



## **READ, TALK, PLAY, SING, CREATE: SUPPORTING INDIAN RIVER COUNTY'S YOUNG FAMILIES IN EARLY LITERACY THROUGH ARTS ENGAGEMENTS**

led by: Shanti Sanchez and Bridget Lyons

This session offers an immersive and interactive experience in how to creatively utilize a variety of ways to read, talk, play, sing, and create with groups in diverse settings from community events to classroom and family engagement programs. Presenters will use dramatic storytelling, call-and-response, improvisation, songs, rhythm, rhyming, puppetry, movement, and visual art creations as ways to build community and model best practices in early literacy development and play-based learning.

Additionally, presenters will share videos and data from The Learning Alliance (TLA)'s ongoing work in Indian River County. TLA is an early literacy organization whose mission includes 3rd grade reading proficiency and kindergarten readiness, with the vision for all children to become literate, compassionate, creative citizens who will improve our world. Recognizing that learning begins at birth and that a family's adults are a child's first teachers, TLA addresses the essential need to offer families resources for creating home literacy environments and providing language nutrition to their children through the arts.

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) has recognized Indian River County's Moonshot Moment Literacy Movement, managed by The Learning Alliance, with Pacesetter Honors for its work for the past ten years. More than 46 percent of Florida's students entering fourth grade are not reading proficiently, hindering their success in the classroom and beyond. About 67 percent nationwide, and more than 80 percent of those from low-income families, are not proficient readers by the end of third grade.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Shanti Sanchez has been an arts educator in Indian River County since 1987, serving as a teacher and administrator in both private and public school and community

settings, at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, and currently with The Learning Alliance as manager of Moonshot Families Early Learning.

Bridget Lyons has over 30 years of education experience, internationally and in the United States and is Arts Literacy Manager for The Learning Alliance. Both presenters have participated in UF's Arts in Medicine training programs, Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project, Music Together training, and Habla 2016 Arts Literacy Teacher Institute in Merida, Mexico. Additionally, both Shanti and Bridget have been recipients of the Cultural Council of Indian River County's Willie C. Reagan Laurel Award for Educational Leadership

## **THE ART OF HEALING**

led by: Kathryn D McAvoy

Engagement in the arts teaches teens to express themselves in a healthy manner and helps them build confidence and persistence. Art programs help foster teamwork and teach patience. Research shows teens who take art often find it easier to form social bonds, have empathy for others and develop a capacity for coping that can last a lifetime. Art can provide mental health support by teaching teens a coping skill and providing an alternative to the influence of social media.

The benefits of the arts are abundant; however, most urban teens lack access to art programs. Over the past 13 years, Kathryn McAvoy has been running art programs for under-served teens, foster children, teens in the juvenile justice system, and teens in drop-out prevention programs. She will share first-hand experiences of the influence the arts have had on depressed, anxious, traumatized, and abused teens. She has built a successful program with quantifiable data showing the positive impact the arts have made on 100s of teens. Kathryn will share ways to offer performing and visual arts as a form of disguised therapy, helping teens to take better care of their mental health and improve their social-emotional development.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Kathryn McAvoy graduated Northwestern University, with a B.A. degree in Communications prior to receiving an M.B.A. degree from Jacksonville University. While Kathryn is an entrepreneur, she is also serious about community and arts. In 2010, Kathryn opened The Performers Academy, a non-profit art center. "I want a place where all kids can get connected - connected with other talented kids, connected to professional artists, and mentors, and connected with the Arts. Art helps bridge the gap

in our community. Art helps heal our community." In 2012, TPA began a partnership with Family Support Systems and has been working with youth in the foster system using arts as a source of healing. In addition to teens in the welfare system, she has also worked with at-risk youth in the juvenile justice system and alternative schools. Over the past 13 years Kathryn has helped 100's of teens change their lives through the arts. Kathryn also serves on many nonprofit boards including several schools, The Mayor's Film and Television Advisory Board, the Jacksonville Film Festival, and the Jacksonville Zoo.

## **COMMUNITY ARTS COLLABORATIONS**

led by: Nancy Bethea

Longing to expand an arts program in your community? Looking to work with educators at other schools or community organizations? This session will show you how one middle school arts program connected with community educational institutions and arts organizations to provide a richer artistic experience for students.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Nancy Lee Bethea is Director of Creative Writing at LaVilla School of the Arts and a professional writer and editor. She is a National Board Certified Teacher who loves helping young writers find their voice.

