



Organized in 2007, The Arts in Special Education Consortium provides means by which professionals and key stakeholders involved in arts education for students on the special education spectrum in New York can share perspectives, determine needs, develop ways to meet them, and deepen practice and understanding. Our purpose is to bring together constituencies, and engage them in meaningful conversation and exploration in order to ascertain barriers to and opportunities for providing quality arts education to special education students.

**[www.ArtsSpecialEd.org](http://www.ArtsSpecialEd.org)**

The Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis, collaborates on events, makes decisions on focus, goals and mission, and carries out the necessary tasks to succeed in reaching our goals.

**Steering Committee**

Stephen Yaffe, Chair  
Lisa Dennett  
Adam Goldberg  
Ronnie Shuster

The Support Committee consists of individuals with a high interest in the goals of the Arts in Special Education Consortium but without the time needed for participation on the Steering Committee. Support Committee members may take on individual tasks as needed for specific functions of the Arts in Special Education Consortium.

**Support Committee**

Patricia Freer  
Dena Malarek  
Linsey Miller  
Maria Mitchell  
Jean Newton  
Romy Nordlinger  
Erica Rooney  
Constance Stienon  
Meryl Wittenberg

If you are interested in joining the Steering or Support Committee please  
send an email to [info@ArtsSpecialEd.org](mailto:info@ArtsSpecialEd.org)



**We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to the following organizations and individuals for their support and help**

Erica Rooney

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Metropolitan Opera Guild

Museum of Jewish Heritage

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

The Jewish Museum

New York City Department of Education, District 75, Citywide Special Education

Gary Hecht, Superintendent, District 75

Helen Kaufman, Assistant Superintendent for District 75

Shelly Segev, Occupational Therapy Supervisor NYCDOE

Barbara Vaccaro

Aliza Greenberg

Dena Malarek, Kyla McHale, Leah Miles, Romy Nordlinger, Jenny Seham, Natasia White

P94M, The Spectrum School

New York State Council on the Arts

I.D.E.A.S.

The Arts in Special Education Consortium is made possible by The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Sponsored by I.D.E.A.S.



**Those of you on Twitter are encouraged to tweet about the conference using #artsped**

# ~ Weaving It In ~

## Supporting and Sustaining the Work

### DAY AT A GLANCE

- 9:15           **Coffee and Registration** – Lobby, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- 10:00           **Welcome/Overview** – Edmond J. Safra Hall/Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- 10:25           **Morning Sessions\*\* – How Did We Get Here?**
- Integrating the Arts for Student Success – Classroom C/D (1<sup>st</sup> floor)
  - Think Like an Artist: A Partnership Between Lincoln Center Education and The Hungerford School – Safra Hall/Auditorium (1<sup>st</sup> floor)
- 12:00           **Lunch** – Events Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (12:00-12:45)
- 12:55           **Afternoon Sessions\*\* – How Do We Sustain the Work?** (12:55-2:10)
- Extending Our Reach, Deepening Roots – Events Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
  - Putting It Together.....Brick by Brick! – Classroom A/B (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
  - Speaking in Pictures: Video Practices for Special Education Practitioners – Classroom C/D (1<sup>st</sup> floor)
  - The Arts Are Learning – Safra Hall/Auditorium (1<sup>st</sup> floor)
- \*\* Please attend the sessions that you registered for.  
                  This will ensure adequate attendance and ample space.
- 2:20           **Afternoon Sessions\*\* – How Do We Sustain the Work?** (2:20-3:35)
- Extending Our Reach, Deepening Roots – Events Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
  - Putting It Together.....Brick by Brick! – Classroom A/B (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
  - Speaking in Pictures: Video Practices for Special Education Practitioners – Classroom C/D (1<sup>st</sup> floor)
  - The Arts Are Learning – Safra Hall/Auditorium (1<sup>st</sup> floor)
- 3:45           **Final Convening** – Edmond J. Safra Hall/Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Looking Ahead
  - Raffle

**PLEASE NOTE** that photographs & video 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/video taken, please make that known to the conference chair or a Steering Cmt'ee member.



