

Inspiring the Artist Within Each Student



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Multi-Disciplinary

Distant Voices Touring Theater (5-12): Through music and dramatic readings Distant Voices Touring Theatre (DVTT) presents a docudrama bringing to life the WWII internment camp diary and experiences of Hiroaki Nishimura shown on the photo. This production incorporates drama techniques with classical, contemporary, and traditional piano to share the story of one man during this misguided moment in our nation's history.

Curriculum Connections: Drama, Classical Music, Visual Art, US History, Japanese Internment



Visual Art



Stephen Kingsberry (Grades 3-12): Mr. Kingsberry studied art at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York, where he was a member of the art club working in copper, printmaking, and painting. During these studies, his first creation in copper was selected for an exhibition in the Brooklyn Museum. Mr. Kingsberry's work seeks to inform people about the struggles of people around the world, to highlight racial oppression and discrimination, and to promote the beauty, rich heritage, and tradition of Africa and its people throughout the world. His exhibition "The Burden of Palestine" was part of the Wilmington Art Loop in October 2018. [THIS STUDIO TOUR AND ARTIST TALK CAN OCCUR VIRTUALLY.](#)

Curriculum Connections: Visual Art, Current Events, History, Culture

Eunice LaFate (Grades K-5): Eunice LaFate was born on the island of Jamaica. Her creative vision finds its origin in the colors and tones of the island’s people, landscapes, and culture. While her homeland has had a major effect on her art, so too have her many experiences here in the United States, where she has transitioned from her early career in education to human services administration. LaFate has immersed herself in teaching and helping people of all ages and races, which is why her creative spirit shows itself in art that emphasizes the beauty of human diversity and the importance of cultural heritage. She also brings to her art her appreciation of natural splendors – all in a universe that welcomes differences and celebrates rites of passage. THIS STUDIO TOUR AND ARTIST TALK CAN OCCUR VIRTUALLY.



Curriculum Connections: Visual Art, Painting, Folk Art, Jamaican Culture, Current Events, Social Emotional Learning



Aaron Paskins Studio Tour (Grades 3-12): Aaron Paskins is a Dover sculptor who has been building a national and local reputation for imaginative, inspiring African figures and imagery using unexpected materials. The essence of Paskins’ sculptures captures the complexity of various indigenous tribes, executed with imagination and a touch of fantasy. A residency featuring the work of this artist can conclude with an artist talk, virtual studio tour, or master workshop.

Curriculum Connections: Visual Art, Sculpture, West African Culture

Jessica Scott-Felder (Grades 5-12): Jessica Scott-Felder is a visual and performance artist from Atlanta, Georgia. She is an Assistant Professor of Studio Art at Wofford College located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Jessica incorporates antique objects into drawings, installations, and digital collages to transform spaces into psychological realms suggestive of ancestry, social narratives and the African Diaspora. In earlier works, objects such as Victorian chairs from her grandmother's living room represented matriarchal presence and cultural constructs. As a result of exploring the broader diasporic identity, the use of digital media, such as visual archives and oral histories, has expanded her work into conversations related to commemoration and global imagination. This ongoing series consists of combining imagery from auction and museum archives to create a collage that represents an imagined world where history is transparent in the representation of and contributions made by people of the African Diaspora. THIS STUDIO TOUR AND ARTIST TALK WILL OCCUR VIRTUALLY.



Curriculum Connections: Visual Art, Mixed Media, Digital Art, African Diaspora, Black Culture

Music

The Whitney Project (K-12): The Whitney Project is dedicated to performing the works of Wilmington based composer, Jonathan W. Whitney. Jonathan's music strives to give space for the listener to contemplate the present moment. He often addresses issues surrounding racial equity and violence in our neighborhoods, but also moments of mourning and the quiet peace found when working late at night. Jonathan has his masters from the University of the Arts in Jazz Studies and is a 2020 Delaware Division of the Arts Established Artist Fellowship recipient. His debut album, Life's Dimensions documents his musical journey as an activist working to improve the lives of black and brown people across the Delaware.