## **DEVELOPING A TEACHER LEADERSHIP TEAM: ADVOCACY, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND NEW TEACHER SUPPORT**

led by: Laura Hobby

What is the best way to develop a team of support for the arts? Find adult volunteers for community events? Grow advocacy for fine arts education in your district or school? Go straight to the teacher leaders in your schools! Join Laura Hobby, Hillsborough County's Art Supervisor, for a session on how to identify teacher leaders in your county, set up a teacher leadership team, and develop stellar fine arts teachers into the pacesetters for your area. Topics will include new types of agendas that work "on the fly," practical ideas for meetings with value, and creating a collaborative team. Some of the ideas shared in this session include practical application of practices from *The New School Rules* by Anthony Kim and Alexis Gonzalez-Black and others are approaches gained through many years of experience working with volunteers. Not only will you

learn strategies that work when developing your own teacher leadership team; you will also receive tips to avoid making vital errors while starting on the path to success with a team of teacher leaders who are committed to supporting fine arts education. Skills gained in this class will be easily transferable to a school site or community centers.

PRESENTER BIO:

Laura Hobby currently serves as K-12 Visual Arts and Theatre Supervisor for the Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) in Tampa, Florida. She proudly joined the district administrative staff of the seventh largest school district in the United States following 25 years in the classroom where she taught in grades kindergarten through fifth, gifted, visual art and college level methods courses. When she is not busy managing HCPS' 265 art and drama teachers at 190 school sites, Laura spends time as a working artist producing oil paintings and handwork using fiber arts.

## **DANCE AS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE: AN INNOVATIVE ARTS-LITERACY PARTNERSHIP**

led by: Debbi Arseneaux

How can an arts organization and an education non-profit work together to tackle our national literacy crisis, improve access to higher education for young dancers, and provide professional experience to grow both artists and educators for the creative workforce? Learn about a unique collaboration that aims to support and grow learners at all levels. In one initiative, we go beyond arts access to truly arts integrated learning for elementary students across an entire county, and in another initiative, a state college joins the effort to ensure dancers at the start of their career get the education and training they need to thrive. Join us to explore what's possible in your context when you consider bringing unexpected partners into the conversation.

PRESENTER BIO:

Debbi Arseneaux is currently the Extended Learning Program Manager and a Creative Education Consultant for The Learning Alliance in Vero Beach, Florida. Previously, she was a classroom teacher in the Washington DC Public School District and worked as a professional Theatre Director, Stage Manager, Producer, and freelance Teaching Artist specializing in Arts Integration in the DC area for over 15 years. She was a company member of 2 Helen Hayes Award winning theatre companies and founded her own youth education theatre organization. She is passionately committed to cultivating a both/and mindset when it comes to integrating the arts and learning, particularly

literacy. She received a B.A. in Theatre from the College of William & Mary and a M.A. with a focus on arts integration and early literacy development from Goddard College.

## **“I BROUGHT MY PENCIL, BUT I PROBABLY WON’T USE IT”- RE-IMAGING ENGAGEMENT POST PANDEMIC (POST IAN)**

led by: Scott Courtney, PhD

2023: Post-pandemic, post-Hurricane Ian. The national perception is a lost generation with test scores falling, discipline out of control, work ethic minimal, and absences increasing. The motivation to thrive has been replaced with a mundane desire to just survive. Answers to nearly every question can be found online. Great students now live on study guides, rubrics state the minimum needed for an A, and sometimes missing homework gets credited at 50%. Motivational articles describe students with a limited desire for engagement, practice, or the hard work needed for mastery in school, let alone the arts. Quitting the arts is acceptable because it's just too hard. The pottery project, theater performance, or trumpet solo requires more effort than the student desires to give.

Perhaps a paradigm shift is needed and not with a pep talk or statistical data. This session will discuss the concept of attention and commitment as related to how students are engaged. High attention in class, but a low commitment to success continues the muddled mass of ritual compliance in education. It literally has become, “I brought my pencil, but I probably won’t use it”. This session will explore the relationship between high commitment and high attention, which is both the beginning and sustaining factor of engagement.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Scott Courtney is the director of music at Punta Gorda Middle School and adjunct faculty at Florida Southwestern and Florida Gateway Colleges. Scott received his B.A. from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and M.M. Ed from the Boston Conservatory. Dr. Courtney completed his Ph.D. in music education at the University of Hawai'i Manoa where he served as a lecturer in music education, directed the marching band, and played with the Honolulu Symphony.

