

Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts

Letter of Intent

Submitted to New York State Department Charter School Office

89 Washington Avenue

Room 471 EBA

Albany, New York 12234

Email: charterschools@mail.nysed.gov

July 25, 2012

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LEAD APPLICANT Earlene Warren Fernandez (School Administrator) Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]	CO-LEAD APPLICANT Jennifer Charles (School Administrative Consultant) Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
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Media Contact: youngscholarscharterschool@gmail.com

THE FOUNDING GROUP	
The Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts founding group consists of 11 members.	
Earlene Warren Fernandez	Educator and principal for over 30 years; presently working as a principal; proposed Executive Director of YSCSA
Dr. Jennifer Charles	Educational consultant, professional development and educational technology specialist, educator for over 30 years; proposed Director of Instruction
Leslie Ann Bolden, Ph.D., Sociology	Immigration researcher and elementary school educator; proposed Chief Operating Officer of YSCSA
Dr. Merle O. Cann	Early childhood educator; 18 years special education teacher and supervisor with the NYC DOE; proposed Trustee
Merlene Ruttie Campbell	MA Special Education, BSc. in early childhood education; state certified; experience working with students with IEPs
Helga Burton	Concerned public school parent, president of NYC school's PTA
Dexter Braithwaite	Middle school English teacher; experience in performing arts curriculum and middle school pedagogy
Moreen King	CEO/Owner of community CBO; experience in administration, state and federal funding; recipient of ACS Early Learn funding
Derek M. J. Cyrus, JD	CEO/President of community CBO; 35 years of experience in Corporate Law, consulting/development of business/private schools
Wendeceta Powell	Certified Holistic Health Coach; Community and charter school activist since 1995; public school PTA fundraiser.
Lumumba Bandele	CUNY Professor;

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
Earnest Wilson Esq.	Independent real estate attorney with over 20 years' experience
Leslie Antioco-Dunn	Manager at Popular Community Bank (Banco Popular); banker for the last 17 years; experience in Administration and HR
Anthony Harris	Accountant/CEO of Ash Business Service for the last 30 years.
Pearl Elie	Retired middle school administrator; experience in curriculum, staff development and supervision; Board Trustee of Sesame Flyers International, a CBO with children and family programs
Cheryl Barker	Educator and principal of PS 81; Kingsborough Wall of Fame inductee; recipient of Brooklyn College's Joseph J Cohen Award for excellence and 2008 Cahn Fellowship; Mentor for new assistant principals affiliated with NYC Leadership Academy

APPLICATION HISTORY

YSCSA submitted a charter school prospectus to the New York State Education Department in Round 2 for the June 25 deadline. The Letter of Intent was deemed incomplete and was not accepted. Also one of our founding members, Dr. Jennifer Charles, was a founding member of The Brooklyn World Community Charter School, which submitted a full proposal in February 2012. The letter of intent was accepted but the full application/proposal was withdrawn.

PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

The name of the proposed charter will be **Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts** (YSCSA) will be located in CSD 17 in Brooklyn, New York.

GRADE LEVELS AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT

YSCSA will be a K-8 school and will consist of elementary and intermediate classes. The enrollment projection for the first five years reflects our goal to preserve small classes and school size. Each class will have approximately 15 students in K – 2 and 20 students in all other grades. We believe that students entering from other schools will be as successful as students transitioning from our elementary classes into our intermediate classes and will attain their 8th grade diplomas, proving our belief that all students can learn. We anticipate attrition of 5% or less.

Projected Enrollment Table					
Grades	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Kindergarten	60	60	60	60	60
1st	60	60	60	60	60
2nd	20	60	60	60	60
3rd	0	20	60	60	60
4th	0	0	20	60	60
5th	40	40	40	60	60
6th	0	40	40	40	60
7th	0	0	40	40	40
8th	0	0	0	40	40
Totals	180	280	380	480	500

MANAGEMENT AND/OR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

We do not plan to have any partner organization nor management organization

SCHOOL MISSION

The mission of the Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts is to provide all students with a unique, high quality, personally meaningful education, which will be rigorous and relevant. Our curriculum will integrate the visual and performing arts with standards-based academic instructions. Our programs will create life-long multicultural learners who will successfully participate in the global economy. Our exceptional teachers will provide opportunities to nurture our students' wide-ranging skills and work habits. They will also set high behavioral standards for our learners to succeed in elementary, high school, college and future careers.

II. SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Key Design Elements

The thrust of YSCSA is toward excellence and accountability. YSCSA will operate under a “No Excuses” policy that will emphasize S.T.R.E.N.G.T.H. (of character) and focus on **Structure**, **Talent**, **Respect/Responsibility**, **Excellence**, **Nurturing**, **Goals**, **Tolerance**, and **High** academic performance. With our exceptional performing arts program, rigorous academic curriculum, outstanding pedagogy, committed teachers and supportive school culture, we believe that our students will have the foundation to become self-motivated, life-long learners. They will develop:

Structure: Our students will develop a sense of self-direction, and skills and tools to plan and organize their individualized academic and arts program. Teachers will act as facilitators in guiding students in establishing personal goals, building study skills, and monitoring their own progress. Students will also learn the importance of self-discipline as they complete their academic and arts projects.

Talent: The diverse performing and visual arts curriculum of YSCSA will provide students with ample opportunities to develop and showcase their talents. Students will explore various art forms and, therefore, will discover their natural talents, as well as an appreciation for the arts of their own and other cultures. They will have access to specialists in each discipline, and to community arts resources in developing their creative and artistic abilities through art, theater, music and dance.

Respect/Responsibility: Students will learn the importance of respect and responsibility for themselves and others as members of a diverse student population. We will teach multiculturalism through the arts and promote concern through service and community projects. Students will develop self-knowledge, interpersonal skills and a respectful attitude through our cooperative caring culture.

Excellence: At YSCSA we will promote excellence as a key watchword in instruction and student learning. Our teachers and students will be challenged to set high expectations, and uphold exceptional standards of behavior and academic achievement. Students will be taught appropriate how-to skills, such as practice, repetition, and study habits, in order to attain their personal best.

Nurturing: We will provide a nurturing environment for our students through student advocates peer/professional /staff counseling. Students will be provided a listening ear and will be guided toward identifying solutions to problems. Our research team has discovered many homes in our community where households are headed by single parents who work long hours. They are faced with challenges and lack of knowledge in finding appropriate resources to help solve some of their problems. YSCSA will aid in assisting its students so as to promote a feeling of safety, security and an avenue for learning. There will be opportunities and activities for whole family involvement.

Goals: We will focus on the development of achievable student goals as a means of enhancing motivation and learning. Once students identify their personal interests and academic goals, we will use formative and summative assessments and other data to pinpoint their strengths and target individual needs by differentiating curriculum materials, instruction and assessment.

Tolerance: Through a supportive and multi-faceted culture we will promote tolerance for the views and opinions of others. As students work with their peers on academic and arts projects,

they will appreciate the value of multiple perspectives. Our focus on social learning will provide our students with the skills needed to resolve conflicts and promote social justice.

High academic performance: Our arts program will be designed using the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) framework. Our academic curriculum will be aligned with the state Core Knowledge curriculum standards and will support literacy and academic rigor across disciplines. All students, in spite of their language proficiency, special needs or instructional level, will be challenged to achieve their highest potential.

TARGET POPULATION

YSCSA will serve K – 8 students in CSD 17, which is located in Community Board 9 and includes Crown Heights, Prospect and Lefferts Gardens, Wingate and surrounding neighborhoods. This is a culturally vibrant, racially diverse, largely immigrant community. Our student population will mirror that of CSD 17, which stands at 27,264 K-8 students. According to the District’s last report card, 87% are eligible for free or reduced meals¹; 10% (8,830) are from homes with languages other than English. The language breakdown is as follows: 42% speak Spanish, 36.2% speak Haitian Creole, 5.2% speak Fulani, 4.5% speak Arabic, 3.5% speak French, 8.8% other languages.² The graduation rate for students residing in this District was 64% in 2009. In 2010, 26% of 8th grade students scored at or above grade level in ELA and 35% scored at the same level in Mathematics.³ YSCSA will be targeting the special needs students (8.4% district wide), those eligible for free or reduced meals and the English language learners in CSD 17, and its environs. We plan to improve the district’s passing rate.

III. Enrollment and retention of students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced price lunch program.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS IN ABOVE CAPTION

In order to recruit eligible students (disabilities, ELLs, and those eligible for free and reduced price lunch), we will distribute surveys targeting families in CSD 17, (Crown Heights, Wingate, Prospect and Lefferts Gardens). We have conducted and plan to conduct more open forums. Our other recruitment strategies will be to place ads in local newspapers and announcements on our local cultural radio programs. We will distribute literature at subways stations, have information display tables outside local libraries and outside local shelters. Provide information in churches on free food/meal distribution days. . All recruitment materials will be in English, Spanish and Creole. Applications will be accepted from eligible families who have indicated interest in our school. Once there are more applicants than available slots, YSCSA will do selection by lottery in keeping with Charter School Enrollment laws. All other students will be placed on a waiting list. The YSCSA outreach team spoke to a number of charter schools in District 17, including Achievement First Charter School and Brooklyn Ascend Charter School, and all boast of a long waiting list of eligible students. YSCSA will target these students who are waiting to enroll in a charter school. We will accept eligible students without discrimination.

