



AN EVENING TO BENEFIT THE HELEN C. PEIRCE  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



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**Friends of Peirce Sells Out Tickets for New Event, Welcomes Sponsors**

CHICAGO - October 25, 2017 - Friends of Peirce is proud to announce that their sold out event, *Harbor Night*, raised \$17,110 to benefit the Helen C. Peirce School of International Studies! Originated this year, the event was held on Friday, October 20th, from 7-10pm at the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club located at 601 W. Montrose Avenue. The event was co-chaired by Kate Polgar, Rene Ryan, Sara Irmén, Emily Helmke and James Gignac.

In addition, Friends of Peirce wishes to recognize our generous sponsorship partners led by [88 Brand Partners](#) and [QNA Group](#). Located in the South Loop, 88 Brand Partners is a full-service advertising and branding agency that specializes in developing strategies and communication programs for a variety of service-related organizations. QNA Group, a sister agency to 88, focuses on research and insights.

Further sponsorship support comes from [GLC](#) marketing and communications; [Joanne DeSanctis Kirk](#) real estate; [The Pinnacle Team](#) real estate; [Wellman Psychology and Associates](#); Fortune Restoration; and several Peirce families. Many local businesses and individuals have also donated valuable in-kind items to support *Harbor Night* and for raffle at the event, including [Ranalli's of Andersonville](#), [Maddiebird Bakery](#), [Morgan Anderson Photography](#), [Anna Held Floral Studio](#), and many more.

"This amazing response by parents, community members, and local businesses coming together to celebrate and support the Helen C. Peirce School of International Studies emphasizes the value the school provides to the Andersonville, Edgewater, and surrounding neighborhoods. We wanted to have a little pizza party to raise some money for the school, and this is what happened when a group of dedicated people worked together," said Kate Polgar, *Harbor Night* chairperson and volunteer with the Friends of Peirce. Over 1,000 children attend

Peirce, pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade, with more than 65 percent of families coming from low-income households.

“Events like Harbor Night, and the continuing support of the community, allow us to fund arts enrichment programming and to ensure that the resources are available for all of our students to participate fully in extracurricular activities. Without the generosity of our donors, this wouldn't be possible.,” said Joe Dunne, President of Friends of Peirce and Local School Council Chair.

“Peirce School believes in developing the whole child while having a balance of core academic classes along with integration of the arts and other enrichment opportunities for students,” said Lori Zaimi, Principal of Peirce. “Through the financial support of Friends of Peirce and events like *Harbor Night*, we are able to provide an array of programs that otherwise would not be possible,” said Zaimi.

### **About the Friends of Peirce**

Friends of Peirce is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the Helen C. Peirce School of International Studies maximize the potential of its students through providing a world-class primary education within the Chicago Public School system. Specific areas of focus for Friends of Peirce include areas of immediate and critical need, including: arts and music programming, after school programs and sports, student academic travel scholarships, school garden supplies, and much more.

*Harbor Night* joins other several other Friends of Peirce annual fundraising events, including Move-a-Thon, Hopleaf Day, and a spring party.

To learn more about ways to support *Harbor Night*, and for information on upcoming events, please visit [www.facebook.com/friendsofpeirce](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofpeirce). Donations can be made directly to Friends of Peirce at [friendsofpeirce.org](http://friendsofpeirce.org).