Principal research areas have included comparative education and world music. Time spent in Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan, has made possible the study of Balinese/Javanese gamelan, taiko and the publication of research in these areas. Scott is an active clinician in the marching arts, adjudicator with FFCC percussion, and

recently began another PhD in Asian Studies. While this all sounds quite formal, he's really just a happy Hawaiian living in Florida that loves teaching and sharing music, his four super cool kids, and living with aloha each day.

## **UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

led by: Erin Kendrick & Kim Kuta Dring

Join us for a transformative workshop experience where you will learn about the innovative partnership between the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) that engaged afterschool program students in a dynamic museum field trip and outreach program. This program empowered JAMS' visual art students of House Savage to write, illustrate, design, and publish their own original book, *The Book of Lost Magic*, set in the Museum Gardens. This epic tale follows the journey of four diverse teenagers on a quest to locate a magical book.

Discover the unique approach to student-led projects and family engagement through community partnerships that resulted in the creation of a one-of-a-kind StoryWalk(R), an interactive experience showcasing chapters from the book and student-designed imagery, located in the historically-significant Cummer Museum Gardens.

By attending this workshop, you will learn about the benefits of this type of collaboration and how you can foster and support authentic creative projects that engage students and families in new and exciting ways. This workshop is a must-attend for educators, museum professionals, and anyone interested in fostering real-world project experiences through creative partnerships. Don't miss this opportunity to unlock the magic of creative collaboration!

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Erin Kendrick is a multi-faceted visual artist and arts educator based in Jacksonville, Florida. As the Director of Education and Visual Art Instructor at the Jacksonville Arts & Music School, she has dedicated herself to fostering creativity and self-expression in her students. In addition, Erin is an Adjunct Professor at Flagler College, where she teaches in the School of Creative Arts & Letters. Her exceptional teaching skills and contributions to the arts have earned her numerous accolades, including the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Art Educator of the Year award in 2019 and recognition as the Best Art Educator by Folio Weekly in both 2019 and 2022. Erin has also received grants and residencies from a variety of institutions, including Moving the Margins, the Crisp-Ellert Museum of Art (CEAM) Art Residency, and the Jackie

Cornelious Teaching Residency at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. As an artist, Erin is committed to supporting the professional growth of her peers through her initiative, “Artists Types.” This program provides workshops, mini-courses, and resources for CV writing, artist statements, proposals, and more to help artists advance their careers. For Erin, art is not just a product but a way of life, and she strives to inspire this mindset in her students, embodying Elbert Hubbard’s famous quote, “Art is not a thing. It is a way.”

Kim Kuta Dring, MS, is an experienced leader in the world of museum education. As the Director of Learning & Engagement at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens in Jacksonville, FL, she leads a dynamic team in creating innovative programs, exhibitions, and partnerships that bring art to life for audiences of all ages. With a background in biology and a passion for education, Kim has honed her expertise in non-profit education through her work at nature centers and children's museums. She brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to accessibility and engagement to her role at the Cummer. Since joining the Museum in 2018, Kim has been instrumental in shaping its vision for learning and community engagement. She has launched new programs for adult learners, developed interactive exhibitions that enhance the visitor experience, and spearhead the "Cummer in the Community" initiative, which extends the Museum's reach into the wider community. Kim's leadership and creativity have earned her recognition as a leader in the field of museum education. Under her guidance, the Cummer continues to offer a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that embodies the values of quality, access, and fun.

## **WHAT CAN YOUR LAA DO FOR YOU? HOW LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES AND ARTS ADMINISTRATORS CAN SUPPORT EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS**

led by: Sahara Lyon

What the heck is an LAA? Local Arts Agencies are umbrella arts organizations that represent a city, county, or region. In Florida, there are 62 LAAs according to the Florida State Division of Arts and Culture, yet many people don't even know that their city or county's LAA exists. Local Arts Agencies support, advocate for, and promote artists, arts organizations, community members, and so much more. In addition, a major portion of LAA's work is focused on arts education. LAAs exist to serve the community in which they reside, and they compile and make accessible a variety of excellent resources for teachers, students, and parents.

In addition to supporting, advocating for, and promoting arts and culture, LAAs exist in the world of arts administration, an ever important and changing career path for many arts inclined students. The partnership between LAAs and arts educators cannot only provide vital resources for students, parents, and teachers; it can also introduce students to arts administration as a future career option, closing the gap between arts education, arts administration, and artistic expression.

In this workshop, I will discuss the purpose of Local Arts Agencies; the role they play in arts education, how they can help you, and how you can get involved. I'll discuss the changing field of arts administration and the role that LAAs play in connecting students and teachers to administrative resources.

