

Why Good Work Works

Real World Application

DAY AT A GLANCE

- 9:30 **Coffee and Registration** – Auditorium, 1st floor
9:50 **Welcome/Overview**
 Art From the Storm– Auditorium, 1st floor
- 10:45 **Open Rehearsals****
 Musical Theater – Auditorium, 1st floor
 Dance Session – Gym – 1st Floor
- 12:30 **Lunch** – Library, 6th Floor
- 1:45 **Afternoon Sessions****- 7th Floor
- Addressing Sexuality in the Special Education Classroom
 - Pre-planning for the Special Education Residency
 - Gold in the Classroom: Paraprofessionals
 - Raising Money, Losing Money, Meeting the Match: Stories and Approaches From the Field
- ** Please attend the panel and workshop that you registered for.
 This will ensure adequate attendance and ample space.
- 3:00 **Afternoon Sessions****- 7th Floor
- Addressing Sexuality in the Special Education Classroom
 - Pre-planning for the Special Education Residency
 - Gold in the Classroom: Paraprofessionals
 - Raising Money, Losing Money, Meeting the Match: Stories and Approaches From the Field
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- 4:00 **Convening, Next Steps, Door Prize**– Auditorium, 1st floor

PLEASE NOTE that photographs will be taken throughout this conference. Your likeness may be used for documentation purposes, reporting, or appear on our website. Only presenters or panelists will be identified. No compensation will be received, given or expected by any party. If you have objections to having your photo taken please make that known to the conference chairs.

Morning Session Descriptions

10:45am

Open Musical Rehearsal: *The Jungle Book KIDS*

P94M students with Tessa Derfner and Jason M. Foreman

Twenty P94M students with autism (ages 9-13), led by Theater Teacher Tessa Derfner and Film/Video/Animation Teacher Jason Foreman, will rehearse their upcoming musical theater performance of *The Jungle Book KIDS*. After a physical warm-up and vocal exercise there will be a run-through of selected songs, dances and scenes. Excerpts of student animation projects included in the performance will also be screened. Audience discussion with rehearsal leaders and some of the students will follow.

Rehearsal Leaders

Tessa Derfner teaches theater and dance to children with autism at P94M on the Lower East Side. To meet the specific needs of her students, she collaborates with colleague Jason Foreman to include strong visual elements to help tell the story onstage. Before teaching, Tessa was a theater producer, director and playwright in Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway theaters. She was also Company Manager for Lincoln Center Festival and the Henson International Festival of Puppet Theatre. She holds a Masters Degree in Fine Arts for Creative Writing from Vermont College and a Masters Degree in Urban Education from Mercy College.

Jason M. Foreman teaches media arts at P94M.

Open Dance Session

P754X/Mission Academy students and Dr. Diane Duggan

A typical therapeutic dance session for a small group of adolescents classified as emotionally disturbed. Movement, rhythmic music, and dance making are used to engage the young people and provide a supportive structure to facilitate self-regulation, self-expression, and appropriate interactions. After a warm-up, students will work on choreography and related technique. Artistic goals include developing dance technique, improvisation, and dance-making skills. The session will be followed by an audience discussion with rehearsal leader Dr. Duggan and the dancers.

Rehearsal Leader

Dr. Diane Duggan, Ph.D., BC-DMT, licensed psychologist and board certified dance/movement therapist, has worked with special children and youth since 1973. She provides related services counseling and conducts therapeutic dance groups at Mission Academy, a 12:1:1/8:1:1 program for adolescents with severe emotional disorders at P754X. Dr. Duggan has taught in the NYU Dance Education Masters program since 1994. She also teaches in the Special Education Masters programs at NYU and Hunter College and in the 92nd St. Y Dance Education Laboratory and Dance Therapy programs. She co-authored *Dance Education for Diverse Learners: Special Education Supplement to the Blueprint for Learning in Dance*.

