



## State Arts Agency Arts Education Managers 2023 Professional Development Institute

November 7-9, 2023, Salt Lake City, Utah

### Speaker & Artist Bios

#### Keynote Presenter



**Eric Booth**  
**Teaching Artist Advocate and Author**

In 2015 Eric Booth was given the Americans for the Arts Arts Education Leadership Award (the only artist to ever receive it), and was named one of the 25 most influential people in the arts in the United States. Booth began as a Broadway actor and became a businessman (his company became the largest of its kind in the country in seven years) and author of eight books, the most recent being *Making Change: Teaching Artists and Their Role in Shaping a Better World*. He has been on the faculty of Juilliard (12 years), Tanglewood (5 years), The Kennedy Center (20 years) and Lincoln Center Education (for 41 years). Booth serves as a consultant for many arts organizations (including 7 of the 10 largest U.S. orchestras), cities, states, school districts and businesses around the United States and in 11 other countries. A frequent keynote speaker, he gave the closing keynote to UNESCO's first world arts education conference and founded the International Teaching Artist Collaborative, the first global network of artists who work in schools and communities, now with over 5,000 members. Website: [ericbooth.net](http://ericbooth.net)

## Speakers & Artists

(in alphabetical order)



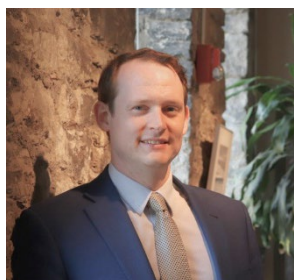
**Jennifer Allen-Barron**  
**Arts Education Director, Oklahoma Arts Council**

Jennifer Allen-Barron works with schools across the state of Oklahoma, connecting them with grants, resources and services that help them sustain and expand arts education opportunities for students. She oversees the agency's Teaching Artist Roster. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Arts Council, Allen-Barron served as executive director of the nonprofit organization Paseo Arts Association and as community arts program director at the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, where she oversaw arts education programs in more than 40 locations throughout Oklahoma City each year. She earned a B.F.A. in painting and a B.A. in French from the University of Oklahoma. Allen-Barron is a practicing visual artist, a home brewer and a notorious pun maker. She makes her home in Oklahoma City with her wife, son and dogs.



**Brenda Beyal**  
**NACI Program Coordinator, Brigham Young University ARTS Partnership**

Brenda Beyal, Diné, is born into the Salt clan and born for the Towering House people. As a 35-year educator, she taught in a multi-age elementary classroom for 32 years. The last few years of Beyal's educator career were in the school district working with Native American students and parents as an advocate and supporter. She now is the program coordinator for the BYU ARTS Partnership Native American Curriculum Initiative.



**Joshua Brown**  
**Program Coordinator, Nebraska Arts Council**

As the programs coordinator at the Nebraska Arts Council, Joshua Brown is dedicated to arts education, accessibility, and community engagement. A graduate of the University of Nebraska Omaha, he earned a degree in art history and is furthering his education at the University of Nebraska Kearney in art education for the museum. Brown's studies have led him to explore the connections between power, government and the arts, focusing on how governments can foster environments that encourage community-oriented arts and culture.



**Annie Burbidge Ream**  
**Coordinator of Learning and Engagement, Utah Museum of Fine Arts**

Annie Burbidge Ream oversees learning and engagement in a shared leadership model that facilitates experiential programs for families, K-12 teachers and their students, adult learners, university students, and general museum visitors. Throughout her 16 years of museum education experience, Burbidge's focus has moved from being art- and object-centered to utilizing art to create programs that strive to be community-centered. She actively participates in developing meaningful partnerships and collaborations, curricula development, visioning and strategic planning, action- and value-centered budgeting, institutional leadership, anti-racism work, and breaking down barriers to create access to the dynamic world of art, expression and creativity.