#### PRESENTER BIO:

Sahara Lyon is originally from Sarasota, Florida, but moved to Tallahassee six years ago in order to complete her bachelor's and master's degrees. While completing her master's in art history from Florida State University, she worked as a Museum Educator at The Grove Museum in Tallahassee, Florida. This position first ignited her passion for education and public programming. After graduating in 2022, Sahara began working as the Arts Education Manager for COCA, The Council on Culture and Arts, in Tallahassee. COCA is the Local Arts Agency for the capital city, and her experience working with arts teachers, students, public educators, and community leaders has further affirmed her love for arts education and the importance of arts education in our communities.

## **THE ART OF LEADERSHIP: HOW TO ASSESS CREATIVITY, CREATIVELY**

led by: Ebonique Brooks

What a Leader is a competition that cultivates students' proficiencies in the areas of confidence, critical thinking, interpersonal communication, professionalism, and relationship building. Through a series of challenges mimicking real-world experiences, students must demonstrate their ability to properly introduce themselves and engage in meaningful, results-oriented conversation. They will learn to network intentionally with cohorts and stakeholders, develop a marketable idea, and conduct themselves in a high-pressured environment. All of which will strengthen our students' ability to be more effective leaders today and the global leaders of tomorrow.



#### PRESENTER BIO:

Ebonique Brooks is an experienced educational leader, arts advocate and "neo-soul educator." As Associate Director of Education at JAMS, she brings 5+ years of experience in instructional leadership, coaching, administration, and artistry. Ebonique's goal is to break down traditional teaching boundaries and promote equity for all students.

## **PLAYING WITH PATTERNS: EXPLORING AFRICAN RHYTHM, SONG, DANCE, AND ARTS**

led by: Nzingah Oniwosan

Join Nzingah Oniwosan as she guides you in "Playing with Patterns." In this session you will learn how to explore patterns from early childhood to higher education through the West African Dance, Song, Rhythm, and Arts. You will also discuss and learn how patterns help students to understand change and show how elements repeat in a logical way. Moreover, how patterns lead to higher level thinking and helps children with later mathematical skills such as algebra and logic. Be prepared to dance, sing, create and sing.

#### PRESENTER BIO:

Nzingah Oniwosan is considered a Renaissance artist, as she is talented in several art disciplines. She is an award-winning visual artist, a classically trained pianist and bass clarinetist, a published poet, actress and an African and Haitian Folklore dancer. She has worked with well over 250,000 students, nationally and internationally, led several professional development arts integration workshops for teachers, and showcased how to work with people with special needs as an advocate for those with disabilities. Nzingah's work as a teaching artist has a cultural emphasis, attributed to her Haitian background, as well as her connection to her African heritage. She believes that through an appreciation of one's culture, in addition to the culture of others, high self-esteem and improved social skills can be nurtured in children and adults, planting the seed of creativity that makes a profound impact on the way people think and interact with one another. Most recently she earned Master Teaching Artist designation status through Broward Cultural Division's Teaching Artist Credentialing program, and is a member of their arts education faculty.

## **BRING THE “SOCIAL” BACK TO “SOCIAL DANCING”**

led by: Lori Madl

In the era of COVID-19, there was an explosion of Tik-Tok Dance challenges because people could not congregate as usual to social dance. Our students were greatly affected by the loss of social interaction. This session focuses on bringing back the “social” part of dance while introducing basic dance and partnering concepts. You will be moving and meeting others while we explore the socialization of dance. This lesson is for dancers of all levels. If you can walk, you can successfully participate in this workshop. Dance experience is not necessary! This is a great team-building event suitable for any classroom. A lesson plan will be provided for those who want to take the lesson with them.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Lori Madl holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Kansas (KU), and an M.A. in Arts Administration from Indiana University (IU). Ms. Madl holds a Florida professional teaching certificate K – 12 in Dance, has been teaching K- 8 dance for 13 years at North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, in the Lee County School District. She also has over a decade of teaching dance in private studios. Her teaching experience also includes being Associate Instructor for the African American Dance Company and teaching modern dance while at IU. Ms. Madl performed and choreographed professionally with the Prairie Wind Dancers bringing dance education and performance to schools in Kansas and Missouri. This experience ignited her passion for arts integration.

