

2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Retreat

Monday, August 13 - Tuesday, August 14, 2018
Allenberry Resort
Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

Proceedings

Teaching artists become more knowledgeable in their field by convening regularly as a network of peers to share best practices and emerging trends in arts learning. Sponsored by the Delaware Division of the Arts, Maryland State Arts Council, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Virginia Commission for the Arts and West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, the inaugural 2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Retreat brought together arts education professionals from across the Mid-Atlantic region to build and strengthen a regional network of high-quality teaching artists. Approximately 60 teaching artists—10 from each of the six participating Mid-Atlantic states—participated in this day-and-a-half professional development event, which took place in a bucolic setting near the halfway point of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania's Blue Ridge Mountains. Intended for teaching artists of all experience levels working in K-12 education settings, this retreat was designed to:

- help teaching artists build their businesses;
- offer inspiration for teaching artists' creative practices;
- introduce big-picture trends in arts education, and help teaching artists adapt them to their practices;
- connect teaching artists with colleagues across the Mid-Atlantic region.

[Speaker and Presenter Bios](#)

Monday, August 13

The 2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat opened with an inspiring, motivational keynote address by artist and entrepreneur Gina Lyles from Richmond, Virginia. Poet, singer, rapper and youth empowerment coach, Gina's personal narrative, based on her experiences with incarceration, motherhood and work as an arts educator, underscored her powerful message: Art saves lives! Her keynote remarks culminated with a moving song and kicked off the retreat on a truly inspirational note.

Keynote remarks were followed by four breakout sessions, each featuring a different perspective on the how-to of the teaching artist profession. Designed to help participants build their skills as entrepreneurs or advocates, these four concurrent tool-sharing workshops featured deep dives into residency planning, marketing, entrepreneurial skills and advocacy and offered practical tips and tools of the trade. These breakout sessions were largely peer-driven; many of the presenters were also participants in the retreat, representing a variety of disciplines and participating states.

After a short break, participants then chose one of two sessions dedicated to opportunities for teaching artists at the regional and national level, designed to support teaching artists in building networks and achieving recognition beyond their local communities. Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA) cochairs Sue Trainor and Jennifer Ridgway introduced this new organization founded by and for teaching artists of the region to empower teaching artists' best work while advocating for policies that support their profession. Participants learned about the emerging organization's agenda and divided into small groups to discuss how they might participate and benefit from TAMA's work. Young Audiences' National Residency Teaching Artist Credential project director Susan Oetgen and teaching artist Khaleshia Thorpe-Price introduced a new national credential and professional development initiative offered by Young Audiences Arts for Learning (YA) that is currently being piloted within the YA network of affiliates. Session participants examined and offered feedback on credential components (Four Competencies Rubric, Required Evidence), and contributed ideas to the design of a professional development piece to support teaching artists across the country who might wish to apply for this credential in the future.

Making time to make art is essential to teaching artists' continued professional development, as well as to their self-care and well-being. Following another short break, a series of four pop-up art labs took place to support these goals. Art supplies were provided, and participants were invited to bring their own favorite materials and musical instruments, etc. Participants chose which of the art labs they wished to attend, and were able to come and go from all four labs as they wished, nurturing their creativity and sharing inspiration with others.

After Day One planned activities concluded, participants had dinner on their own, followed by an outdoor coffee and cookies reception on the patio. This informal meet-and-greet, offered so that participants could share impressions and insights from Day One, turned into a lively jam session and dance party, carrying the vibrant energy of fellowship generated from the pop-up art labs into the evening, and Day Two's activities.