**Venessa Castagnoli**  
**Executive Director, Ogden Contemporary Arts**

Venessa Castagnoli is the executive director of Ogden Contemporary Arts (OCA), a nonprofit art organization. Beginning in 2020, she worked to rebrand, raise funds and assist in the overall design of the space for OCA's Art Center, with the goal of making art accessible and inclusive for Utah's community. In her role at OCA, Castagnoli maintains an impressive exhibition schedule and artist-in-residence program; developed the Artist Factory, a robust youth education program; and redesigned the Platforms outdoor exhibition space into a sculpture park, which now houses permanent installations. Castagnoli has experience both as an artist and curator, and early in her career created O-Town Arts, a contemporary art collective that was based in Ogden.



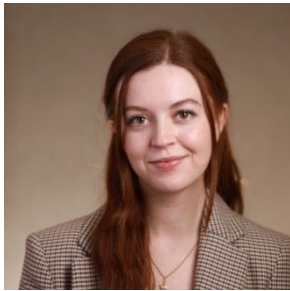
**Peter Christie**  
**Director of Education and Outreach, Ballet West**

Peter Christie has been with Ballet West for over 40 years. After joining Ballet West in 1982 as a member of the corps and being promoted to soloist in 1991, he danced with the company for 16 years, and joined the artistic staff of Ballet West in 1998. Christie has been involved with arts education throughout his career, teaching for local ballet schools, and conducting master classes for Ballet West on tour both nationally and internationally. He has choreographed for Ballet West, Utah Ballet, Utah Opera, local theatre productions, and the Ballet West Academy. Christie also worked as an assistant choreographer for the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2002 Winter Olympics, which included a large number of local students from Ballet West's Academy and educational programs.



**Dee-Dee Darby Duffin**  
**Singer, Actor, Storyteller**

Born in the "Charm City" of Baltimore, Dee-Dee Darby Duffin has been delighting audiences with her mixture of jazz standards, R&B, soul and funk for a quarter of a century. While making sweet sounds, Duffin also discovered acting and writing. She has performed in countless regional theater productions and has collaborated extensively with Plan-B Theatre as an actor, educator and playwright since 2012. Duffin discovered her love of jazz while performing sold-out shows in the lead role in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* for Pygmalion Theater. Folks have been lining up to see her ever since.



**Golda Dopp Ovalles**  
**Education Manager, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art**

Golda Dopp Ovalles (she/her) is the education manager at the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, where she enjoys learning alongside Utah's diverse student body and making the art of our time more accessible. Ovalles chairs the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Professional Outreach Programs in Schools group and serves on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for the Utah Art Educators Association. She graduated magna cum laude from UVU with a B.A. in art history with a Chinese language emphasis. Outside the museum, Ovalles teaches flute and ballet lessons and is working on her debut novel.



**Cally Flox**  
**NACI Program Director, Brigham Young University ARTS Partnership**

Cally Flox, teaching artist, educator and administrator, is the founding director of the BYU ARTS Partnership, improving student learning and school culture through educator professional development in the arts. She is the lead author of *A Teacher's Guide to Resilience through the Arts*. Flox spent many years teaching creative dance and the integrated arts to people of all ages in both private and public settings and has additional training in brain compatible multisensory learning strategies.



**Monica Grable**  
**Arts Education Director, Montana Arts Council**

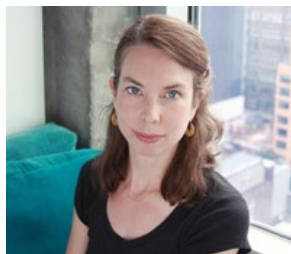
Monica Grable joined the staff of the Montana Arts Council (MAC) as arts education director in early 2017. In her role at MAC, Grable is responsible for program design, partnership cultivation and policy making designed to address and advance arts education needs in the state. Currently, she administers two arts learning-focused grant processes under the Artists in Schools and Communities program umbrella serving the learning

needs of Montanans of every age and ability, directs a business development program for artists—the Montana Artrepreneur Program, coordinates Montana Poetry Out Loud, and provides leadership for MAC's creative aging initiatives and education related communities of practice. Grable's work at MAC follows 25 years dedicated to the parallel pursuits of secondary level visual art teaching and community-centered performing arts presenting. Previously the executive director of the Bitterroot Performing Arts Council, an arts presenting nonprofit, Grable has held art teaching positions in Corvallis and Hamilton, Montana, as well as Minnetonka, Minnesota. She holds a B.A. in art and a M.A. in curriculum and instruction. The common thread connecting her professional passions is a deep desire to advocate for access to arts learning and to program transformative multidisciplinary arts experiences for all. A former member of the Arts Education Working Group, Grable is delighted to share this work with her national colleagues!