Ms. Madl serves as Secretary of the Florida Dance Educator Organization, Co-Chair of the National Honors Society for Dance Arts Florida committee, and is the dance liaison to FAAE. Madl has presented at the FDEO teachers Conference at Miami City Ballet 2015, the FAAE Summit in Daytona, and several Arts Integration Symposia hosted by FAAE.

In the Lee County School District, Ms. Madl is a the Subject Area Specialist for Dance, a Mentor Teacher, participated in the federally funded AIM grant training for Arts Integration, co-wrote the district academic plans for Middle school Dance 1 & 2, and trained three times in “Cadre” to conduct classes for county teachers in yearly trainings. Her students received “Excellent” ratings at FDPA and 1st place awards at dance competitions. Since 2010, she has choreographed and organized an annual Nutcracker performance that includes all NFMAA dance students grades 4 – 8 and selected students K-3. The cast of approximately 300 performs at the professional venue, Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, a 1,800 seat facility.

## **CULTIVATING EMPATHY THROUGH THE AVANT-GARDE**

led by: Julian Bryson

Have you ever reflected on the exact moment when you chose your favorite song? Have you wondered why you like the music you love or despise the music you hate? This interactive session will begin by considering these questions in the context of research by Leonid Perlovsky on the evolutionary origins of music and Josh McDermott on western preference for tonal and consonant sounds. Building on their research, we will explore musical preferences as a metaphor for other socially conditioned implicit biases including racism, sexism, and homophobia.

Gaining awareness of how humans develop preferences is helpful but learning how to adjust and resist those preferences is far more valuable. Scores of researchers across a variety of disciplines have cited empathy training as an important key for mitigating implicit bias. Studying and performing non-tonal and avant-garde music allow students and audiences to practice and develop the elusive skill of empathy.

In this session, participants will experience segments from several avant-garde works including Matthew Brown's "Demon", Meredith Monk's "Panda Chant", Fahad Siadat's "Living Meditation", and Catherine Dalton's "Today will be warm". Before and after each excerpt, participants will reflect on the RIBS of empathy: "R"esist judgment, "I"nvite information, "B"e present, "S"tay curious.

By challenging our individual definitions of "good" music, we learn how to suspend judgment, sit with discomfort, think creatively, ask difficult questions, and value ideals that differ from our own. In short, unfamiliar art becomes a metaphor for unfamiliar people and cultures, allowing us to build truly inclusive artistic communities.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Julian David Bryson is Director of Choral Activities at Jacksonville University and a founding member of Triad: Boston's Choral Collective. His responsibilities at JU include directing three choirs and teaching courses in music education, conducting, music appreciation, and musical theatre. Previous musical experiences have included teaching elementary, middle, and high school musicians, building a collegiate music program in Massachusetts, and collaborating from the piano with community choruses, All-State choirs, and private voice lessons. Additionally, he has led church music programs across Appalachia, including a life-changing and eye-opening year directing the choir of a small, African American church in Martinsville, VA. Through these experiences, Dr. Bryson has come to recognize many of his own biases, knowing that many more stand

in need of discovery. He believes music offers a powerful opportunity to reveal our personal flaws and work toward a more equitable future.

A commissioned composer and arranger, Julian's works have won multiple awards, commissions, and performances and frequently highlight the intersection of traditionally opposed worlds. His works are published via Music Spoke and JulianBryson.com.

## **MAKING COMICS WITH ESOL STUDENTS**

led by: Anthony Aiuppy

How well do your ESOL students communicate? Probably better than you think. Even through language barriers, ESOL students thrive at communicating in non-verbal and often visual ways in the classroom. By combining words and pictures to create comics, my students have been making art and practicing their English language skills to create personal, hilarious, and endearing tales. Join me as we take a look at how the visual form of comics can help your ESOL students grow their language and art muscles in tandem. We will take a look at (and make): Poetry comics, Autobiographical/Diary comics, and Story/Adventure comics.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Anthony Aiuppy writes, draws and makes zines and comics when he isn't teaching or spending time with his family. An art educator for a decade, Aiuppy learns and grows as much from his students with every class he teaches, whether as a museum educator, college faculty, or most recently as an art teacher in the public schools. His interests are wide and varied, including southern gothic literature and indie and underground comics. He lives and works in Duval County, Florida.

## **ARTS EDUCATION IN A DIVERSE CULTURE**

led by: Edna Bland

With knowing the transformative power of the arts has on students, research has shown over the decades that access to arts programs are not equitable for all populations such as people of color, disabilities, sexual orientation and social economic status in order for all to receive a well-rounded education. In this workshop, we will start the conversation and strategize on how to recruit, promote and implement a

diverse, equity and inclusion students in order build a more successful arts education program.