**We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to the following organizations and individuals for their generous raffle donations**

Brooklyn Yoga Collective

Children's Museum of the Arts

Heidi Latsky Dance

Henry's on the Upper West Side

Intrepid Museum

Manhattan Theater Club

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Museum of Modern Art

New Victory Theater

Roundabout Theater Company

Silver Moon Bakery

Stems Flower Shop

Theatre for a New Audience

The Metropolitan Opera Guild

YogaWorks

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

As you go through your day, please hold these in your consciousness.

Something important you've learned

Something you will try

Something you want to know more about

You'll address these directly in the Final Convening.

## **Morning Sessions – *How Did We Get Here?***

10:25am

### **Integrating the Arts for Student Success**

P.S. 69 Vincent D. Grippo School (K-5) in Brooklyn provides a deep and challenging curriculum in the Arts. Designated by Chancellor Carmen Farina and the Office of Interschool Collaborative Learning as a Showcase School, it is one of 17 such sites citywide, and the only one with an Arts focus. This interactive presentation, led by a P.S. 69 team, will examine integrated Arts Education provided self-contained classes of students with disabilities who are also predominantly English Language Learners (ELL) receiving ESL services. The session will feature Visual Arts and Music.

#### **Presenters**

*Jaynemie Capetanakis* is the Principal of PS 69, The Vincent D. Grippo School, a high-achieving elementary school with over 870 students; most of whom live in poverty and more than half are English Language Learners. To help bridge the learning gap, P.S. 69 has integrated the arts across the curriculum and made sequential programs in Visual Arts and Music available to every student. In 2009, Mrs. C received The Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture, which honors and celebrates individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to New York City. In 2010-2011, she was chosen as a Cahn Fellow, a Program for Distinguished Principals at Teachers College, Columbia University. Awards Mrs. C has received include the UFT Principal Award (2012), Noel Pointer Educator of the Year (2012), Spectator-Home Reporter "Star of Brooklyn" (2013), a City of New York Commendation from John Liu (2013), and the Janklow Award from Arts Connection (2014).

*Tamara (Tammy) Castellanos* was born in the former USSR and immigrated to the US in her early teens. She faced the same challenges that our ELLs face today, the most difficult of which had been learning a new language. When she became a mother, Tammy spent many years volunteering in schools and often worked with students with special needs. Her relationship with them and their educators had such a huge impact on her that she ended up entering that field. Additionally, she pursued TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) because she never forgot her own challenges as an ELL. The two groups are still our neediest in school. Today Tammy is proud and thrilled to work at P.S. 69, under the guidance of visionary administrators and surrounded by other like-minded colleagues, who cherish our neediest young people and seek out the best practices to help them succeed.

*Angela Fremont* is an artist and has been teaching Art for the past 24 years, first as a Studio in a School Teaching Artist, and at P.S. 69 since 2002. The Vincent D. Grippo School was recognized this year as the only Showcase School for the Arts and Angela was honored to be the only Model Teacher of the Arts for the NYCDOE. She has been a fellow and visiting artist at many national and international artist colonies. She is the recipient of this year's National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute to study Mesoamerican Cultures and Histories in Oaxaca, Mexico. She is the founder of Materials for the Arts.

*Lambros Koulentianos* is a special education teacher at P.S. 69, currently working with grades 1-3 in a bridge-class. Beginning his special education career as a paraprofessional at an early intervention center, Lambros has continued to serve children with various disabilities, including

learning and emotionally disabled, and children with autism. As a teacher, he has made it a goal to use Arts and Music to reach those in his care. With Music, he has seen students who have difficulty reading begin to better process language once a melody is added to the lesson. With Art, he has assisted students who, without the ability to read or process the words in a story, better process and visualize a scene with the addition of a depictive drawing. Lambros hopes to continue to discover new ways to use not just Art and Music, but many different forms of manipulatives, to help reach children who have difficulties learning through more conventional methods.

*JoAnn Pellegrino Yenzer* has been the Assistant Principal at P.S. 69 – The Vincent D. Grippo School – for 11 years. She began her career as an educator teaching second grade, followed by assignments as a Reading Recovery Teacher and then Literacy Coach prior to becoming an Assistant Principal. She attended St. Joseph’s College (Bachelor of Arts in Child Study), St. John’s University (Master of Science as a Reading Specialist) and Mercy College (Master of Science in Administration and Supervision). She currently resides in Brooklyn with her husband and two children. She believes education is the key to the future and strives to do her best to serve the P.S. 69 school community.