**Lynne Hardy**  
**Teaching Artist, Utah Division of Arts and Museums**

Lynne Hardy is Diné (Navajo) from Grey Mountain, Arizona. She is a teaching artist on the Utah Division of Arts and Museums Native American teaching artist roster. Hardy believes her love for art is a gift, and she needs to use it to share her culture with others. The stories of her ancestors are powerful, and she wants to portray that in the art she creates. Her style is modern, bright, and colorful, because that is how she views her culture and life living on the reservation: bright and colorful. Through her art, Hardy hopes to be a voice of change in how Native American cultures are represented. She wants to make sure that the cultures are respected and preserved. Her artwork makes difficult conversations accessible for children and youth. Hardy recently was commissioned by Google to create a collection of Native American themes for its Chrome web browser.



**Allison Hawkins**  
**Arts Education Grants Program Coordinator, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**

Allison Hawkins has worked for over 20 years in arts and nonprofit administration, specifically in the areas of visual arts and grant making. She last served as the administrative director at the New Hampshire Women's Foundation in Concord, and prior to this was the grants program director at the Joan Mitchell Foundation, an artist-endowed foundation in New York City, where she was also active in the National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response. Hawkins began her work in the arts administration field at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Grants Office of its Education Department.



**Mary Ann Lee**

**Artistic Director, Tanner Dance, University of Utah**

Mary Ann Lee is artistic director of the Tanner Dance Program and Children's Dance Theatre in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Utah. She trained with Virginia Tanner and was a member of Children's Dance Theatre. She received master's degrees in dance and French from Mills College and the University of Cincinnati, respectively. Lee performed professionally with the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company and Moveable Feast Dance Company in San Francisco and with the Contemporary Dance Theatre in Ohio. She was a dance specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts's Artists-in-Schools program and taught throughout the United States. She has been an invited guest teacher in China, Japan, The Netherlands, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, England, Finland, Canada and Brazil. Lee continues to teach at the University of Utah in the Department of Education and in the Tanner Dance Program. She teaches throughout Utah, nationally and internationally.



**Elizabeth Morales**

**Arts in Education Program Director, Maryland State Arts Council**

Lizzie Morales joined the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) in 2022 as the Arts in Education Program director. Prior to joining MSAC, Morales worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where she managed arts education and arts integration programs for teachers and schools. She has also held various positions at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Before she began her career in arts administration, Morales worked as an ESL teacher in South Korea, Peru and the Washington, D.C., metro area. She holds a bachelor's degree in music and a master's degree in ethnomusicology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

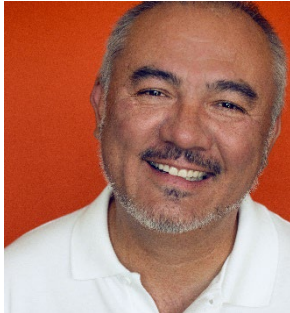


**Martha Piscukas**

**Program Director, Maine Arts Commission**

Martha Piscukas is a visual artist with over 30 years of nonprofit organizational leadership alongside a deep understanding of Maine's communities and culture. Before joining the Maine Arts Commission in 2019, she was executive director at Waterfall Arts, a community arts center in coastal Belfast that she cofounded in 2000. There she curated and organized all arts learning opportunities, exhibitions and events. One of five artist siblings with parents in secondary education, Piscukas grew up immersed in active creative inquiry. In addition to serving on her local school board, she has led and founded numerous organizations, including community funds MaineShare and Maine Initiatives, and the Maine Center on Economic Policy. Piscukas has presented nationally and served on multiple regional, state and

local boards. She was the executive director of several statewide organizations focusing on community resilience and empowerment. She holds a B.A. in cultural anthropology from Wesleyan University, and a B.F.A. from the Maine College of Art & Design. Piscukas lives on a homesteading solar-run farm with her family and gets out hiking and lake paddling whenever possible.