Resources:

- Nuts and Bolts sessions presentations:
 - [Residency Planning, Teaching Artist Guide](#)
 - [Marketing](#)
 - [Entrepreneurial Skills](#)
 - [Advocacy](#)
- [Young Audiences Arts for Learning National Residency Teaching Artist Credential](#)

AGENDA:

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration

12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch, Opening Plenary & Keynote
Gina Lyles, Founder & Director, So Focused Consulting, LLC, and
Program Manager, Juvenile Justice Programs, Art 180

Emcees: Sheila Dean Ross, Program Officer, Arts Education and Accessibility, Delaware Division of the Arts; Porché Hardy, Program Officer, New Jersey State Council on the Arts; and Jim Wolfe, Arts in Education Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: The Nuts & Bolts of Teaching Artistry

Residency Planning

Facilitator: Kim Graham, Education Director, Christina Cultural Arts Center

Marketing

Facilitator: Sean King, Principal, Aspire Arts & Events Marketing

Entrepreneurial Skills

Facilitators: Sheikia Norris, Painted Purple; and Wincey Terry, Chief Executive Officer, Winceyco

Advocacy

Facilitator: Jeff Poulin, Arts Education Program Manager, Americans for the Arts

3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Opportunities for Teaching Artists at the Regional & National Levels

Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic: We're Stronger Together

Presenters: Sue Trainor and Jennifer Ridgeway, Cochairs, Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic

Young Audiences Arts for Learning National Residency Teaching Artist Credential

Presenters: Susan Oetgen, Project Consultant, Young Audiences Arts for Learning; and Khaleshia Thorpe-Price, Teaching Artist, Young Audiences of Maryland

4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

Pop-Up Art Labs

Poetry

Facilitator: JoAnn Balingit, Teaching Artist

Drumming, Percussion & Music

Facilitator: Joe Tayoun, Teaching Artist

Dance

Facilitator: Jason Reed, Teaching Artist

Painting – The Circle Project

Facilitator: Deb Hansen, Teaching Artist

5:45 p.m.

End of Day One

8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Coffee & Cookies Reception

Tuesday, August 14

Day Two began with a working breakfast. Participants grouped themselves according to which state arts agency they worked with, and each state arts agency arts education manager led a "local" discussion with teaching artists to discuss funding and professional development opportunities for arts education professionals in each state and across the Mid-Atlantic region.

After breakfast, participants gathered for a plenary panel featuring four arts education professionals working with non-neurotypical learner communities, specifically with special education students, veterans, incarcerated people and seniors. The panelists were themselves either practicing teaching artists or arts administrators who work closely with teaching artists; they shared insights and action steps for how teaching artists could bring this applied knowledge into other contexts and expand their practice into the wider world of arts learning beyond the traditional K-12 classroom setting. A brief Q&A followed the panel discussion, and then participants chose one deep-dive session to attend based on the topics represented by the panel.

To conclude the retreat, all participants gathered again in a plenary session for a final experiential activity. Participants received index cards for recording their impressions and reflections of the retreat, and then found a place on the lawn outside to divide into mixed groups. Each group threw a ball of yarn around the group, sharing their impressions and reflections, and creating a living sculpture tying everyone together. Common themes emerged around professional validation, self-care, networking, peer-to-peer support, inspiration and becoming more familiar with state arts agencies. Brief final remarks by the six state arts agency organizers concluded the retreat.

Resources

- [The Profound Possibilities of Arts Learning Panelist Resources](#)

AGENDA:

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

**Working Breakfast & Open Discussion:
State Arts Agencies & Regional Resources**

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Plenary Panel: The Profound Possibilities of Arts Learning

Courtney Bowles, Codirector, The People's Paper Co-op; Missy Armentrout McCollam, Executive Director, Old Brick Playhouse; Sam Pressler, Executive Director, Armed Services Arts Partnership; and Erica Rooney, Teaching Artist, Everyday Arts for Special Education
Moderator: Casey Polczynski, Arts in Education Coordinator, Virginia Commission for the Arts

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions: Deep Dives into Panel Topics

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Closing Plenary, Networking & Final Remarks

Emcees: Jamie Dunlap, Director of the Arts in Education Division, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; Casey Polczynski, Arts in Education Coordinator, Virginia Commission for the Arts; and Christine Stewart, Program Director, Arts in Education, Maryland State Arts Council

12:30 p.m.

End of Conference

The 2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Retreat is a cosponsored project of the Delaware Division of the Arts, the Maryland State Arts Council, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.



This program is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.



This project is supported, in part, by a grant from the [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a state agency, in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [DelawareScene.com](#)