**Think Like an Artist:  
A Partnership Between Lincoln Center Education  
and The Hungerford School**

This successful partnership provides access to high quality performing arts activities, including live performances and in-class teaching artist instruction. In this interactive session, LCE and Hungerford staff will share their process of creating a successful and sustainable collaboration, including promising practices and lessons learned regarding professional development and classroom collaboration among Teachers, Teaching Artists, and Paraprofessionals.

**Presenters**

*Jessica Handrik* has over 15 years of experience facilitating and developing school partnerships. She oversees all aspects of Lincoln Center Education’s pre-K-12 and Higher Education programs, including LCE’s new middle school initiative, Arts in the Middle. She has been a member of Lincoln Center’s education staff since 1998, a highlight of which is being a member of a research team investigating the efficacy of LCE’s Capacities for Imaginative Thinking in seven partnering schools. Jessica is a member of the Newark, New Jersey Arts in Education Roundtable Advocacy Committee and serves on the board of the New York City Arts in Education Roundtable. She holds a BA in English Literature with a minor in Creative Writing, and earned an MA in Liberal Studies from the City University of New York Graduate Center in 2001, upon completion of her thesis, *Policy in the Making: the Role of the Arts in Education*.

*Linsey Miller* is a strong advocate for arts integration for students with severe special needs. She has been with the Hungerford School, District 75, for over 25 years, teaching Visual Arts for twenty years and serving as Assistant Principal and Arts Liaison for the past five. She has written

and implemented many highly prestigious arts education proposals and has presented her school's exemplary practices at international conferences, such as Very Special Arts. She hosts parent workshops, where parents work together creatively with their children. Linsey ensures that every child at Hungerford receives the arts instruction they so wholeheartedly deserve.

*Melissa Gawlowski Pratt*, Senior Program Manager, Pre-K–12 & Higher Education, Lincoln Center Education, manages the partnership with the Hungerford School along with overseeing LCE's Arts in the Middle initiative. The AIM program provides fully subsidized arts programming to under-resourced NYC middle schools that previously had little or no arts education. Previously, she was the Literary and Education Coordinator at Premiere Stages in Union, NJ. She has taught arts-based workshops and courses in schools, colleges, non-profits, and conferences in NY, NJ, Ohio, Japan, and Peru. Melissa holds a B.A. and B.S. from Central Michigan University, an M.F.A. from Ohio University, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Theatre at New York University, where she was the Ella Mae Mullavey Ader Fellow. A member of the NYU faculty, one of her courses focuses on Drama with Special Populations. In 2013 she was selected by the New York Foundation for the Arts for its first cohort of Emerging Leaders in Arts Administration.

*Salla Saarikangas*, dancer and choreographer, has been a dance teaching artist at Lincoln Center Education since 1995, and has worked full-time in this position since 2008. Originally from Finland, she was trained at Balettakademien, Stockholm, and received her M.A. in Dance Research and Reconstruction from City College of New York. She has choreographed for and danced with professional companies in Finland, Sweden, and the USA, and has taught at Tanssivintti, Helsinki; City College of New York; Connecticut College; Hope College (MI); Queens College; Rutgers University and Hofstra University. She is also a Certified Movement Analyst (CMA), notator and restager. Her restagings include works by Doris Humphrey, Helen Tamiris, Maggie Gripenberg, Andree Howard, Gertrud Bodenwieser, and Michel Fokine. Salla has also worked as a teaching artist for the Joyce Theater, NYC, and for Mark DeGarmo Dancers.

*Nicole Stefanski* is a dedicated Adaptive Physical Education teacher for students with special needs. She has been working at the Hungerford School for the past three years. Her instruction is based on hands on experience, creative learning and learning through sports. She values the importance of personal health and fitness. Her program reflects an all-embracing array of activities for all students. Throughout the past three years Nicole has been the lead Dance teacher, and Special Olympic coach. She has collaborated with neighboring general ed high schools implementing teamwork and socialization among students. Nicole has successfully established relationships with her students and makes sure they are in a safe and comfortable, yet challenging, learning environment.