**Jerry Rapier**  
**Artistic Director, Plan-B Theatre**

Jerry Rapier is the first person of color to lead a professional arts organization in Utah history. He has served as Plan-B Theatre's artistic director since 2000, directing nearly 40 productions, including five that have enjoyed extended lives in New York, two that have toured coast-to-coast, one that has toured internationally and two nominees for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Awards include Salt Lake City's 2008 Mayor's Artist Award in the Performing Arts and, along with Plan-B Managing

Director Cheryl Ann Cluff, Honor Roll's 2023 Individual Achievement Award for their joint commitment to producing plays by women+ over the age of 40. Rapier and his husband of 28 years are the proud parents of Oscar, who is now in the fifth grade.



**James Rees**  
**Artist, Researcher, Educator**

A widely known champion of the arts, James Rees is a passionate advocate for art education that balances theory, research and practice. His contributions in art earned him the prestigious Governors Leadership in the Arts Award in 2016. Presently, Rees serves as the commissioner-at-large representative for the National Art Education Research Commission while also sharing his expertise by teaching graduate courses in contemporary art at Brigham Young

University. He is also an appointed panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. Rees is passionate in his advocacy for the arts and serves on several national advisory boards and state art education committees.



**Jarred Small**  
**Arts Learning Coordinator, Ohio Arts Council**

Jarred Small joined the Ohio Arts Council in 2017 as the agency's second arts learning coordinator, overseeing arts learning grant programs including those that support artist residencies, student visits to arts experiences, partnerships between organizations and schools conducting projects with arts learning at their core, and other special initiatives and activities for learners of all ages and abilities. Small leads the agency's work in its Fund Every

County efforts, ensuring agency investments are equitably distributed across Ohio's diverse geographic and demographic landscapes. For the past three years, he has

served as steward and administrator of national grant awards to support creative aging activities, supporting the creative livelihoods and well-being of older Ohioans.



**Emily Soderborg**  
**NACI Project Manager, Brigham Young University ARTS Partnership**

Emily Soderborg is the project manager for the Brigham Young University ARTS Partnership Native American Curriculum Initiative. In this role, she strengthens relationships with the eight sovereign nations in Utah, develops authentic and approved content, and disseminates materials for teachers and students. Before working for the university, Soderborg was a K-6 music

specialist and elementary teacher.



**Miguel Trujillo**  
**Training and Research Coordinator, Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs**

Dr. Miguel Trujillo is a licensed clinical social worker and the training and research coordinator for the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs. He has worked with numerous nonprofits, community agencies, school districts and institutes of higher education to create practices for thriving systems. Trujillo's research focuses on developing greater access and opportunity

throughout the educational pipeline for underserved communities. As a practicing clinician, he is passionate about developing changes in policy and therapeutic practices to support the mental health needs of our justice-impacted youth.



**Kasandra VerBruggen**  
**Executive Director, Spy Hop**

Kasandra VerBruggen is the executive director of Spy Hop Productions, a youth media organization in Salt Lake City dedicated to empowering young people through the digital media arts. VerBruggen has a B.A. in political science from the University of Arizona and a master's degrees in public administration from the University of Washington. She has over 20 years of experience in the social sector, holding various

positions from alternative educator to program director, managing director and executive director of nonprofit, educational and youth development organizations.





**Tracy Williams**  
**Teaching Artist**

Tracy Williams is a professional graffiti artist and educator who specializes in acrylic and aerosol art. She is the creative arts educator at the Samoan Community Development Center in San Francisco and the founding art teacher for the Freedom School, an independent high school funded by the community, under the Homies Empowerment organization in East Oakland. Working alongside youth and community leaders to uplift marginalized communities through transformative arts, Williams facilitates trauma-art informed workshops in hopes of bringing healing and hope to these communities.