¹ http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/csb/documents/csb/6_27_11_Living_Above_Disorder_Data.pdf

² <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/3A4AEC4C-14BD-49C4-B2E6-8EDF5D873BE4/108227/DemoRpt0722.pdf>

³ <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/files/2010-11/AOR-2011-331700010000.pdf>

YSCSA's student population will mirror or exceed CSD 17's students with disabilities, ELL and free or reduced meal populations. In the 2010-2011 school year 8.4% of elementary school students in the District were listed as Special Needs; 10% of the student population were considered English Language Learners and of this group 39.3% spoke Spanish and 35.2% spoke Haitian Creole as their primary language. In the District, 80% of the students are eligible for free meals and 6% for reduced meal.¹

In order to retain our students, we will provide a diverse academic and performing arts curriculum with innovative pedagogy that addresses student motivation and individual needs. We will provide direct and differentiated classroom instruction to cater to all students and meet their personal educational plans (PEP). YSCSA will provide family support through ongoing programs and counseling that will promote family involvement, a key element in students' academic success. Students will also have a chance to develop their talents and abilities, which in turn will provide focus and motivation for academic success. In order to retain our special needs students, we will also offer programs which will include before and after-school tutoring; Saturday and holiday programs; peer/professional support for remediation; counseling and other services. We will work with CSD 17's Committee on Special Education for related services for our special needs students. We will also provide services for english language learners and their families in english and their native language..

IV. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

YSCSA has reached out to Community School District 17 through Surveys targeting families in Crown Heights, Wingate, Prospect and Lefferts Gardens. We have also solicited the opinions and support of elected officials, community business owners and churches. We have set up appointments with key CBO's and we await their written response and invitations. We have distributed flyers in different languages about our charter school and have had an open forum within the community. As an ongoing effort we are planning to hold other open forums, place ads in local newspapers, visit community shelters and churches, make announcements in our local cultural radio programs, and set up display tables outside our local libraries and shelters. Through the collaborative efforts of our planning team, our community businesses and district leaders, we intend to move our Charter school initiative forward.

Signature:  Date: 7/25/2012
(Lead Applicant)

Attachment I

Community School District 17

June 8, 2012

Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts
Information and Parent Survey

Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts will be a charter school located in Brooklyn serving students in K to grade 8.

The mission of the school is to provide all students with a unique, high quality, personally meaningful education in small classes. Our curriculum will integrate the visual and performing arts with standards-based academic instructions. Our programs will prepare your children for success. Our exceptional teachers will provide opportunities to nurture your child/children's wide-ranging skills and work habits. They will also set high behavioral standards for them to succeed in high school, college and future careers.

Our planning team includes principals, teachers of main stream and special education, lawyers, financial experts, curriculum developers for academics and performing arts, etc. Your input is vital to our planning so take the time to full out the following survey and return it to us. We can also be contacted at:

Phone # **917 272 4155**

Email us at youngscholarscharterschool@gmail.com

What are you looking for in a grade school? What do you consider the important elements in a school? Please check off all elements that you consider important from the list below:

- Participate more actively in my child's daily education
- Be more familiar with my child's school curriculum
- Have my child receive support in school with his or her homework
- Cooperative learning and conflict-resolution workshops
- Development of child's natural talent/gifts
- Opportunity for parents' participation in programs
- Creative arts program
- A wide range of sport activities
- Daily healthy and nutritious meals at school
- An extended day program

Comments:

Piece Jointe II

Community School District 17

8 jen 2012

Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts

Enfomasyon ak Ankèt bò kote Paran yo

Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts ap yon lekòl semi prive ki blayi ko-1 nan Brooklyn e k'ap sevi etidyan soti nan jaden danfan pou rive nan 8yem ane.

Lekòl la bay tèt li misyon pou-1 bay tout edidyan bon jan edikasyon ki san parèy e ki ap gen yon enpòtans espesyal pou chak grenn ekòlye nan sal klas ki pap gen anpil moun. N'ap mete sou pye yon pwogram ki va entegre ar vizyèl ak ar espektak avèk enstriksyon akademik ki deja etabli. Konsa, pwogram nou yo va prepare ti moun yo pou yo reyisi. Pwofese nou yo se yon seri de enstrikté eksepsyonèl ki va ede timoun yo devlope talan yo, ranmase bon jan konpetans epi prepare yo pou lè yo va travay. Pwofesè yo ap etabli pou timoun yo règ konpòtman ki trè respektab e ki ap ede yo gen siksè nan high school, inivèsite, ak lè yo va travay sou pwofesyon yo.