## **Afternoon Sessions – How Do We Sustain the Work?**

12:55pm and 2:20pm

### **Extending Our Reach, Deepening Roots**

An often overlooked but highly valuable partnership is the one between Arts Educators and Related Service Providers. Join a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Pathologist and two Teaching Artists – one in Dance; one in Theater – in this hands-on session to explore connections between these Art forms and Related Services, how to talk about the Arts with Related Service Providers and approaches to collaborating with them.

#### **Presenters**

*Mark C. Corallo, MA CCC/SLP/PC*, has been a practicing speech-language pathologist for the past 17 years. He received his Master of Arts degree in Speech and Language Pathology from St. John's University, Jamaica NY, and is receiving his degree in educational leadership and administration this coming spring, also from St. Johns University.

He presently works for District 75 in the NYC Department of Education as a Speech-Language Pathologist at PS 373R in Staten Island, NY. Here he creates educational theater opportunities for students to foster social skill development and relationships, enhance receptive and expressive language skills, articulation, confidence and imagination.

In addition, he works alongside Dr. Jed Baker at the *Social Skills Training Project* in Franklin Township, NJ. where he provides speech therapy, social skill training, and theater programming for children, adolescents, and adults with communication impairments. He also consults on the infusion of Theater Arts with Speech Therapy.

*Tracey Fisher* has worked in pediatrics for over 17 years as both an educator and an Occupational Therapist. She holds two Master's degrees – one in Special Education, the other in Occupational Therapy. Tracey has served in a wide variety of settings and has been employed at P94M, The Spectrum School, for the past 5 years. Tracey's focus has been on working with children and adolescents diagnosed with autism and developmental delays. Her treatment centers on sensory integration, motor coordination, handwriting/fine motor, leisure skills, self-care skills and feeding. She is certified in Therapeutic Listening and teaching yoga to children with special needs. Tracey firmly believes that Arts based instruction is not only motivating, but affords her students the opportunity to grow, learn and feel successful in life. Tracey is a strong advocate of multidisciplinary team collaboration and family involvement in the therapeutic process.

*Leah Miles* holds a BA in Psychology with a minor in Music from Salem State University (1994) and an MFA from the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School Of The Arts (2010). She lives in Brooklyn where she works as a Playwright, Bookwriter, Lyricist and Teaching Artist. Past work includes: the premier of her play *Entangled* with Three Act Theatre, New York March, 2015, *Touching Loss*, (Triskelion Arts Split Bill Series), *Sunday Roaster Chicken* (Ugly Rhino Productions), *Bronx Zoo* (MuSE), *Providence: A Musical Comedy* (Write Act Eastside). Leah works as a Teaching Artist with Arts Connection (P94 Spectrum Schools, Broadway Jr., and other programs), The Metropolitan Opera Guild, and The Brooklyn Youth Chorus. She is a member of ASCAP, Dramatists Guild Of America, The Directory of



Contemporary Musical Theatre Writers, NOMTI (Boston, MA), and Three Act Theatre Company. Leah was recently nominated for The Excellence in Theatre Education Award presented by The Tony Awards® and Carnegie Mellon University. [www.leahamiles.com](http://www.leahamiles.com)

Joan Merwyn is Co-Curriculum Designer and Lead Teaching Artist with *Everyday Arts for Special Education* (EASE), a professional development program for NYC teachers. EASE is federally funded and administered through Urban Arts Partnership and Public School District 75. Joan served special needs populations of all ages and cultural backgrounds extensively through Hospital Audiences, Inc. (HAI), as a Senior Workshop Artist and Artist Evaluator. She is also a Master Teaching Artist and Teaching Artist Mentor for the *Teaching Artists Training Institute* (TATI), with Marquis Studios. TATI provides multi-arts professional development for special education classroom teachers and for professional teaching artists. Joan is an award winning, critically acclaimed, performance artist, choreographer and stage director, in the field of physical theater. She is committed to bringing innovative, multi-arts experiences to communities of all ages, abilities and cultures. For more information on Joan's ensemble and solo performance work, visit [www.JoanMerwyn.com](http://www.JoanMerwyn.com)

Carlo Vialu, PT, is the Director of Physical Therapy of the New York City Department of Education, overseeing a program with 700 physical therapists working with students with disabilities in over 1,000 schools. He is responsible for developing policies, guidelines and procedures for the provision of physical therapy services in the schools. He also leads the planning, development and presentation of continuing education workshops for DOE therapists.

