

Chester Charter School

K-12 Charter School

1200 Highland Ave
Chester, PA 19013



Total Project Costs:
NMTC Allocation:
CCG Allocation:
Closing Date:
NMTC Investor:
Status:

\$32,275,756
\$7,500,000
\$7,500,000
April 3, 2017
Chase Community Equity
Completed

Chester Charter School for the Arts (“CCSA”) previously operated out of a modified warehouse building and had students enrolled from kindergarten to 10th grade. The space presented significant limitations and due to its prior use as a warehouse, the interior layout did not adequately address the proper needs of a permanent school environment. Additionally, the building’s landlord would not renew the school’s lease. Understanding the demands for a quality academic and arts school that met needs of the community, CCSA needed to expand into a new facility that offered the space and amenities necessary to allow students to be successful while the school proceeded in a timely fashion to ensure students and enrollment were not disrupted.

Receiving \$7.5 million in NMTC allocation from CCG allowed CCSA to construct a new 90,000 square foot school building in time for the 2017-18 school year. Chase Community Equity was the NMTC investor.

The new building allows CCSA to broaden and deepen programmatic offerings through facilities built to match the needs of a K-12 integrated arts school. Situated on 11 acres of land, the three story campus includes two classrooms for each grade, break-out reading rooms on every floor, a regulation size gymnasium, a multi-media computer lab, science laboratories, dance and art studios, a cafeteria for food service and small-scale performances, as well as outdoor play structures and sports fields to provide recess and out of school activities.

The new school building can accommodate up to 650 students, representing roughly 9.3% of Chester Upland School District’s student body. Prior to adding classroom space for 11th and 12th grade, the school had enrolled 550 students.

Project Details:

- Construction of a non-profit charter school in Chester, PA

Distress Criteria:

- 42.1% Poverty Rate
- 26.3% AMI
- 14.2% Unemployment Rate
- State Enterprise Zone
- HOPE VI Redevelopment Site

Community Impacts:

- Serves 650 students annually