This residency concludes with a performance by The Whitney Project. The performance can be conducted either VIRTUALLY or IN PERSON.

Curriculum Connections: Music, Percussion, Jazz, Current Events, Music Composition

Jea Street, Jr. (Grades 5-12): Jea Street, Jr. is a singer/songwriter born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware. He was inspired to become a musician during his Freshman year at Morehouse College when he joined the Morehouse College Glee Club. Though he enrolled at Morehouse with plans to become a doctor, he was so inspired by the power of the music he experienced as part of the famed MCGC that he dropped all of his pre-med classes during sophomore year and began to take music classes for the first time. After graduating from Morehouse with a Bachelor's degree in psychology, Jea went back to school at the University of Delaware where he studied music theory and composition. Since finishing at UD, Jea has been involved in many different facets of music. Jea has sung professional operatic and Broadway roles, produced a hip-hop album, has recorded several of his own projects, and was commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Delaware Art Museum to co-write a work that told the story of the 1968 occupation of Wilmington, Delaware after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. He has completed a recording project entitled "The Sit Down" which tours as a production of Artivism brought to life in the form of a musical experience. He recently performed the inaugural set of Firefly CHATs in 2019 on the topic of Artivism. Jea also created one of the first online music festivals "by artists and for artists" at the beginning of the COVID-19 Quarantine called Ronapalooza as a way to continue creating music and engaging with fans. He also performed with the Jonathan Whitney Project in the Clifford Brown Virtual Jazz Festival in Wilmington.



This residency concludes with a performance by Jea Street, Jr. and his band. The performance can be conducted either VIRTUALLY or IN PERSON.

Curriculum Connections: Music, Vocal Music, Songwriting, Artivism, Activism, Current Events, Music Composition



Black Violin (Grades 4-12): Black Violin enters the student virtual space with an all-new, high-energy performance that takes their unique blend of classical music, hip hop, jazz and pop to new heights. This engaging video covers themes of perseverance, exploration and unity with songs like Rise, Unbreakable, Believer, Dreamer and Impossible is Possible. Embedded in the performance is a message for students and educators about challenging stereotypes and status quo conventions, and that pathways to success require commitment, practice and unwavering dedication. During a pre-recorded Q&A, Black Violin discusses their personal history, their journey to the stage, and their plans to continue their mission with their non-profit organization, Black Violin Foundation. This residency concludes with a VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE. Unlimited access for 6 weeks: Jan. 18 – Feb. 28, 2021

Curriculum Connections: Music, Stereotypes, Social Emotional Learning

Dance

Hip Hop Body Rock 101 (Grades K-5): Get your kids up and moving in their virtual classroom! Theatre and dance collide in bite-size experiences crafted by world-renown educator and performer Paige Hernandez. This residency features several warmups and a two-part basic hip hop routine. You'll learn moves from Paige's critically acclaimed show Havana Hop while grooving to the electrifying original music of Kris Funn's "The Cornerstore." *Warning: after this virtual combo, your swagga may go into overdrive!*



This residency concludes with a VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE facilitated through The Grand. Pre-recorded, Interactive Arts Engagement, 35-40 minutes; Hosted on Vimeo; Unlimited access for 90 days, Jan. 4 – April 4, 2021.

Curriculum Connections: Dance, Hip Hop, Body Parts, Counting, Math, Spatial Awareness, Self-regulation, Sequence and Recall, Coordination, Repetition, Culture and Society, Social Emotional Learning



UPRISING: Remembrance, Resistance, Revival (Grades 5-12): UPRISING is a multidisciplinary art production featuring the choreography by Ashley SK Davis. Using modern dance, poetry, prose, and song, UPRISING is an artistic expression of the events in Wilmington, Delaware in 1968, including the populist revolution and the National Guard occupation of the city. UPRISING seeks to reflect upon the actions of the people and the government in 1968 and then flash forward fifty years to consider the actions of both bodies today and into the future. Immediately following the performance, the dancers will participate in a question and answer session with the audience. UPRISING was commissioned by the Delaware Art Museum, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This residency concludes with a VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE with live Q&A. A study guide is also available.