PRESENTER BIO:

Edna M. Bland “Miss Edna” is a certified educator, teaching artist and puppeteer who has honed her craft at The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, and Lincoln Center Education’s Juilliard School.

As a puppeteer, she was mentored by Carroll Spinney, “Big Bird” of Sesame Street. She was honored to be one of the exhibiting artists for the Ballard Institute and Museum’s Living Objects: Celebration of African American Puppetry at the University of Connecticut. She also had the privilege to be a puppeteer for Jane Henson’s Nativity for two touring seasons. Edna is the creator of the edutainment brands, Lovely Day Creative Arts, and Sock n’ Sew Puppets. In 2021, she was one of the recipients to receive the 400 Distinguished Award by the US Congress commemorating the 400 years of African American History for her work as an educator and teaching artist serving her community.

As an arts advocate she serves as a board member for Florida Association for Theatre Education (FATE) and Puppeteers of America (PoA). Chairs: Florida Jr. Thespian District 2, PoA’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and FATE Middle Schools.

She is currently a theatre arts instructor at a fine arts magnet school in Sanford, Florida where she is credited with having the only puppetry arts elective program in the nation.

## **EMPOWERING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH THE ARTS**

led by: Paisley Gibson

The lack of quality arts access, exposure to the arts, and resources to implement artistic practices in most public schools is a gross injustice that impacts broader social issues. Academic achievement gaps, social emotional development patterns, and cultivation of school culture are key concepts at the root of this investigation. We understand arts-based curriculum as an invaluable strategy in bridging these gaps and engendering social change. In this session we will explore new paradigms, approaches and methodologies that engender social justice through arts-based learning.

PRESENTER BIO:

A native of Savannah, GA Paisley experienced the transformative power of participation in the arts at an early age. She has a BFA degree in dance performance and an MFA in choreography from Jacksonville University. Paisley has more than a decade of experience working as a dance education specialist and teaching arts for various organizations and school districts. This experience has allowed her to for design and implement arts integrated curriculum and numerous after-school dance programs in Duval County, FL. in 2021 Paisley joined Crossroads Dance Indy, a modern dance company based in Indianapolis, where she performs and choreographs professional work for the stage.

## **DO AS YOU DO, DO AS YOU SAY - ACTIVATING VOICE AND CHOICE IN ARTMAKING**

led by: Erin Kendrick

This workshop is designed to help art teachers incorporate semiotics and storytelling into their lessons, promoting student creativity and artistic voice. Too often, art students lack the ability to create a body of work that truly represents their own perspectives and styles. This is due to a lack of control over subject matter, media, and other elements of their projects. By incorporating semiotics and storytelling, teachers can give students more choices and help them find their unique artistic voice.

Choice is crucial in art as it empowers students, improves their self-esteem, and helps them express their ideas, thoughts, and emotions through their artwork. The concept of "voice" in art refers to the artist's unique perspective, style, and personal expression. It can also refer to the underlying message or theme in the artwork. By understanding semiotics and using narrative effectively, students can connect their works of art and communicate their ideas more thoughtfully to their audience.

In summary, this workshop will provide tips and techniques that art teachers can use to foster creativity and individual expression in their students. By incorporating semiotics and storytelling, students will have more choices and find their own artistic voice, which is essential for effective communication and self-expression through art.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Erin Kendrick is a multi-faceted visual artist and arts educator based in Jacksonville, Florida. As the Director of Education and Visual Art Instructor at the Jacksonville Arts & Music School, she has dedicated herself to fostering creativity and self-expression in

her students. In addition, Erin is an Adjunct Professor at Flagler College, where she teaches in the School of Creative Arts & Letters.

Her exceptional teaching skills and contributions to the arts have earned her numerous accolades, including the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Art Educator of the Year award in 2019 and recognition as the Best Art Educator by Folio Weekly in both 2019 and 2022. Erin has also received grants and residencies from a variety of institutions, including Moving the Margins, the Crisp-Ellert Museum of Art (CEAM) Art Residency, and the Jackie Cornelious Teaching Residency at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

As an artist, Erin is committed to supporting the professional growth of her peers through her initiative, Artist Types. This program provides workshops, mini-courses, and resources for CV writing, artist statements, proposals, and more to help artists advance their careers.

For Erin, art is not just a product but a way of life, and she strives to inspire this mindset in her students, embodying Elbert Hubbard's famous quote, "Art is not a thing. It is a way."

