated. New York has the most segregated schools in the country and ranks 49th in school equity. The disparities in public school funding between schools that teach black and latino students and schools that teach mostly white students is institutionalized racism. More funding is provided to higher income schools as opposed to schools in need of improvement. In schools of low income 68% of students are in poverty, where as, only 6% of students in high income schools are in poverty.

The underfunding of predominantly black and latino schools can lead to larger class sizes, less teachers, cuts in classes, tutoring and arts and sports. Speaking from personal experience I know this will poorly effect students in low-income neighborhoods, especially those who are already behind because of a lack of resources. Currently New York has failed to meet its obligation under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity settlement which was made to raise Equity of education in low-income schools.

My fellow minorities are also tomorrow's future of this city and country. I am asking the Committee on Education to carefully consider the state of educational equity in NYC, and commit to finding ways to close the gap between low-income and high-income schools in all five boroughs. Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today about the upcoming Capital Budget. I want to focus on the inadequate line item for accessibility for the New York City public schools. Despite proposing a small increase to \$126 million, over 5 years, in our current budget cycle, the budget remains at \$100 million.

The NYC Department of Education has 3066 sites. There are nearly 1800 schools in about 1300 buildings. We have about 1240 schools which are not fully accessible, which translates into about 900 buildings that need to be made accessible. At the current rate of 17 schools every 5 years, we will reach full accessibility in 262 years, in the year 2280. This is appalling. We need full accessibility to be on the horizon of our lives. We need a plan. I am proposing that we increase the capital budget for accessibility 10-fold to \$1 billion over 5 years. At that rate, we will achieve full accessibility in 26 years, just in time for my grandchildren to go to high school.

We dodge our legal requirements and our moral imperative, when we fall back on IDEA's mandate for "a Free and Appropriate Education." An appropriate education is not one where people with disabilities are segregated into schools that they can access. An appropriate education means equal opportunities to attend your neighborhood elementary school, to have a full range of middle and high school choices, and to have your parents involved in your education.

We have seen the difference for our son, Abey, first hand this year. The change from the Henry Viscardi School a segregated special education school, located 19 miles from our home in Albertson, Long Island, and Bard High School Early College Queens, a competitive high school 2 miles from our home, has been extraordinary. My son is finally getting the challenging education he has been missing for the last 9 years. My son has friends, who can come over to our house. And his commute has gone from one hour each way to 20 minutes each way. This is what he was entitled to all along.

This is not just an education issue. The ADA, passed in 1990, guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life -- to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Our schools are public buildings where teachers, administrators and staff make their living, community members vote, and families attend conferences and events. 28 years later, we have not complied with the spirit or the letter of the ADA in our school buildings.

It is easy to focus on the Department of Education when we discuss the lack of accessibility. But the money needed to achieve compliance with the ADA has to come for our legislators. We need you to make the allocations that will support fully accessibility for my son, Abey, to get a job, vote, participate in his community, and one day bring my grandchildren to school.

Michelle Noris, PE

21-37 23<sup>rd</sup> Street

Astoria, NY 11105

718-267-8881

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maggie Moruff

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Advocates for Children NY

Address: 151 W 30th St NY NY

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mia Emmanuel

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Girl Scouts of Greater NY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lorraine Grillo

Address: 30-30 Thomson Avenue

I represent: NYC School Construction Authority

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Peter Quinn

Address: Chief Information Officer

I represent: DOE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alexander Armoszuk

Address: Chief of Staff

I represent: Division of Operations

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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Date: 3/26/2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christine Denham

Address: 39 W. 94th St NY NY

I represent: La Guardia HS for Music & Art

Address: 100 Amsterdam Ave and performing Art

NY NY 10023

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-26-18

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PAUL GARRITY

Address: 245 WEST 107th ST, Apt 10A

NEW YORK, NY 10025

I represent: LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE

PERFORMING ARTS (03M485)

Address: 100 AMSTERDAM AVE, NYC 10023

*Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms*

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Jaelyn Okin Barry

Address: 300 Riverside Dr

I represent: Parents for Inclusive Education

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/26/18

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Michelle Norris

Address: 21-37 23rd St, Astoria NY 11105

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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