**2023 Arts Education Working Group**  
(in alphabetical order)



**Donna S. Collins**  
**Executive Director Representative**  
**Executive Director, Ohio Council for the Arts**  
**Board Chair, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Donna S. Collins became executive director of the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) in 2014. Prior to leading OAC, Collins served as the executive director of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) since 1998 and as the executive director of the Ohio Citizens for the Arts and Foundation (OCA) since 2001. During her tenure, both the OAAE and OCA were recognized statewide and nationally for their success at increasing services to constituents, creating policy, and generating more funds for the arts. Collins brought to OAC more than 20 years of experience in leading statewide nonprofit organizations, demonstrating consistent success and solid results that impact policy, education, economic development, and arts and culture. A proven leader in the field of arts education and arts advocacy, she has worked with the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network on the Network Leadership Committee and as a consultant to state alliances across the nation. She also served as an Americans for the Arts state captain and a State Arts Action Network chair and member, as well as chair of the Arts Education Council.



**Nancy Daugherty**  
**NEA Liaison**  
**Arts Education Specialist, National Endowment for the Arts**

Nancy Daugherty has been an arts education specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) since June 2000. Through the agency's arts education program she has worked with applicants in all arts fields and disciplines, and is currently focused in the disciplines of dance, literature, theatre and musical theatre. She also advises the Arts Education Working

Group, which designs professional development for state arts agency arts education managers, serves on the Advisory Committee of the Arts Education Partnership, and serves on the intergovernmental team that manages the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards. From 2004 through 2007, Daugherty managed the NEA's Summer Schools in the Arts program, a national initiative designed to assess student learning and offer potential models of rigorous, standards based arts education. Prior to her federal service, she was the arts education coordinator for the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, where she also served as the coordinator for the Governor's Task Force on Arts in Basic Education. For the Center for Economic Options, Daugherty developed training and marketing opportunities for sector-specific microenterprise networks, such as the Appalachian Flower Network. She has served as a facilitator, presenter, consultant, panelist and conference planner for many state and national arts organizations. Daugherty is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in sociology and anthropology.



**Maryjane Dorofachuk**  
***Western Region Representative***  
**Arts Learning Specialist, Nevada Arts Council**

Maryjane Dorofachuk is the Nevada Arts Council's (NAC) arts learning specialist. She has been working in the field of arts and culture for over three decades with experience in arts education, community arts development, cultural tourism, public art, exhibitions, grants and nonprofit administration. A graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in art history and business administration, Dorofachuk came to Las Vegas in 2006 and began her work with NAC as the community arts development associate. Prior to moving to Las Vegas, she worked as the community arts development manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council in Tucson, Arizona.



**Troy Hickman**  
***New England Region Representative, Chair***  
**Arts Education Programs Manager, Vermont Arts Council**

Troy Hickman is the arts education programs manager at the Vermont Arts Council. Leveraging collaborations with artists, teachers and statewide partners, he advocates for learning in, about and through the arts. Since 2017, he has administered the Arts Council's education related grant programs, which include the Artist in Schools and Head Start Arts Integration programs. During this time, Hickman has managed Vermont Poetry Out Loud and the Arts Council's Teaching Artist Roster. His creative background includes literacy and writing instruction. He has published poetry and has exhibited photography and nonfunctional ceramic forms.



**Michelle Hoffmann**

**Arts Education Director, National Endowment for the Arts**

Michelle Hoffmann was appointed director of Arts Education at the National Endowment of the Arts in August 2023. Prior to joining the NEA, she was the director of Education & Community Engagement for Washington Performing Arts, a Washington, DC, performing arts organization, where she provided strategic leadership and vision for arts education partnerships with schools and community-based organizations in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia. Hoffmann also engaged in collective impact work through Any Given Child DC, an initiative of the DC Arts & Humanities Education Collaborative. As a member of the Community Arts Team and a co-chair of the Equity and Justice Committee of Any Given Child DC, she worked alongside representatives from the Mayor's Office, DCPS Chancellor's office, educators and principals, cultural institution partners, corporate and philanthropic leaders to develop a strategic plan to provide equitable access to arts and humanities education to all students of Washington, DC. Previously, she held positions at institutions including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Opera, Washington National Opera, DC Arts & Humanities Education Collaborative, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2015, she received the Distinguished Arts Educator Award from Yale University School of Music. Hoffmann has a degree in music performance from Duquesne University and is an alumna of the National Arts Strategies 2018 Executive Program in Arts & Culture Strategy through the University of Pennsylvania School of Public Policy and Practice.