Afternoon Session Descriptions

1:45pm and 3:00pm

Addressing Sexuality in the Special Education Classroom

Presenters Lisa Dennett and Dr. Jenny Tuzikow

Addressing sexuality in the special education classroom can be a challenge for students and practitioners. It is a topic that is important and often ignored. So what do we do? How do we address our students' personal changes as well as our own reactions? There are few structures, policies or attitudes in place to guide us. In this session, we will crack open this creaky door and begin to discuss some of the many issues involved in the inevitable - sexuality in the special ed classroom.

About the Presenters

Lisa Dennett is the founder/executive director of Interactive Drama for Education and Awareness in the Schools (I.D.E.A.S.) using drama as a teaching and learning tool with students in special education. She is responsible for drama classes implemented for blind youth and adults at the Lighthouse where she taught weekend and evening classes for 16 years in addition to co-facilitating, with a social worker, a group teen discussion on sensitive topics. She spent much of the 1990's as an HIV/AIDS educator within disabled communities and is a nationally certified Sign Language Interpreter. Lisa has a specialized Masters degree from NYU and is a current co-chair of the Arts in Special Education Consortium.

Dr. Jenny Tuzikow is a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, and board certified behavior analyst, who has presented internationally on the assessment and treatment of problem behaviors and sexuality concerns of individuals with autism. She has provided assessment and treatment to individuals with developmental disabilities in outpatient, inpatient and educational settings for ten years. She is currently the senior behavior analyst in the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Laboratory at the Institute for Basic Research. Dr. Tuzikow received her BS in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, and her Psy.D., in Psychology from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Afternoon Session Descriptions

1:45pm and 3:00pm

Pre-planning for the Special Education Residency

Presenters Jesse Hathaway and Katie Miller

How do we plan for an arts residency for a special education classroom? Does a special education arts residency require a different sort of planning than one for a general education class? What topics stand out regardless of variances in arts discipline, specific classification, teaching artist, and CBO? Through guided discussion and interaction, this session will explore components of pre-planning including initial planning meetings, stakeholder responsibility, observation areas of focus, curriculum design, and population adaptation.

About the Presenters

Jesse Hathaway, initially a performing artist and scenic designer/painter, received his B.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He began in arts education as a storyteller, incorporating dance, art, song and music for eight summers at Camp Harmony in New Jersey. As an arts paraprofessional at a residential treatment facility for emotionally disturbed students in NJ, Jesse developed a passion for Special Education. After completing special education teaching certification, he worked at Young Audiences New York as Program Manager and Special Education Coordinator. Currently, he is Project Manager for Special Programs at Manhattan New Music Project, overseeing and implementing US DOE-funded programs including Communication and Socialization through the Arts (CASTA) and Everyday Arts for Special Education (EASE).

About the Presenters *continued*

Katie Miller is currently the Education Director at Theatre for a New Audience. She was previously the Director of Education & Outreach at MCC Theater, and most recently the Director of Programming at Young Audiences New York. There, Katie helped to develop and facilitate a professional development series for teaching artists on working with students with special needs. Katie has been a guest instructor at NYU's Graduate Program in Educational Theatre and has served on numerous panels and committees at NYU and the New York City Arts in Education Roundtable. Katie received her MA from the Gallatin School at NYU.

Gold in the Classroom – Paraprofessionals

A panel presentation facilitated by Stephen Yaffe

Paraprofessionals (paras) are an often overlooked and undervalued asset. A panel of four accomplished and arts-committed paras will talk about their work, the values of the arts for their students, the values of paras for the arts and how to better and more meaningfully involve them in arts education settings.

About the Panelists

Anita Adams has a motto – *Kids Come First*. Her colleagues – past and present – agree that she puts it into practice every day in her work as a paraprofessional at 811K. Anita, a proud mother and grandmother, has been working as a para for 21 years. She has received many awards for her work with special needs students, most recently the UFT’s citywide “Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year.” A firm believer that every student can achieve a measure of independence, she has been a tireless advocate for our students. She also volunteers her time working with homeless, elderly and the hungry.

Mabel DeLeon has been a paraprofessional with the NYC Department of Education for fourteen years. She has worked with emotionally challenged children and those on the Autism Spectrum. She holds a Bachelor’s degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Social Work at Adelphi University. Her experience as a para has given her the foundation and motivation to pursue her goal of becoming a School Social Worker. She looks forward to continue working with children, something she finds extremely rewarding.