Nou gen yon ekip byen solid ki responsab planifikas'on. Ekip sa gen ladann direktè lekòl, pwofesè klas òdinè, pwofesè pou elèv ki bezwen èd espesyal, avoka, ekspè nan koze finans, Moun k'ap prepare pwogram pou koze akademik ak pèfomans sou sèn, elatriye. Patisipasyon ou nesèsè pou nou ka fè bon jan planifikasyon. Konsa, n'ap mande ou pou-w pran yon ti tan pou-w ranpli kesyonè sa epi pou-w voye li tounen ba nou. Men kèk fason ou ka kontakte nou:

Tel.: **917 272 4155**

Email: youngscholarscharterschool@gmail.com

YSCSA Paran Sondaj

Ki sa yo ou kap chèche nan yon lekòl klas la? Ki sa ou konsidere eleman ki enpòtan nan yon lekòl? Tanpri tcheke nan tout eleman ke ou konsidere li enpòtan nan lis ki anba la a:

- Patisipe aktivman nan edikasyon plis chak jou pitit mwen an
- Gen plis abitye avèk pwogram etid lekòl pitit mwen an
- Fè pitit mwen an resevwa sipò nan lekòl la avèk li oswa devwa l
- Koperatif aprantisaj li ak konfli-rezolisyon atelye
- Devlopman talan natirèl timoun nan / kado
- Opòtinite pou patisipasyon paran yo nan pwogram
- Kreyatif atistik pwogram
- Nan yon pakèt domèn aktivite espò
- Chak jou sante ak manje nourisan nan lekòl la
- Yon pwogram jounen pwolonje:

Kòmantè:

Attachment III (Spanish)

Escuela de la Comunidad del Distrito 17

08 de junio 2012

Young Scholars Charter School for the Arts

Información y Encuesta para Padres

Young Students Charter School for the Arts será una escuela de carta ubicada en Brooklyn y brindará servicio a los estudiantes K hasta el grado 8.

La misión de la escuela es proveer a todos los estudiantes de una educación única, de alta calidad, personalmente significativa en las clases pequeñas. Nuestro plan de estudios integrará las artes visuales y artísticas con instrucciones académicas basadas en los estándares. Nuestros programas prepararán a sus niños para el éxito. Nuestros profesores excepcionales proporcionarán oportunidades de nutrir las habilidades amplias y hábitos de trabajo de su niño(s). Ellos también establecerán patrones behaviorísticos altos para que tengan éxito en la escuela secundaria, colegio y futuras carreras.

Nuestro equipo planificador incluye a principales, profesores de programas corrientel y educación especial, abogados, expertos financieros, reveladores de plan de estudios para académicos y realización de artes, etc. Su entrada es esencial para nuestra planificación. Tome un momento para llenar la revisión siguiente y nos la envíe. También pueden ponerse en contacto con nosotros:

Phone # [917 272 4155](tel:9172724155)

Email us at youngscholarscharterschool@gmail.com

YSCSA Padres Encuesta

¿Qué estás buscando en una escuela primaria? ¿Cuáles considera que los elementos importantes en una escuela? Por favor marque todos los elementos que considere importantes de la lista a continuación:

- Participar más activamente en la educación de todos los días de mi hijo
- Estar más familiarizados con el currículo de la escuela de mi hijo
- Ha mi hijo recibir apoyo en la escuela con su tarea
- El aprendizaje cooperativo y talleres de resolución de conflictos
- Desarrollo del talento natural del niño / regalos
- Oportunidad para la participación de los padres en los programas
- Programa de artes creativas
- Una amplia gama de actividades deportivas
- Comidas diarias saludables y nutritivos en la escuela
- Un programa de jornada extendida

Comentarios:

YOUNG SCHOLARS CHARTER SCHOOL for the ARTS (YSCSA)

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2013
GRADES K - 8

Location: Community School District #17

"Catering for students in Crown Heights, Wingate, Lefferts and Prospect gardens, and surrounding neighborhoods."

Accepting all students including:

- *IEPs, gifted and talented, English language learners and main stream.*
- *Now registering: Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 and grade 5 students for September 2013*

A school with a difference:

- *Visual and performing arts*
- *Rigorous academic*
- *Family involvement*
- *Family support tools*
- *Extended day and year*



Contact Information



Telephone Number: 917-272-4155
Email Address: youngscholarscharterschool@gmail.com

Contact us with comments, feedback or for further information