



Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education

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Multi-Disciplinary

Tony Vacca and Abdou Sarr World Music (K-12): Tony Vacca, Abdou Sarr, and Massamba Diop combine to create an amazing, high-energy performance featuring West African percussion and Senegalese dance. Whether in concert at a prestigious World Music festival, or on the stage at your school, Tony's performances tend to be mind-bending, all-out physical spectacles on the nature and power of music. Tony performs from his repertoire of songs, using a world of percussion instruments that include giant West African balafons, talking drums, a hybrid percussion/drum set, and a set of over 20 gongs. There's a lot of audience participation, usually one Spoken Word piece, and performances by workshop groups are often included. Rhythm Griots (pronounced gree-oes) translates into English as 'rhythm storytellers,' and rhythm is the common ground shared by all. **October 2 – 4, 2023**



Music (percussion, West African music, world music); Theatre (Griot-tradition, storytelling); Dance (Senegalese dance forms); HB 198

Distant Voices Touring Theater (Grades 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. This residency concludes with an in-school assembly performance.



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

Visual Art

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 or IN PERSON.



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

East Meets West (K-5): Hua-Hua Zhang graduated from the Beijing Performing Arts Academy where she was trained as a performer in the ancient art of Chinese puppetry. From 1974 to 1995 she toured nationally and internationally with the China Puppet Arts Troupe of Beijing. She received many awards for excellence in performance and direction. Hua-Hua formed her nonprofit company — Hua-Hua’s Visual Expressions — to continue to develop her visions of the performing arts and to develop an art education program to share Chinese culture and puppet art with American audiences and students. Since 2000, the company has mounted four productions which have toured throughout the United States. This residency concludes with a performance and live puppetry/movement demonstration.



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Curriculum Connections: Visual Art, Puppetry, Movement, Chinese Culture, Immigrant Stories

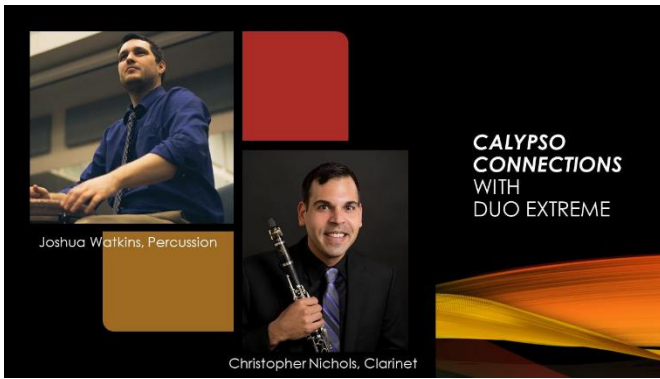
Delaware Art Museum – Distinguished Artist Exhibition: James E. Newton (Grades K-12): This exhibition celebrates the artistic life and legacy of painter, printmaker, scholar, and professor James E. Newton. Presented in collaboration with the University Museums at the University of Delaware, it showcases Newton’s vibrant compositions, which explore social justice and American history. This residency concludes with a FIELD TRIP to the Delaware Art Museum. January 27, 2024 - June 30, 2024

Curriculum Connections: Visual Art, Painting Printmaking, Social Justice, American History, Black History, HB 198



Music

Calypso Connections with Duo Extreme (K-12): Duo Extreme, a collaboration between Delaware-based clarinetist Christopher Nichols and Nashville-based percussionist Joshua Watkins, connects the traditional sounds of early Calypso street bands with the cutting-edge sonorities of Trinidad and Tobago’s national instrument, the steelpan. Through this fast-paced experience, students discover the origin of Calypso, basic drumming techniques of Trinidad in the African diaspora and the 20th-century birth of the steelpan. These events culminate with a group performance of Calypso where students demonstrate their knowledge in collaboration with the artists. Master workshops are available as a supplement to this residency and performance. **February 26 – March 8, 2024**



Curriculum Connections: Music, Percussion, Woodwind, World Music, Music Composition, HB 198

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, HB 198

Theatre

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION by Theatre Unspeakable (Grades 4-10): History in 50 minutes—seven actors, two feet off the ground, share 21 square feet of space and recreate the entire American fight for independence from Lexington to Yorktown. Using only the actors’ bodies, voices and (pantomimed) cannons, the show evokes an epic time period in American history. Combining tongue-in-cheek humor with a dash of derring-do, the American Revolution displays the company’s rowdy brand of bare-boned and imaginative physical theater. This residency concludes with a FIELD TRIP to The Grand Opera House Copeland Hall. **Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM or 12:00 PM**



Curriculum Connections: American Revolution (timelines, people, and events), Declaration of Independence, US History, Social Studies, Physical Theatre, Teamwork



HOW A STAR GETS MADE: THE BESSIE COLEMAN STORY (Grades 5-8): Come enjoy an immersive historical retelling of the life of Bessie Coleman, the first Black and Native American female aviator! Join Bessie’s journey as she faces adversity, overcomes her challenges, and strives to achieve her dreams. Bessie teaches us that you can never shoot too high – believe in yourself and you’ll be a star too! This residency concludes with a FIELD TRIP to the baby grand at The Grand. **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 9:30 AM or 12:00 PM**

Curriculum Connections and Themes: Women's History, African-American History, Character Building, Perseverance, Culturally Responsive, DE-HB 198

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, HB 198

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, including a Q&A. and additional workshop materials. 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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