



ArtsConnection

LINKING LEARNING AND THE ARTS

CREATING LIBERATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Professional Learning Workshops

2023/2024

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CREATING LIBERATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

ArtsConnecton’s Professional Learning Workshops activate arts experiences to build knowledge, develop skills, and inspire changes in teaching practice through hands on experiences for teaching artists, classroom teachers, and administrators.



Workshops for Supporting Students with Disabilities in your Classrooms

ArtsConnection (AC) has worked with students with disabilities (SWD) in the majority of its partner schools for decades, in self-contained and inclusion classrooms. We have developed specific program models of instruction to serve SWD — including most recently — [TeachwithGIVE.org](https://teachwithgive.org), a resource for working in inclusion settings with SWD. AC has a long history of partnering with D75 schools and self-contained classrooms designing residencies that engage all students. AC's approach offers all students and their teachers a new pathway to achievement, providing a “way in” to engagement and success for many children who learn best through alternative modalities.

Activating the Nature of Artistic Experiences to Create Accessible Curriculum

Planning to work with a class of students who benefit from a variety of (sometimes conflicting) supports can be challenging. By activating the UDL principles inherent in the arts, you can begin your lesson from a place of general accessibility with flexibility for any adjustments you may need to make for students along the way.

Bringing Multisensory Literate Expression into Your Classroom

Students live in a multisensory world, and they have been learning through their sensory experience since they were very small. When they engage with multisensory inputs and modes of expression, they access all of their intelligences, and can express rich and complex perceptions in a more nuanced way than through words alone. Teachers will work to use multisensory expression for teaching story concepts and ideas, vocabulary and other academic subjects.

Understanding Anti-Ableist Classroom Practices

During this workshop we spend time exploring the social model of disability and applying that knowledge to identifying barriers to inclusion within our practices and educational systems. An understanding of Disability Justice is key as we build our awareness of and ability to intentionally support all student's learning.

Teach with GIVE Workshops

ArtsConnection is one of the three creators of the online resource tool — [TeachwithGIVE.org](https://teachwithgive.org). We can create customized trainings for staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers in collaboration with our partners: New Victory Theater and Community Word project on engaging with the GIVE library of resources for your teams.



Using the Arts to Engage Multilingual Learners Workshop Options

ArtsConnection's research-based model effectively supports English language acquisition for Multilingual Learners (ML). Through the arts MLs develop language skills in an engaging, authentic context that provides opportunities for self-expression and ownership of learning. These workshops are recommended as a series but could be done individually.

Strategies for creating an ML supportive environment

How do you build upon the opportunities the arts naturally offer to MLs? What strategies and supports create a supportive environment in their arts learning?

Using tableau to build engagement and understanding

Explore the theatrical form of tableau. How can you use tableau with MLs in the arts and academic classroom across content and grade levels?

Layering language in arts experiences

Learn how to lower the affective filter and build a brave space for expression by starting with kinesthetic arts experiences. Then build on this by layering language gradually.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access Workshop Offerings

These workshops ground your work in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access (EDIA) theories and collaboratively develop and apply practices and strategies for how to create Liberated Learning spaces in your arts classrooms by intentionally creating learning communities that are:

- Student-driven
- Collaborative, Co-Generative, and Responsive
- Culturally sustaining, decolonized, and stigma-free
- Intersectional, anti-racist, accessible, and inclusive
- Supportive of each individual student’s identity, autonomy, belonging, and expression
- Value multiple entry points, multiple right answers, and multiple means of expression

Each workshop is a combination of learning concepts, reflecting on practice with practical takeaways, tools, resources, and strategies that can be applied in your classrooms, infused with art. These could be a mix of in-person and synchronous virtual workshops 2-3 hours each. We recommend these as a series but could be customized to your team.

Building a Joyful Classroom Community

Community Building is an essential element of creating liberated learning environments – engaging comfortably with people who are both similar and different from us, and getting to know everyone as individuals is what builds a strong community. In this workshop we explore intentional community building strategies and techniques.

Responsive Planning

Participants will take time to reflect on their current planning practices through a diversity, equity, inclusion, and access lens and begin to identify how they can incorporate responsive planning, an important element of creating equitable classrooms.

Engaging with Cultural Humility

During this workshop we will dive into the concept of cultural humility – and reflect on the intersections of our identities and how that is reflecting and echoing in the classroom.

Going deeper into Anti-Racist Classroom Practices (optional as needed)

Understanding how white supremacy characteristics appear in our art forms, and our educational structures is a vital step of this work. Otherwise, it is challenging to begin to examine intentional ways and strategies to consciously move away from these harmful practices aka: It’s not just WHAT you’re teaching it’s HOW you’re teaching.

Going deeper into Anti-Ableist Classroom Practices (optional as needed)

During this workshop we spend time exploring the social model of disability and applying that knowledge to identifying barriers to inclusion within our practices and educational systems. An understanding of Disability Justice is key as we build our awareness of and ability to intentionally support all students learning.

Going deeper into Anti-Sexism, Heterosexism, and Cis-Sexism Classroom Practices (optional as needed)

Together we will discuss key concepts and terminology related to gender, reflect on our own intersectional identities, and explore classroom practices for building a supportive environment where students of all genders are seen and respected.