Curriculum Connections: Modern Dance, Music, Poetry, Spoken Word, Social Justice, American History, Delaware History

Theatre



Harriet Tubman: Straight Up Outta’ the Underground (Grades 3-8): Bring the past to the present and change the future with this one-woman interactive storytelling experience. Uncover the truth about America’s 200-year-old struggle with slavery when you play a part in this historic retelling. On this journey, you’ll follow Harriet Tubman, the most recognized conductor of the Underground Railroad. Nicknamed “Moses,” Harriet Tubman lived up to her name by gaining her own freedom, as well as traveling back and forth from North to South over 19 times and freeing over 300 slaves!

This residency concludes with a VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE facilitated through The Grand and hosted on Broadway On Demand and Pick-A-Path Interactive through June 30, 2021. Podcast, study guide, and live Q&A are available.

Curriculum Connections: American History, Black History, Culture and Society, Theatre, Social Emotional Learning

TAHIRA (Grades K-12): TAHIRA performs stories of hope and humor, triumph and tragedy drawn from TAHIRA’s diverse repertoire of original works and those based on the West African Oral Tradition. In this program, TAHIRA opens with an introduction of the call and response style of singing. “Call and response” is a requested or spontaneous verbal and non-verbal interaction between the performer and the audience. The major theme in this program is the role of stories and storytellers in the recording of historical events.



This residency concludes with an IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE, approximately 45-60 minutes in length, including a Q&A. Master Workshops with the Artist are available for an additional charge.

Curriculum Connections: American History, West African History, African Diaspora, Black History, Culture and Society, Storytelling, Writing, Music, Drumming, Social Emotional Learning

Wings of Courage – Mad River Theater Works (Grades 3-8): Wings of Courage is a two-man original play with music that tells the remarkable story of the first African American to fly a plane in combat. Set in the early 20th century in the years leading up to World War I, the one-act play explores the unbelievable life of Eugene Bullard, a professional boxer, flying ace, jazz musician, and spy. The color of Bullard’s skin prevented him from taking his place alongside the other American heroes of his day but that didn’t stop him. Wings of Courage shows how Bullard’s determination and perseverance helped him to overcome discrimination throughout his life. It is an uplifting tale of vision and hope. This residency concludes with a VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE, facilitated by The Grand. Unlimited access for 30 days: Feb. 1 – March 2, 2021



Curriculum Connections: Biography, American History, Civil Rights, Culture and Society, Music

Spoken Word and Poetry

Gayle Danley (Grades K-12): Soon after crushing the competition at Asheville's National Poetry Slam in 1994, Gayle Danley entered America's classrooms teaching thousands of children how to access their emotions through the force of words. She performed and taught her way from Maryland Young Audience's Artist of the Year, to National Young Audience's Artist of the Year. She's also both a former national and international poetry slam champion. Gayle's work with middle school student in Baltimore County was featured by CBS *60 Minutes*, and she has also appeared in *The Baltimore Sun*, *Washington Post*, and *New York Times*.



Gayle was named the 2018 Maryland Library Association Poet of the Year.

This residency concludes with an IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE, approximately 45-60 minutes in length, including a Q&A. Master Workshops with the Artist are available for an additional charge.

Curriculum Connections: Current Events, Culture and Society, Poetry, Writing, Social Emotional Learning

The Twin Poets (K-12): The Twin Poets have won many awards for their work including the Village Award from the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (2006), Bank of America's Local Heroes Award (2006), Citizens of the Year from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (2006), Christi Award for Community Service through the Arts (2005), Mentors of the Year from the City of Wilmington (1998), The Mayors Award for Service to Children (1997), and Outstanding Young Wilmingtonian Award for Community Service (1997). The Twin Poets have also been featured on the Peabody Award-winning HBO program *Def Poetry*, BET's *Lyric Café*, and NPR's *Poetic License*, and they are the subject of a *Hearts and Minds Films* documentary called *Why I Write*. They have toured nationally and internationally.



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Curriculum Connections: Current Events, Culture and Society, Poetry, Writing, Social Emotional Learning