### Putting It Together.....Brick by Brick!

This workshop will focus on building and sustaining quality Arts programs – wholly school-based and collaborations with outside Arts organizations – in a special needs school. Using their own eight-site, K-12 school as a model, a team from P94M will explore the components necessary to maintain funding; student, staff and family buy-in; and Department of Education support. Participants will have opportunities to see, discuss and then brainstorm current methods of Arts programming at P94M.

#### **Presenters**

*Tessa L. Derfner* is the Coordinator of Arts Instruction and Programming for P94M The Spectrum School working with teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers, and administrators to implement Arts programs with cultural partners and Teaching Artists across eight sites in Manhattan. She created the STAARS program with ArtsConnection to provide children with special needs the opportunities to perform, design and create original musicals in grades K-12. The program is the subject of the documentary *Spectrum of Hope* (<http://www.mtishows.com/spectrumofhopemovie>)

Before teaching, Tessa was a producer, director and playwright in Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway theaters. She was the Company Manager for Lincoln Center Festival and the Henson International Festival of Puppet Theatre and manager for singer Diamanda Galás. The recipient



of the Junior Theater Festival's Freddie G. Broadway Spirit Award, Tessa holds a M.F.A. degree in Fiction Writing from Vermont College of Fine Art and a M.Ed. from Mercy College.

*Emily Caballero Lukens* studied at DeSales University and joined ArtsConnection, one of the leading Arts Education organizations in New York City, in 2008. As a program manager, she oversees the Visual and Performing Arts venues, integrating the arts into the academic curriculum and school culture. Emily manages the Spectrum Musical Theater Program, an arts initiative for children on the autism spectrum. It was designed to create a sequential Musical Theater program for Grades K-8 to enhance social and emotional skills and develop independence through Music, Theater and Dance.

*Ronnie Shuster* is the principal of P94M, a K-12 public school in Manhattan serving students with autism as well as other disabilities. Ms. Shuster is dedicated to developing a school that nurtures children individually and encourages them to reach their academic and social potential. Her school's curriculum taps into the fascination that drives children's interests, and helps them to learn to be productive members of their community. She believes that the visual and performing arts are critical to youth development, and has incorporated arts education in every classroom in her school.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPEAKING IN PICTURES: Video Practices for Special Education Practitioners</b></p>
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Video can open a window into the special education classroom. This workshop will demonstrate how administrators, artists, and teachers can use video as a tool to both document their students' process and advocate for their program. Participants will learn the basics of digital video, plan the best way to capture their shots and give crucial context to their viewers, and discuss options for sharing their work both on- and off-line. The workshop will combine hands-on practice in technology with inquiry-based Arts practices.

**Presenter**

*Nelle Stokes* is a documentary videographer and Founding Executive Director of Magic Box Productions, Inc. Created to provide access to high-quality media arts education for children, Magic Box is entering its second decade of providing exemplary media arts workshops for over 10,000 students to date.

Ms. Stokes is a member of the Media Arts Writing Team for the *National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS)*, and a Steering Committee member for the NYC DOE's *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning: Moving Image*.

She has designed curriculum for programs throughout NYC, and presents regularly at local and national conferences, including the National Arts Educators Association, New York State Arts Teachers Association, New York City Arts Teachers Association and Face to Face. Ms. Stokes is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, who produced the Bronze Telly-winning *MS 223: The Power of Arts Education*, selected from an international field of more than 13,000 entries.

**The Arts Are Learning**

This hands-on session explores Arts values for students with disabilities, and how to communicate them to those who most need to hear them – current partners, potential partners and, yes, strong Arts advocates. The workshop is led by the ASEC Arts Values Working Group and is dual lens – Music and Theater.