Dayo Omogun is a special education paraprofessional at the Connie Lekas School, PS 811K. Ms. Omogun is highly passionate about working with her students and is known for her caring and warm personality. These qualities allow her to make her students feel loved and appreciated for the unique abilities and personality each of them has.

Dawn Rowe, born and raised in Brooklyn, received her childhood education in NYC public schools and earned her Baccalaureate Degree at C.U.N.Y Hunter College. A paraprofessional, she works with students with various needs and abilities. She has been a para at P94M since 1999, and has participated in many extracurricular activities there. Dawn enjoys dancing, acting and stepping. She has shared her talents and love for the arts with many of her students through talent shows, plays and even teaching them a complicated step routine. “It makes me happy to see children learn and do things they thought they couldn’t”.

About the Facilitator

Stephen Yaffe, is an arts and education consultant, evaluator and former professor. He has provided professional development to teachers K-12, and artists since 1972. In 2008, he completed a needs assessment of special needs students and the arts in NYC Public Schools, K-12, under the auspices of VSA. His professional development work has been praised by the Director of Education Programs for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting as being, “brave, visionary, smart.” He has mentored disabled teaching artists across the country and is the VSA Teaching Artists Fellows Coach. He is co-chair of The Arts In Special Education Consortium.

Raising Money, Losing Money, Meeting the Match
– Stories and Approaches From the Field
A panel presentation facilitated by Jean Newton

Everyone knows these are hard fundraising times. In this session a varied group of resourceful and determined panelists will talk about their experiences raising money, and particular funding needs for arts in special education.

About the Panelists

Unitey Kull is Executive Director of Manhattan New Music Project (mnmp.org). Prior to joining MNMP, Unitey worked as a consultant with a variety of nonprofit organizations. She has also managed cultural grant programs for the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, where she specialized in professional development for artists and capacity building for arts organizations. Unitey holds a Master of Business Administration in Strategic Management and Public Policy from The George Washington University.

As District 75 Instructional Specialist for the ARTS, **Kathy London** provides professional development, and coordinates and assists with arts education programs, standards-based practices, curriculum implementation, learning events, and related activities. She served as Project Director for Creative and Integrative Arts Educators (2005-08), and Communication and Socialization Through the Arts (2008-11), both funded under CFDA 84.351C Professional Development for Arts Educators grants. Currently, she is Project Director of i3 Investing In Innovation development grant, Everyday Arts for Special Education; EASE (2010-15) awarded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement.

Ronnie Shuster, a former paraprofessional & classroom teacher, is principal of P94M – a K-8, District 75 public school. Her entire career has been spent in special education. P94M is committed to tapping into each child's fascination in order to help them learn and be productive. Dedicated to the arts, her middle school site ensures that every pupil is involved in both visual & performing arts. Following this vision, her school has developed a mission – Every student, through academic rigor infused with the visual and performing arts, will become a productive member of his or her community.

Nina Mogilnik is currently Executive Director of the Child Welfare Fund, a NYC-based foundation. Prior to her current position, Nina was Senior Program Officer at the Altman Foundation, where she was directly responsible for over 600 grants valued at \$32+Million. Nina was especially focused on out-of-school time, social welfare, arts, and education grants. Before Altman, Nina worked for other non-profits and the City of New York. Nina is a published essayist, and the proud mother of three children, one of whom is autistic. Nina holds a B.A., Magna Cum Laude from Union College, and a Master's Degree in Philosophy from the University of Chicago.

About the Facilitator

Jean Newton is Dean of Students and Faculty at the Music Conservatory of Westchester, a nonprofit community school of the arts with programming in music, music therapy, and theatre serving close to 3,000 students from infants to senior citizens. A professional harpsichordist who formerly had an active performing career, Ms. Newton is an experienced music educator and administrator. Prior to her appointment as Dean of Students and Faculty, she served as the Conservatory's Director of Development, supervising completion of the school's \$7.8 million fundraising campaign to acquire and renovate its 36,000 square foot facility.