**Jennie Knoebel**

**Midwest Region Representative, Cochair**

**Arts Learning, Senior Grants and Programs Manager, Iowa Economic Development Authority**

Jennie Knoebel is the senior grants and programs manager at the Iowa Economic Development Authority, currently overseeing large project and operating support grants, arts learning, accessibility, folk and traditional arts, and professional development programs for the Iowa Arts Council. She has been with the agency since 2016. Prior to that position, she was the executive director of Austin Area Arts in Austin, Minnesota, and the communications coordinator for the University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. Knoebel has an M.L.S. degree with a focus in arts administration from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in theatre arts and communication studies from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.



**Christine Leahy**  
***Mid-Atlantic Region Representative***  
**Program Director, Arts in Education, New York State Council on the Arts**

Christine Leahy is a program director at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), in charge of the arts education and facilities programs. Initiatives started under her tenure include the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Orchestras and Classical Music collaboration with the music program, the New York State Creative Aging Pilot, and the NYS Youth Media Symposium. In previous positions at NYSCA, Leahy served in the agency's literature, visual arts, museum, architecture + design, and folk arts programs. Leahy formerly worked for the artist Jenny Holzer and in the Education Department at the Williams College Museum of Art. She has written for *The New York Times* and National Public Radio. She is a graduate of Williams College.



**Meghan McFerrin**  
***NASAA Liaison***  
**Arts Education Project Manager, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies**

Meghan McFerrin coordinates NASAA's professional development services for arts education staff. Working collaboratively with members and the National Endowment for the Arts, McFerrin supports the annual Professional Development Institute and organizes NASAA's peer networking programs for state arts agency arts education managers. She is an arts educator with experience teaching in K-12 classrooms as well as in higher education, museum and community arts settings. From 2017 – 2022, McFerrin worked for the Georgia Department of Education. In this role, she supervised the state's STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) certification program, helping schools to integrate the arts into their instructional strategies and to develop community arts partnerships. McFerrin has also worked for the High Museum of Art as a coordinator of school services and, more recently, as a teaching artist. She has developed numerous programs focused on accessibility, including a museum engagement program designed to support the needs of students with developmental disabilities. McFerrin's personal passion for the arts is evident in her work as a visual artist and a potter.



**Kimberly Washburn Motte**  
***Southern Region Representative***  
**Arts Education Director, South Carolina Arts Commission**

Kimberly Washburn Motte is the arts learning director at the South Carolina Arts Commission. As a certified visual arts teacher and former museum educator, her passion for education in and through the arts drives her work for statewide equitable access to arts learning opportunities across the age

spectrum. Motte is the 2021 South Carolina Art Education Association Museum Educator of the Year.



**Laura Roghaar**

***Western Region Representative***

**Arts Learning Services Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts**

Laura Roghaar is the arts learning services director for the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Her portfolio includes grants and services supporting K-12 arts education and creative aging. Roghaar is also a poet and teaching artist who has taught creative writing workshops in community settings including schools, juvenile detention facilities, shelters and libraries.

Previously, she served as the Idaho statewide coordinator for

Poetry Out Loud and program director for The Cabin literary center.



**Jenni Ryan**

***Mid-America Region Representative***

**Arts Education Program Specialist, Missouri Arts Council**

Jenni Ryan joined the Missouri Arts Council (MAC) in September 2022 as arts education program specialist. Before coming to MAC, she worked in both the education and theatre sectors, as an actor and an English and theatre teacher. Ryan spent many years teaching grammar, writing and literature; directing plays and musicals; and fostering a love of learning in (mostly)

teenagers. As an actor and theatre person, she has been able to make a lot of art and share a wide range of stories with audiences. Now at MAC, Ryan continues to champion the arts and artists of Missouri through the arts education programs MAC supports.

Ryan is committed to her belief that the arts are part of any core curriculum, essential for growing big brains, strong bodies and full hearts. This is her first year serving on the Arts Education Working Group.