## **ART OF COMMUNITY**

led by: Janet Erlick & Carrie Sue Ayvar

Nationally accredited teaching artists Carrie Sue Ayvar and Janet Erlick explore how the arts can be used to build a sense of community, strengthen group dynamics, discuss difficult topics with respect and openness, and build connections among people from very different perspectives. Activities will be experiential and represent a multiplicity of artistic disciplines. The workshop will cover how to adapt lessons for different ages and abilities, and offerings may be immediately implemented by attendees in their own work.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Collectively Janet Erlick and Carrie Sue Ayvar have over a half century of experience in arts education, as Executive Artistic Director of Florida Children's Theatre and an internationally renowned storyteller respectively. They are the only people to hold the endorsement of master teaching artists through the South Florida Cultural Consortium and are the only professionals from the southeastern United States to be nationally credentialed by Young Audiences/ Arts for Learning. Both have received numerous

awards and accolades for their ongoing work in a variety of educational, cultural and social service settings.

## **THE HEALING POWER OF PERFORMANCE**

led by: Darby Lynn

The arts in all their forms serve to replenish and sustain the spirit and heal the body-mind. Participants will practice integrated methodologies of movement, sound and spoken word for expressing a diversity of human experiences, ideas and feelings in a safe and open environment. Discover the therapeutic powers of spontaneous expression - a creative and fun way for elevating confidence and self-esteem, so crucial to the learning process. Power of Performance™ profoundly taps into Intuitive and Emotional Intelligence to enhance a student's social-emotional health, helping them to relieve stress or to make wholesome choices. Creative movement, combined with vocal expression and music, helps the child bring these things into focus and opens the possibility of new options. Spontaneous mental, emotional and physical expression of their ideas and life experiences can reveal blocked feelings and disoriented energies. This integrated form used to portray their ideas and life experiences can cultivate needed life skills of communication and discernment while building cooperation, reliance and personal connections. Discover ways for ensuring equanimity, sensitivity and allowance of critical issues that personal stories may present.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Darby Lynn, M.Ed. is an accomplished Integrated Arts Practitioner, Dramatist and Movement Theatre Specialist and with expertise in program and curriculum design, experiential learning modalities and inter-disciplinary art applications. Among many credentials, she boasts a B.S. Degree in Education, an M. Ed. Degree in Counseling Psychology, and Master Teaching Artist and Playback Theatre Certifications, as well as certification in Classical Mime and Transpersonal Psychology and Gestalt Work. Darby is one of a select few chosen by The Kennedy Center to lead their Arts as Education workshops for teachers. Her in-depth knowledge and facility of body language and expressive communication was born out of her extensive training with Marcel Marceau and many notable masters of theater, dance, mime and movement arts. She has received numerous grant awards and commissions that have benefitted educators, artists, health and human service and business professionals, and thousands of students of all ages, in the fields of arts in education, in medicine and public health, in prevention and intervention.



## **AUTHENTIC PERFORMANCE PROJECTS: IMPACT, IMPORTANCE, AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

led by: Ruth Chiasson

An argument and practical advice for requiring live audience performance projects in arts classes even or maybe especially when the classes include students for whom it was not their first choice. Topics addressed will include:

- Impact on student efficacy, practice, knowledge, ability, confidence.
- Anecdotal experience for Middle and High school student groups including students with severe mental handicaps.
- Practical application suggestions/plan for how to provide this experience for students even outside of arts classrooms.
- Linked to project-based learning.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Ruth Chiasson grew up around the arts--both parents are professional musicians. She has enjoyed experience with a variety of arts experiences throughout her lifetime including: learning violin and participating in collegiate orchestra, chorus and show choir in high school and college, a variety of dance styles and classes in high school. In her professional career she has taught theatre at the high school level for seven years including the following courses: Intro to Drama, Theatre 1-4, Technical Theatre, Musical Theatre, and Visual and Performing Arts for Students with disabilities. Currently, Ruth teaches AVID & IB Design at Roland Park K-8, co-directs the schoolwide theatre program with Mr. and Mrs. Steinfeld and sponsors the Jr. Thespian Troupe.

## **UTILIZING PLASTER IN THE K-12TH CLASSROOM**

led by: Aisling Millar McDonald

During this workshop participants will see demonstrations on how to use plaster in a variety of lessons that are appropriate from Pre-K – 12th grade students.

