

**Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat
Monday, August 13 - Tuesday, August 14
Allenberry Resort, Boiling Springs, PA**

Speaker & Presenter Bios

JoAnn Balingit

JoAnn Balingit is a writer, teacher, editor and mother of four. Author of Words for House Story (poems) and two chapbooks, she is currently working on a memoir. Dr. Balingit served as Delaware's poet laureate 2008-2015, and is state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national high school recitation contest. She's held fellowships from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, VONA, Bread Loaf/Camargo Foundation and Delaware Division of the Arts. She's at <http://joannbalingit.com>, @jabalingit, and FB sometimes.

Courtney Bowles

Courtney Bowles is an artist, educator, and community organizer who uses art as a vehicle for connecting diverse communities to amplify, celebrate, and power social justice movements. Her projects combine organizing strategies and urgently needed services, with collaborative, poetic, and performative actions that connect diverse and often antagonistic actors (abolitionists, police departments, service providers, and those impacted by the system). She currently co-directs the People's Paper Co-op and the Reentry Think Tank in Philadelphia.

Kim Graham

Call her what you may, Griot, Director, Writer, Actor; Counselor, Minister, Poet, Missionary or Sista' Friend; Kim Graham's purpose is the same – To use the arts to change lives. Whether she is teaching a creative dramatics class to pre-schoolers or encouraging corporate exec's to do her version of the chicken dance, her energetic style will have you on the edge of your seat. Kim is the Education Director of Christina Cultural Arts Center, where she has served the community for 20 years. She leads the charge for their Arts Integration Institute and their Professional Development for Youth Serving Adults Track.

Deb Hansen

Deb Hansen is the Education Associate for Visual & Performing Arts at the Delaware Department of Education. Deb is a graduate of the University of Delaware with a BFA in printmaking. She taught visual arts in public schools before receiving her Master's degree in school counseling. In 2008 Deb was elected president of the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education, and to the leadership team of NCCAS, the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards.

Sean King

Sean has worked with non-profit arts marketing organizations and promoting events for the past 25 years. Still active working with numerous clients, he brings his real world experience to provide effective and innovative solutions and training to challenges facing arts organizations, event promoters and entrepreneurs across the nation

Gina Lyles

Gina Lyles currently works for a non-profit community arts center in her home town Richmond, VA as a Program Manager. Gina prefers to be known as a Youth Empowerment Coach. As CEO/Owner of “So Focused Consulting”, she hopes to educate her clients on how to engage and best support youth navigating the justice system. Gina is a poet, singer and local rapper. Which she used as therapeutic tools to help her through life’s trauma since the age of 5. Her story of resilience and survival proves the theory that art saves lives. Gina has done a Ted Talk, panels and workshops across the country in hopes that her personal narrative will paint a different picture of what youth need to stay free from incarceration.

Missy Armentrout McCollam

Missy is the founder and Executive of The Old Brick Playhouse Company, an educational arts center in Elkins, WV. She is an actor, director, and playwright and her work has been merited at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, The National Theatre, and by The President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities. She he has written seventy five plays and The Old Brick has provided educational arts experiences for 2.5 million children.

Sheikia Norris

Sheikia S. Norris or Purple, went from the Bronx to designing Hip Hop Education Programs, living authentically as an ambassador/performer and preserver/educator. Enthusiasts of the art form appreciate her energy, impeccable ideas and clever deliverance. Faculty Lead of NJPAC’s Hip Hop Intensive, U.S. State Dept.’s Next Level Hip Hop Diplomacy Program Alum, recipient of The Lady’s First Fund, Purp is a talented curator for Hip Hop performance art, education and culture.

Susan Oetgen

Susan Oetgen is an arts consultant specializing in project design and management in arts and education. Her consulting portfolio currently includes launching a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mentorship program and managing the annual arts education Professional Development Institute for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies; designing and managing the Young Audiences National Residency Teaching Artist Credential project; and coordinating the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat. Susan also sings, paints, writes, and loves to cook.

