

# CHRISTINA ALEXIS JENNINGS

4357 S Emerald Ave., Chicago, IL 60609  
224.628.8244 • christinaaj@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

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**MAT Art Education**, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, May, 2011

**BA Interior Architecture/Design and Photography**, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, June, 2008

**Year Abroad Program in Greece**, University of Indianapolis, Odyssey of Athens, 2003-2004

**Studies in Fine Art**, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, September, 2000- January, 2002

## CERTIFICATION

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**IL Type 10 K-12 Art Education Teaching Certificate** - July, 2011

**IL K-12 Endorsement in Special Education - LBS1** - August, 2011

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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**Nightingale Elementary School**, Chicago, IL, August, 2011 - present

- Developed a visual arts curriculum and program at Nightingale school that was nonexistent before my arrival. (2011)
- Brought Art History into the Art program - giving every 5-8th grader 1 hour per week of Art History instruction. (2014)
- 5th - 8th grade Visual Arts & Art History teacher
- Plan multi-faceted, literacy-integrated, social justice-driven engaging units that reach every student.( 2011-2017)
- Art Liaison for our school, a position developed by the CPS department of Arts Education. (2012-2017)
- Developed and Planned an 'Arts In Action' Night at our school. (2013-2015)
- Planned and spoke at the Mural Inauguration event at the school. (2013)

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- After School Art Club Instructor (2011-2017)
- Head of Art Committee (2011-2017)
- Design/Print all official Playbills for all of the school plays and all school events (2011-2017)
- Kid Witness News Instructor (2014-2017)
- Girls on the Run Coach (2012-2014)
- Assistant Coach Girls Basketball (2013-2015)
- Social Committee member (2015-2017)
- Designed/Planned Arts In Action Night (2013-2015)
- Work directly with parents that are part of the Parent Mentor program to plan events for the school. (2011-2017)
- Took initiative to have brand new books donated to the Art history library from The Art Resources Transfer, Inc./ DUC Library Program (Distribution of Underserved Communities). (2015)
- Organized a professional development for the whole staff on the integration of the arts. (2015)

## STUDENT TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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**New Trier Township High School**, Winnetka, IL, March 2011 - May 2011

**Shabonee Elementary**, Northbrook, IL, January 2011 - March 2011

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & LEADERSHIP

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- Chicago Foundation for Education's Fund for Teachers Fellowship Selection Committee (2017)
- Associate Delegate for the Chicago Teachers Union (2015-2017)
- Member of the PPC - Professional Problems Committee. (2015-2017)
- ATLAS participant of art and technology study. (2015-2017)
- Cooperating teacher for graduate student at Columbia College Chicago (2016)
- One of three arts educators within CPS to sit on the Visual Arts Summit Planning Committee (Part I and Part II) for Ingenuity, Inc. (2015)
- Guest facilitator for the 'drawing connections' activity at the Visual Arts Summit - Part II (2015)
- Sat on the judging committee for the IAEA student show awards. (2013)

## ARTISTIC & TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS

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- Drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking and graphic design.
- Adobe Suite CS6 (i.e. Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), Livetext, Microsoft Office (PC & Mac)  
Some Knowledge of AutoCAD.

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## PRESENTATIONS

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- Speaker at the Visual Arts Summit – Part I at the Art Institute of Chicago. Community partnerships and relevant lesson planning for our youth (2015)
- Speaker at the PTA awards ceremony – A Magic of a Moment – emphasized the importance of the Arts in Education (2013)
- “Special Education and Art” presented with Dr. Becker and Dr. Stallworth at IAEA Conference (Chicago, 2011)
- Lesson Plan Sharing. Presented with former cooperating teacher, Judy Doebler at the IAEA Conference. (Chicago, 2011)
- “Abstract Sand Sculptures” Created innovative material for sculpting. NAEA Conference. (Seattle, 2011)
- “Bringing Art into a Children’s Hospital” NAEA Conference. (Baltimore, 2010)

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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- Fluent in Greek
- Basic Spanish

## GRANTS AWARDED

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### >Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE) Fund for teachers (FFT) fellowship grant winner \$10,000 (2016)

Educational Journey to Mexico - Designed a trip to Mexico with the following goals:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the Mexican culture as well as a more comprehensive knowledge of Mexican artists and traditional Mexican folk art.
- Understand how knowledge of our students’ native language can help instructional delivery.
- Take a seventh grade research project, entitled ARTrip Adventure and bring it to fruition.
- Bring our experiences back to school creating a sense of cultural pride for students, giving non-Mexican teachers a better understanding of students’ heritage and sharing our examples of how to implement our new-found resources within school curriculums.
- Guide students toward an enhanced awareness of their own culture and how it relates to other cultures, synthesizing their own knowledge.

### >Arts Essentials Grant Program - awarded \$1,000 every year (2012 - 2017)

As the acting Art Liaison at the school I collected and analyzed data for our Creative School Certification. Upon completion, participating schools were awarded funds to improve and support their Arts programming.

### >Creative School Fund grant winner. \$10,000 (2015)

Ingenuity and CPS’ Art Education supported our partnership with ElevArte Community Studio. Our main goal was to deepen students’ understanding of concepts in both art and non-art related subjects through art integration. Students who participated in ElevArte’s programs learned important Earth Science concepts, video editing techniques, and how to make connections between their experiences and moments in history. This partnership included professional development for teachers on arts integration, parent engagement programs, as well as two residency programs. Art for Change was an 8 week long art integrated program that focused on the Science, History and Art. PSA Video Project was a 12 week residency that integrated History, Literacy and Art, while focusing on Social Issues.

### >Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive grant \$2,000 (2015)

Our Words, Our Faces - This project was inspired by our mural project and became an extension of the story we told through our mural. Students wrote, edited, and collected immigration stories and photographs. I later designed and printed 12”x 12” hardcover books that held these stories and photographs. The book walks you through the progression of both our mural project and our immigration stories project. I later printed enlarged canvases of the pages and hung them throughout the school, as well as put the book in our libraries and display cases.

### >Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive grant \$2,000 (2013)

Our Journey - Students collaborated with families and community members to create a mural that described the journey of many Mexican American community members. The project took our students on a journey through the stories of their Mexican ancestors, their peoples’ historical icons, their families’ struggles, to the lives of the Mexican Americans today and the people thriving in it. The mural expands through three hallways within the school and visually describes life in Mexico, their journey, and life here and now in our community. This mural is a constant reminder to stand strong, be hopeful, and most importantly to be an open individual.

### >Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE) grant winner \$500 (2013)

Funded our cameras for a photography project where we photographed students and community members.

## COUNTRIES VISITED

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Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany (2), Greece (Every summer since I was a child and then lived there for 2 years), Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Poland, Spain(2), Tanzania, Thailand, Vatican City.