

# Melissa McBride

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my interest in the open position for an art educator at your school. I have received a Master of Arts in Teaching in Visual Arts Education at Columbia College Chicago, and a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. I hope you will find that my demonstrated capability in teaching and other professional experiences make me the perfect candidate to serve the students at your school.

As the sole arts educator and Arts Liaison at George Rogers Clark Elementary School, I have gained extensive experience in working cooperatively with administration, colleagues, parents, and students to deliver impactful arts education. I am an effective communicator in person and on paper, and I will work tirelessly to pursue a quality work product - be it a lesson plan, an exhibition of student work, or an arts partnership that supplements day-to-day instruction.

The cornerstone of my educational philosophy is that every student can learn important skills and dispositions through the arts that will prepare them for success in their academic, personal, and professional lives. I am committed to providing differentiated instruction to groups of students who have various needs, backgrounds, and ability levels. I believe in project-based learning that allows students to make connections to art history, see how art functions in their community, and understand how art can be used as a tool for self-expression.

I also believe it is important for students to learn from contemporary artists. At Florence Nightingale Elementary and George Rogers Clark Elementary, I led students in learning about Keith Haring, who used his artwork to communicate about issues surrounding his life and times. Students worked in groups to design life-sized artworks in figurative poses that represented their class. One figure wore a graduation cap and grasped a diploma; one proudly accepted a shiny award; a dancing figure strongly stood en pointe and completed a pirouette, and another kicked a soccer ball as he proudly hoisted a Mexican flag over his head. The students reflected on their work and compared it to the art of Keith Haring. Ultimately, in both elementary schools, the projects were installed in the hallways for the entire school to enjoy.

I am thrilled that this opportunity will allow me to capitalize on my prior knowledge and experience and share the power of art with the students at your school. Current and former supervisors, colleagues, volunteers, and board members consistently compliment my high level of organization, dedication to detail, unwavering professionalism, and strategic and creative approach to my daily work. Please refer to my resume to learn more about how I can contribute to your faculty. I thank you very much for your consideration and I look forward to having the chance to meet you for an interview.

Sincerely,

Melissa McBride