Participants will learn various ways that plaster can be utilized within the K-12th classroom. Participants will learn how to mix plaster, how to create a simple or more complex castings, and some safety precautions necessary when it comes to creating with plaster.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Aisling Millar was born in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Florida in 1994. She graduated with BA in Education and a BFA in Ceramics and Sculpture from the University of North Florida. She also received her MFA in Sculpture from East Carolina University. Aisling was the Instructor of Record at East Carolina University while working towards her MFA. She has also taught visual arts for Duval County Public Schools, MOCA Jacksonville, the Cathedral Arts Project, and many other local organizations. She is currently the Atelierista at the University of North Florida preschool, an Adjunct Professor of 3-D Design at the University of North Florida and teaches a summer intensive course in Art Education at the University of Florida.

Aisling was the recipient of an Art Ventures Grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida. She creates outdoor steel sculptures that are exhibited throughout the eastern United States. These works focus on connecting with Aisling with her Irish heritage and the celebration of communities uniting and supporting each other. Along with outdoor sculpture, Aisling also creates ceramic sculptures and wall-hangings that utilize texture to create a visual and emotional diary, cast iron wall hangings, and ceramic mosaics for both public and private commissions.

Aisling has completed local public sculpture commissions for the City of Amelia Island, FL, the City of Atlantic Beach, FL, and the Jax Chamber along with many private businesses. Her work is also in public collections in Greenville, NC, and Macon, GA. To view more of Aisling's work, please visit [www.aislingmillar.com](http://www.aislingmillar.com).

## **PUPPETRY ARTS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS**

Led by Edna Bland

The arts are the perfect solution for instilling the 4 Cs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills of Communication, Cooperation, Critical Thinking and Creativity. This workshop will share how using puppetry can be used to help develop these skills from young children to adults. From social emotional learning to reinforcing core content, puppetry as a part of theatre arts touches on Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences.

### PRESENTER BIO:

Edna M. Bland "Miss Edna" is a certified educator, teaching artist and puppeteer who has honed her craft at The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare's Globe Theater, and Lincoln Center Education's Juilliard School.

As a puppeteer, she was mentored by Carroll Spinney, “Big Bird” of Sesame Street. She was honored to be one of the exhibiting artists for the Ballard Institute and Museum’s Living Objects: Celebration of African American Puppetry at the University of Connecticut. She also had the privilege to be a puppeteer for Jane Henson’s Nativity for two touring seasons. Edna is the creator of the edutainment brands, Lovely Day Creative Arts, and Sock n’ Sew Puppets. In 2021, she was one of the recipients to receive the 400 Distinguished Award by the US Congress commemorating the 400 years of African American History for her work as an educator and teaching artist serving her community.

As an arts advocate she serves as a board member for Florida Association for Theatre Education (FATE) and Puppeteers of America (PoA). Chairs: Florida Jr. Thespian District 2, PoA’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and FATE Middle Schools.

She is currently a theatre arts instructor at a fine arts magnet school in Sanford, Florida where she is credited with having the only puppetry arts elective program in the nation.

## **VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FOR SCHOOLS OF THE ARTS**

led by: Jane Condon

How Principal Jane Condon transformed a failing program into a nationally recognized high school for the visual and performing arts and developed an equivalent middle school for the arts from the ground up.

### **PRESENTER BIO:**

Jane Condon served eleven years as principal of Duval County Public Schools before being assigned to take over magnet school Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DA) after its floundering first year. Under Jane’s vision and leadership, Douglas Anderson quickly became one of the top-ranked arts schools in the nation.

After 10 years of success at DA, Jane was asked to design a middle school of the arts to provide students with the background to meet the challenges of DA. Jane worked with top-ranked local architects and construction firms to design and build LaVilla School of the Arts from the ground up.

Douglas Anderson and LaVilla are true success stories in Northeast Florida and continue to be highly regarded in arts education circles all over the world. Both these schools remain the cultural lifeblood of Northeast Florida Arts education, sending

talented young adults into professional-level performance or into the best colleges and universities in the world: The Juilliard School, Carnegie-Mellon, Hofstra, Parsons School of Design, Pratt, and Berklee, to name a few. Jane is fondly remembered by and still in touch with thousands of alumni from these schools, as well as many of their parents.

In shepherding these schools to excellence, Jane became an expert at negotiating with political adversaries, finding funding, managing faculty, gaining parents' trust, and challenging students to ever-higher achievement. Now retired, Jane offers invaluable advice for any challenge schools may face. She is a master at de-escalating conflict, preventive discipline with students and employees, and crafting a public image for an organization that will gain public trust.