Growing Student Agency in our Classrooms

Placing students at the center of their own learning requires their collaboration. They need a voice in why, what, and how learning experiences take shape. Participants will explore what they have to do to support student agency – an essential element of creating liberated learning environments.

Reflection and Application to Practice

As a culmination of the workshop series participants will spend time reflecting on their practices – exploring exclusive and inclusive elements and actively apply strategies as individuals or in small groups to intentionally build inclusive and equitable learning environments.



Skill Building Workshops for Teachers

Deeper Student Engagement through Small Group Collaboration in the Arts

In a virtual or in-person workshop we focus on deepening students’ understanding and engagement by supporting students to work productively in small groups for true collaboration. Exploring what learning supports enables students to collaboratively co-create original work, how to compose groups, and design group work to support your arts learning goals.

Deeper Student Engagement through Formative Assessment in the Arts

How can peer feedback practice cultivate student voice and ownership of learning? In a virtual or in-person workshop we focus on deepening students’ understanding and engagement by creating a culture of assessment and reflection in the arts classroom. Learn how to co-generate criteria with students, build a criteria-based peer feedback process and apply revision to the development of artwork. Explore discussion practices and protocols to help students recognize and articulate their learning. Learn how to select and scaffold questions to deepen comprehension. Analyze practical strategies and supports that have been integrated into dance, theater, music, and visual arts workshops to support students in thinking critically, collaborating, creating and reflecting.

Process Oriented Visual Arts Approaches for Classroom teachers

Visual arts activities can be an opportunity for adults and children to explore and discover materials, techniques and creativity together. Many adults feel intimidated or overwhelmed by the idea that they have to produce an artistic product that will “look good”. In this workshop learn techniques for approaching the work with a process-oriented approach that can be replicated in your classrooms.

Supporting Students as Artists

In a **2-part, in-person, workshop series** we’ll share and engage with ArtsConnection’s *Notice, Describe and Ask Protocol* which supports teachers to talk about students’ work and artistic choices in rich detail, without judgment. As we engage children in open conversation, we help them discover their own voice, while building their language and observation skills. In exploratory arts lessons, students discover the artistic choices to be made in any medium you are teaching, through guided, then unguided exploration with time to observe how your students explore, and what engages them. Participants will begin as artists themselves – and have an opportunity to experience the protocol from the perspective of their students. We will share simple effective planning tools for identifying and describing the range of artistic choices and give you time to try out using the tools to adapt the lesson to your medium of choice.



Embody, Map, and Explore Emotion Vocabulary through the Arts Workshop Series

In this **4-part workshop series** we explore and learn scaffolded arts activities for building and deepening students understanding of emotion vocabulary. Physical expression tells a story, just like illustrations in a book. Learn how to:

- Model inferencing by noticing and describing your students’ physical expression choices and how those choices express emotion.
- Offer multiple entry points to deepen understanding of emotion vocabulary.
- Support complex conversations about what emotion words mean to a variety of people.

Workshop 1: Core Emotion Statue Game

Teachers learn to engage students in the inferencing process using physical expression. Kids express what they know about core emotion words with their bodies. Teachers notice and describe students’ physical choices and how those choices express emotion. This process helps kids to make a connection between visual, kinesthetic and verbal literacies and boosts confidence in their communication skills.

Workshop 2: Advanced Emotion Statue Game

Teachers model being curious about the different ways that people express emotion. They notice and describe the physical choices made by a variety of students as they embody advanced emotion words. Teachers support students by

providing and eliciting context as needed. Physical expression provides opportunities to learn from your body and the bodies of others.



Workshop 3: Mapping Emotion Vocabulary

Teachers explore a visual mapping tool to be used with their students to further clarify, compare, and contrast advanced emotion words. Nuanced conversations are encouraged. Words can be placed and revised to reflect varied, complex, and growing understandings of new vocabulary.

Workshop 4: 5-Shapes Many Emotions Hands on Exploration

Teachers learn how to support their students to explore and describe choices about shape, spacing and direction to discover how they can transform facial expression. This hands on exploratory visual arts lesson can extend into conversations about character emotions, reflections on personal feelings, puppet making or expressive drawing.



Building Classroom Community Through the Arts — RITUALS

Rituals are the roots of our community building practices – they develop and ground the emotional and physical connections within our community. Rituals root us in our communities, languages, families, and lineages. They are embedded in our life journeys and practices. Rituals are a moment for connection, reflection, and check-in. Together we explore how we can activate artistic practices to create meaningful rituals that lead to stronger classroom community spaces.

Building Classroom Community Through the Arts — RELEASE, RESET, AND REFOCUS

How do we take moments of un-focus, chaos, or transition and use the arts to re-set student energy, building students awareness of their physical and emotional needs through moments of artistic check-ins? Together we learn a variety of arts-based reset strategies and activities that can be applied to your classrooms.

Building Classroom Community Through the Arts — REFLECTION

Ongoing Reflection is a vital element of teaching practices as it builds student understanding of their own learning development and provides feedback for teachers. Building opportunities for authentic ongoing reflection will lead to a stronger classroom community. Together we'll explore practical strategies and elements of the arts that can be applied to reflection in your classrooms.





ArtsConnection

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

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