

Presenters Biographies



John Bertles is a composer, instrument builder and educator. As a composer he has written music ranging from opera to circus music, and from symphony to punk rock. Most recently he has been concentrating on music for instruments built from recycled materials with his performing group *Bash the Trash*®. “The Evils of Pots” (1994), written entirely for pots and pans, has been performed at Lincoln Center in New York City, the International Gamelan Festival in Indonesia, and throughout the United States. He is mainly an educator, staff developer and curriculum consultant. In this capacity he has worked in many different roles – including teaching artist, teaching artist mentor, study guide writer, concert narrator and performer, curriculum writer, and advisory board member among others – with a number of organizations, including the Grammy Foundation, Kennedy Center, Leonard Bernstein Center, New York Philharmonic, New York City Department of Education, and Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble. He also teaches Master Classes at Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music.



Jennifer Botticello is a graduate from the University of North Florida and is currently teaching 2nd grade in Tennessee at Covington Integrated Arts Academy. Her school is part of the Value Plus program based on the concept that by incorporating art into the core curriculum student learning and higher-order thinking skills increase. Jennifer has taught a number of sessions for the Value Plus program in which participants learn the basics of how to use the arts in their classroom.



Gigi Morales David is a children’s author who has more than 25 years of education experience including classroom teaching, school administration, curriculum development and university teaching. She has designed arts-integrated curriculum as well as curriculum focused on facilitating social competence and building school readiness skills. She currently teaches arts-integration for the Department of Childhood Education at the University of North Florida and is a member of the Design Team for Ortega Museum Studies Magnet school. This semester some of her students are mentoring second graders at Ortega Elementary and others are participating in the implementation of an arts-based program she developed called ABC Literacy: Art, Books, Community.



Karen Erickson has been a professional teaching artist for more than 20 years. As Executive Director of Creative Directions, she trains artists and teachers in drama education, curriculum planning, arts integration, and assessment development nationally and internationally. Ms. Erickson continues her work as a playwright and stage director in addition to authoring seven drama education books used in schools throughout the country. Her publication, *The Arts: keystones to Learning* documents 26 arts-integrated programs in the Chicago Public Schools. She served as the Artistic Director of Trinity Square Ensemble Theater in Chicago for eight years in addition to several years working at the Goodman Theater where she was an assistant to Tennessee Williams during his two-year residency. She works with the Kennedy Center’s professional development programs including Changing Education Through the Arts (C.E.T.A.). Ms. Erickson is a certified teacher in English, Speech Communications, and Theater Education for grades K-12. She co-wrote the Illinois Arts Goals, Standards, Performance Descriptors and Chicago Drama Benchmarks in addition to a state book on Fine Arts Integration.



Susan Gallo is Director of Education at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens in Jacksonville, Florida. A graduate of Smith College and Columbia University, Susan was a Fellow in Museum Education at the Toledo Museum of Art and a Helena Rubenstein Fellow in Art History and Museum Studies at the Whitney Museum of American Art. A former middle and high school teacher, curator and educational technology liaison, Susan oversees the award-winning educational programming at The Cummer, including the museum’s school tours, teacher trainings, distance learning courses, arts in healthcare initiatives and programs for people with disabilities. Susan is also author of *Picturing Florida: From the First Coast to the Space Coast*, published in 2008.



Imani Gonzalez is an artist educator, arts coach, author and professional jazz /world vocalist who has lived in the Washington metropolitan area for over 20 years. Her voice is featured on many of the National Geographic Television’s Explorer Series soundtracks, including the Emmy-nominated film *The Jane Goodall Biography*. She has performed, toured, and recorded with renowned artists, such as Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Imani has taught in the DC Public School system and in private schools as a traditional world music teacher. In past years, she has received grants from both the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Artist-In-Education Program for the Maryland State Arts Council. She is an artist educator with Imagination Quest, Imagination Stage, and is on the artist roster with the Louisiana Division of the Arts and Maryland State Arts Council. Imani’s books and compact discs entitled *Dhimiki* and *Iyipo Ayé* have received raved reviews from teachers, students, universities and libraries.

“The power of the arts helps you retain the concepts you are being taught.”

Presenters Biographies



Joi Roberts Hosker has taught art for 39 years. After retiring from Stanton College Prep in 2008, she served as Artist in Residence for Duval County Public Schools and instructor for the new YMCA Tiger Academy. She finished a Masters in Art Education and post-graduate study from UNF, studied in England, and was adjunct professor at UNF for 13 years. Her published writings include professional art articles and wildlife research, published in *School Arts*, *Fence Post*, *Range Magazine*, *Quill and Scroll*, and *Folio Magazine*. Joi has received art awards with her work featured in exhibitions including MOCA Jacksonville, FCCJ, Schultz Center, Cummer Art Museum, Wilson Center, and various Western Art galleries. Much of her commissioned work ranges from realistic color pencil to abstract mixed media people and animal subjects. Joi describes her instinctual art style as “symbolic and degenerate”, a cross between cubism and Kandinsky.