Jeff Poulin

Jeff M. Poulin leads the Arts Education Program at American for the Arts, where he works to advance local, state, and federal policies supportive of equitable access to arts education throughout the United States. Jeff is a leader in the field of arts education and has contributed to the growth and sustainability of the Arts Education Program’s efforts to build leadership, advance policy, and support the arts education ecosystem nationwide. He trains over 10,000 people annually, publishes research and policy analysis, manages strategic partnerships, and leads networks of stakeholders.

Sam Pressler

Sam Pressler is the Founder and Executive Director of the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP). His work with ASAP has been highlighted on CNN, ABC News, NBC, the Washington Post, NPR, and PBS, among others. Sam serves on the Advisory Committee for PsychArmor’s Bob Woodruff Foundation School for Volunteers, the Advisory Board for the College of William & Mary’s Working Group on Veterans

& Military Affairs, and the Advisory Committees for the National Endowment for the Arts's Creative Forces Initiative.

Jason Reed

Jason Reed took his first dance class at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet when he was 18. He graduated from The Juilliard School in 2000 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. He has worked and choreographed under the direction of Marcia Dale Weary at CPYB, the late International Ballet Star Rebecca Wright and at Ballet Tech with Eliot Feld and in conjunction with The New York City Public School for Dance and the NYC Department of Education.

Jennifer Ridgway

Jennifer Ridgway, a Theatre Teaching Artist, is Co-Chair of Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA), a new organization seeking to advocate, support and empower TAs across the region. Recent work has been with Wolf Trap, the Lucy School and the Smithsonian. Jennifer holds an MFA in Theatre for Youth from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She has just returned from Beijing where she directed youth in Seussical.

Erica Rooney

Erica is a Teaching Artist and Licensed Creative Arts Therapist. She is co-creator of curriculum and methodology for the CASTA and EASE programs, federally-funded Professional Development Programs serving Special Ed schools throughout the five boroughs of NYC. She is Master Teaching Artist in the TATI Program (Teaching Artist Training Institute). Erica has an MFA in Poetry, enjoys playing the violin, and currently is creating collages from rusted metal found on the streets of New York.

Joe Tayoun

Joe Tayoun, a second generation Lebanese American, is an accomplished Middle Eastern percussionist and educator. He performs with various Middle Eastern and World Music ensembles locally, regionally, and internationally, as well as conducting workshops and master classes at schools and universities. Joe has been the recipient of several noteworthy grants from such organizations as the: NEA, PCA, PAEP, and the State Department. He is currently active in a wide variety of projects both as a performer and an educator.

Wincey Terry

International singer and teaching artist, Wincey Terry is CEO of Winceyco and founder of NanaBabies Nonprofit. She is Workshop presenter and program author for various NY and NJ organizations. A professional development trainer for National Wolf Trap and NJPAC Arts Education, Wincey is an author, producer of music and educational CDs, Arts Chair of the NJ Human Trafficking Coalition and VP of Zonta of Essex. Her innovative programs won her Kiss FM's "Phenomenal Woman" award and the Women in Media Civil Rights Award.

Khaleshia Thorpe-Price

Khaleshia Thorpe-Price has worked as an arts educator since 2000. She has facilitated residencies and workshops for children and adults for Wolf Trap, Arena Stage, Young Playwrights' Theater, Young Audiences of Maryland, Folger Shakespeare Library, Shakespeare Theater Company and M-NCPP. As an arts manager, she has coordinated workshops and residencies for thousands of students and educators in D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

Sue Trainor

Performing Songwriter and Master TA, Sue Trainor is Co-Chair of Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA), a new organization formed by and for teaching artists. Sue offers AIE residencies and professional development for artists and teachers through Wolf Trap's national roster and through Young Audiences of Maryland, where she was named 2014 Artist of the Year. She has released two award-winning children's recordings and three CDs with her trio Hot Soup, now in their 22nd year.

