



Arnie Rivera

Arnaldo “Arnie” Rivera joined [Navy Pier in May 2021](#) as the Chief Administrative and Equity Officer, a newly created role. He previously served as the Chief Operating Officer for Chicago Public Schools (CPS), where he was responsible for overseeing the operations of one of the largest public school systems in the country. His responsibilities included managing 700 schools, modular buildings, annexes and administrative offices across the district. He also developed and executed the strategic planning and budget processes for more than \$2.5 billion in capital construction since 2018, the largest three-year outlay in the history of the district. Under Rivera’s leadership, CPS successfully implemented a comprehensive nutrition program, the third largest K-12 food service program in the United States, serving 62 million meals to students each year. In addition, he led several critical divisions on behalf of CPS, including student transportation, safety and security, information technology and key contract negotiations.

Rivera’s previous roles include Senior Strategic Advisor for After School Matters and Chief Operating Officer for the Chicago Public Education Fund. At After School Matters, he was responsible for the development and management of a long-term growth strategy to support the organization’s growth from 20,000 students to more than 30,000 students in a five-year period. As COO at Chicago Public Education Fund, Rivera successfully led the execution of the organization’s development strategy, helping raise \$20 million for the Fund. In addition to his work in the nonprofit space, Rivera has served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Education at the City of Chicago. He also worked as a financial analyst for Lehman Brothers, Inc. in New York City at the onset of his career. He later transited to become a CPS teacher through the Golden Apple Teacher Education (GATE) Program, an alternative teacher certification program.

In 2018, he was named to Crain’s Chicago Business’ coveted 40 under 40 list. Rivera’s Chicago area roots extend to his time as a student at Northwestern University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Master of Science in Education and Social Policy.