**Presenters**

*Emily Davis* is a Music and Literacy Teacher at P168X, a District 75 school in the Bronx. She teaches students with autism in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to joyfully participate in music making, movement and listening. She also works closely with her administration as the Arts Liaison to support other Arts teachers and enhance Arts Education at P168X by partnering with various Arts organizations. Emily holds a B.S. in Music Therapy from Utah State University (class of 1998, magna cum laude) and a M.S. in Urban Education from Mercy College (class of 2007, with distinction). She lives in New York City with her husband Bryan and their two children Sarah and Austin. Emily is a member of the ASEC Arts Values Working Group.

*Adam Goldberg* implements the latest technologies, specifically the iPad and Logic Pro, to empower his students as music makers in an all-inclusive music making environment. This empowerment has led to wonderful opportunities for his students to represent the true capabilities of special populations, including filmings for District 75 and Fox News, and features on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. As invitees of VSA at The Kennedy Center, Mr. Goldberg's student band, the P.S. 177 Technology Band, performed in Washington D.C. to open the U.S. Department of Education's International Education Week. They have performed at the Upper West Side Apple Store, pedagogical conferences and various special occasions.

Mr. Goldberg has presented for NYSSMA, TI:ME, WNET's Celebration for Teaching and Learning, The UFT, The Soho and Upper West Side Apple Stores and The Arts in Special Education Consortium's annual conference. He has written articles for macProVideo.com, and is an Apple Distinguished Educator. He is a founding member of the ASEC Arts Values Working Group.

*Hanaah Frechette* is a graduate of Florida State University where she received a BFA in Dance and Spanish. In addition to serving as Company Manager of Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, she is the Project Manager of the Flamenco in America: A Traveling Exhibition of Spanish Dance, a multimedia exhibit curated by Flamenco Vivo in conjunction with the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. She recently completed a 14-month fellowship with the Emerging Leaders of New York Arts, a program of the Arts and Business Council, and has been invited to join their Board of Directors for the 2014-15 season. Hanaah is also a dancer and teacher with Erin Pryor Dance Theatre, Empty Nave Projects and Kaley Pruitt Dance and is a freelance choreographer based in Brooklyn. She is a member of the ASEC Arts Values Working Group.



*Matt Mazur*, M.A., is the Director of Turtle Dance Music, LLC ("We Help Kids Come Out Of Their Shells!"). He has performed all over New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania impacting the lives of thousands and thousands of children, teens and parents. He is also a Music, Technology and D.I.R. Specialist at the Atlas Foundation For Autism. He has a Post-Baccalaureate degree in Developmental Models of Autism Intervention and Early Childhood Development from Montclair State University. He received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts Degree in Drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and received his Master's of Arts in Theatre Studies from Montclair State University. He has worked extensively in New York City as a songwriting and Theatre Teaching Artist working in District 75 schools for children and teens with developmental disabilities. Matt is a member of the ASEC Arts Values Working Group.

*Kyla McHale* is a theatre, movement and mask artist specializing in education. She has been teaching since 2005 with organizations such as Marquis Studios, Kidz Theater, Urban Arts Partnership/Manhattan New Music Project, EducationWorks, Arden Theatre, Park Avenue Armory/Royal Shakespeare Company, Zshuk Art Initiative, New York University, LEAP. She works with students of all ages and abilities. She is teaching for the EASE i3 granted program and was observed as part of the TATI program. Kyla has performed across the globe and New York City as a physical theatre artist, actor, singer, dancer and puppeteer. She also makes masks and puppets through her company Kitchen Sink Arts. Kyla received her BA in Theatre from Muhlenberg College and her MA in Educational Theatre from NYU. She is a founding member of the ASEC Arts Values Working Group.

*Stephen Yaffe* is an arts and education consultant and former professor. 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 classroom teachers, teaching artists and arts administrators nationally, served as the VSA Teaching Artist Fellows coach, and has led professional learning communities in inclusive practices and Universal Design for Learning across the country. Additionally, he has provided PD to those working in the field of disability in Croatia, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Hong Kong, Jamaica, India, Paraguay, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Stephen has evaluated numerous arts-in-education initiatives and conducted many needs assessments, including one of special needs students and the Arts in NYC Public Schools, K-12 (VSA).

Stephen is a founding member of the ASEC Arts Values Working Group and a founding member and Chair of The Arts in Special Education Consortium.