2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat Planning Committee

Sheila Dean Ross

Program Officer, Arts Education & Accessibility
Delaware Division of the Arts

Sheila Dean Ross is Program Officer for Arts Education and Accessibility for the Delaware Division of the Arts. Ross administers a range of funding initiatives including artist residencies, lifelong learning, and the TranspARTation program. Ross is also the ADA / 504 Administrator for accessibility issues and coordinates the agency's Poetry Out Loud program. Ross received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Howard University, Master of Arts in Arts Management from The American University, and a Certificate in Arts Administration from the University of MA at Amherst. She serves on the Delaware Department of Education's Visual and Performing Arts Advisory Council and on Accessibility Advisory Council for the City of Wilmington.

Jamie Dunlap

Director of the Arts in Education Division
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Jamie has been with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) for ten years and for the last nine as the Director of the Arts in Education Division (AIE). In her role as AIE Division Director for the PCA, she directs the AIE Division budget and programs, which includes supervision of 14 partner organizations that act on behalf of the PCA by supporting programs and providing professional development opportunities and resources at a regional level. Prior to her time at the PCA, she had nine years of experience in promoting and supporting the arts through marketing and media relations, grant and program management, event planning and production, fundraising and community outreach.

Porché Hardy

Program Officer
New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Porché serves as Program Officer with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) overseeing the arts education grants portfolio. Most recently, she was the Assistant Director at the Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth, NJ. She began her career at the New Jersey Performing Art Center completing her tenure as the Associate Director for Arts Training. She is a graduate of Rutgers University, a classically trained vocalist, and a graduate of the William Esper Studio.

Casey Polzcynski, Ph.D.

Arts in Education Coordinator
Virginia Commission for the Arts

Casey joined the Virginia Commission for the Arts as the Arts in Education Coordinator in July 2014 where she coordinates grant funding for educational projects and the national Poetry Out Loud program. She earned her Doctorate in Education from Walden University in 2013. Casey's professional career includes 15 years of preK-12 national and international teaching experience. Before coming to the commission, she worked at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in various educational roles expanding her pedagogical experience in museum education and community outreach. Casey's personal art making includes the repairing of religious statuary and participation in a small Gregorian Chant Schola.

Christine Stewart

Program Director, Arts in Education, Literary Arts, Children's Events, Arts Service, and Poetry Out Loud
Maryland State Arts Council

Chris Stewart is program director for Arts in Education with the Maryland State Arts Council. An award-winning writer/poet, she holds an M.A. in Creative Writing (Hollins University) and M.F.A. in Poetry (University of Maryland). Her work with children and teens for nonprofits such as My Sister's Circle (Baltimore), CityLit Project (Baltimore), Venice Arts (California), and WriteGirl (California) focused on mentoring and leading workshops mixing writing with photography, painting, collage, music, and movement.

Jim Wolfe

Arts in Education Coordinator
WV Department of Arts, Culture and History

Jim Wolfe is the Arts in Education Coordinator at the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History. He administers the Arts in Education, STEAM, and Mini-Grant programs, and is the state's Poetry Out Loud coordinator. He also hosts the agency's monthly television program. Jim has worked as an actor, director, and voice-over artist, and was a founding member of the Charleston Stage Company in Charleston, WV. He has a degree in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame.

Dana Wise

Administrative Specialist, Office Manager
Delaware Division of the Arts

Dana has been with Delaware Division of the Arts since 2010. As Administrative Specialist/Office Manager, Dana provides support to all of the division staff. As Office Manager, Dana processes event registrations, coordinates meeting logistics, tracks agency correspondence, serves as primary receptionist, liaisons with grantees for on-site evaluations, assists with website updates, and serves as the secretary for the Delaware State Arts Council.

Susan Oetgen

Project Coordinator
2018 Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artist Retreat