Mary Jeannette Howle holds a B.S. in Music Education from Appalachian State University, an M.Ed. in Elementary Education from The University of North Florida and a Ph.D. in Music Education from The University of Florida. She has taught general music for thirty years in a variety of settings: rural, urban and suburban. She has taught music education methods classes to both elementary education and music majors at Jacksonville University and The University of Florida. She was the president of the Duval County Elementary Music teachers for five years, and for three years she was the chair of the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) All State Elementary Chorus, and served on the executive board of the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association (FEMEA). She was the FMEA Florida Music Educator of the Year for 2007. She is an active member of the Education Committee and serves on the Executive Board of the Guild of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra (JSO) and has readgrant applications for that committee and for FEMEA. She also manages the Professional Development for Arts Educators grant for Duval County Schools.



Eric Johnson is a dancer, choreographer, and educator who has taught thousands of teachers and students from Alaska to Florida to Tokyo since 1982. He has been on the roster of the Artists-in Schools programs for Very Special Arts Washington and the states of Alaska, Montana, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada. As dance specialist for ten Seattle public and private schools, Eric visits 29 classes and 530 students weekly. Eric leads professional development workshops nationally for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, served as a mentor teacher for classroom teachers in three Washington school districts from 1999-2007, and has trained teachers from throughout Japan for Japan ASCD and the U.S. Department of Defense Dependents Schools. Most recently, Eric has been leading workshops for teaching artists for both state and city arts councils. Eric is a graduate of Michigan State University.



Lenore Blank Kelner is an author, educator, educational consultant, keynote speaker and teaching and theatre artist. Lenore has presented her work in all 50 states and abroad and has been a presenter with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for 28 years. She was a Master Artist for the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts for 25 years. Ms. Kelner serves as an education consultant to the Maryland State Department of Education as well as school systems and schools nationwide. She has worked with students in all grade levels from Pre-K through college. Lenore is the author of *The Creative Classroom* (15th printing) and co-authored with Rosalind Flynn, *A Dramatic Approach to Reading Comprehension* (Heinemann, 2006). Lenore was awarded the 2004 Creative Drama Award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.



Martha McManus became the Education Program Manager at the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in 2004 after relocating to the United States following eight years in the Solomon Islands. There she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer then was subsequently employed as an Education Consultant for the Nature Conservancy's South Pacific Environmental Education Program, Training Director for Peace Corps Solomon Islands, and Team Leader for the United Nations Development Program's Constitutional Reform Project. McManus taught high school visual arts for 10 years. Her degree from the University of Georgia is in art education and sculpture. She has represented the Cultural Council with the summer institute since 2005.

“Having our principal join the team is incredibly beneficial when you are involved in a new learning experience. It communicates to everyone that this is important.”

Presenters Biographies



Staci Pendry has been teaching music for ten years. In 2000, Mrs. Pendry received her Bachelor in Music Education degree from Stetson University. She is a member of FMEA, FEMEA, AOSA, MENC, DEMA, FVA and is certified in ORFF levels one and two. Staci has presented several music workshops in Duval County and has shared her ideas with state music teachers at the annual FMEA conference. Staci was named teacher of the year at John E. Ford K-8 in 2008, making it to the top ten in Duval County. Mrs. Pendry is currently inspiring young minds and musicians as the music teacher at John E. Ford K-8 school in Jacksonville, Florida.



Cynthia Royce Smith is an artist and educator. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art from University of West Florida. She was a Graphic Artist for 18 years (13 yrs. owned and operate a graphics arts firm). She started her second career teaching, and returned to college (UNF & St. Leo's – for education). Cindy has taught elementary for 11 years. (4 Gifted, 7 Art) Cindy believes art is a vital part of every community. She actively promotes art in education with her colleagues, and by serving her community. She is a member of the exploratory committee working on the Augusta Savage Art and Community Center.



Jennifer Snead has lived Jacksonville all her life and has been teaching since 1987 in the field of Art Education, having received her Bachelors Degree from the University of Mississippi. Currently, she is a National Board Certified Teacher serving Chets Creek Elementary, since its opening 13 ½ years ago. She has served on the NGSSS Writing Team for the Visual Arts Standards and Benchmarks.



Terry Woodlief is a veteran art educator who has taught elementary visual arts in Duval County for 34 years. She holds a B.A.E. from University of North Florida where she served as president of the Florida Art Education Association Student Chapter and is the current President of the Duval Art Teachers Association. She is a member of both the National Art Education Association and the Florida Art Education Association where she has presented workshops on arts and technology integration. She is an active mentor to new and veteran teachers alike encouraging the use of cross-curricular instruction in art teaching. Terry's arts advocacy earned her the honor of being selected as one of five finalists for Duval County Teacher of the year 2010.



Richard Wright is a graduate of Jacksonville University with a Bachelor's in Music Education. He holds music certifications in Orff levels I, II, III, and masters. Mr. Wright has performed in the Jacksonville Symphony, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, and various popular music groups. He has taught school in Jacksonville for 16 years. He has worked as a music therapist at Northeast Florida State Hospital for six years and as a behavioral specialist for Children, Youth, and Family Services for four years. Currently Mr. Wright teaches strings, guitar, percussion ensemble, and general music at Lake Forest School of the Visual and Performing Arts. For ten years he has presented workshops for the North Florida Orff Chapter, Duval County music teachers, and the Education Department at the University of North Florida.

“Participating in the program has changed my approach to teaching and has transformed my classroom into a community of learners who share the joy of discovery through the arts.”