



THE WOODRUFF
ARTS CENTER

EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

Experience, Create, Educate

PROGRAM

as of 5/24/2024
details subject to change

SCHEDULE at-a-glance: Saturday, June 1, 2024

Time	Description
10 AM	Check-In Meet & Greet with Art Partners Sales and Audience Development Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee & Tea provided by Refuge Coffee Co.
11 AM – 12:15 PM	Welcome: Sarah Grant, Trent Anderson, and Andrew Westover, PhD Keynote Speaker: Christy Todd, 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Lunch provided by Honey Baked Ham
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions – Block #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Artificial Intelligence and the Arts for the PreK-Grade 12 Classroom</i> with Jason Hurd and faculty from Seckinger High School <i>Mood Boost: An Interactive Improv Experience</i> with Katie Causey and Avery Sharpe <i>Patterns in Abstraction: Black Quilts from the High’s Collection</i> presented by Marquetta Johnson and Andrew Westover, PhD
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Transition
2:30 – 5 PM	Concurrent Breakout Sessions – Block #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Behind the Scenes with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra</i> with Beth Freeman <i>Creative Fusion: Exploring Elementary Science, Movement, and Language Arts through Visual Arts</i> with Emily Yewell Volin <i>Experience: The Preacher’s Wife</i> at the Alliance Theatre (Matinee Performance & Talk Back) <i>History + Technology + Art = Tips for Applying Photography in an Elementary Arts Integration Classroom</i> with Sarah Erickson <i>Music and Media: Experiencing Film, TV, and Video Game Sound in the Secondary Classroom</i> with Scott A. Stewart <i>Personal Narrative Self-Portraits in Secondary Classrooms</i> with Ondrian Reid <i>Playful Power of Puppets: Create and Integrate Puppets into Your Early Learning Classroom</i> with Anna Elizabeth Oakley <i>Students at the Symphony: Stories through Music for all PreK-Grade 5 Classrooms</i> with Brianne Turgeon <i>Theater Arts Integration in Action!</i> with Abbey Kincheloe, Ann Marie Meeker, and Sarah Wallis
5 – 6 PM	Networking Break <i>Musical Interlude</i> presented by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (5 – 5:30 PM) Complimentary Refreshments (Water & Lemonade) at Table 1280
6 – 7:30 PM	Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dinner provided by Williamson Brothers Bar-B-Q; with Beverages provided by Premier Events <i>Experience: After-Hours Access to the High Museum of Art</i> <i>Create: Art-Making Stations (Friendship Bracelets and Buttons)</i>
7:30 – 8 PM	Transition
8 – 10 PM	Evening Performances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Experience: Stutzmann + Trifonov</i> at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra <i>Experience: The Preacher’s Wife</i> at the Alliance Theatre

PRESENTED BY

THE WOODRUFF ARTS CENTER 

**Alliance
Theatre**

**Atlanta
Symphony
Orchestra** 

HIGH

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Christy Todd, 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year

Named the 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Christy Todd is a music technology teacher who believes every child has a creative superpower.

In addition to teaching classes at Rising Starr Middle School in Fayetteville, Georgia, Todd is the founder of her district's Community for Creativity initiative, supporting schoolwide creation of songs, podcasts, videos, audio books and more, which are released through the school's recording label, Hall Pass Entertainment. Passionate about building opportunities for all students to create, Todd launched a special music collaboration between fine arts and special education classrooms that has impacted more than 10,000 students over the last 15 years.

Prior to teaching, Todd worked in business development in the nonprofit sector and draws from that experience to build connections between students, colleagues, families and communities. She began her teaching career as a chorus director and still actively conducts honor choirs, along with publishing articles and research for various state, national and international education journals.

Todd's career recognitions include 2013 Grammy Music Teacher of the Year National Quarterfinalist, 2016 Georgia Middle School Association's Teacher of the Year, 2022 Fayette County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, and was recently named one of four nationwide finalists for 2024 National Teacher of the Year. Todd received a Bachelor of Music Education from Shorter College, a Master of Music Education from Florida State University, and currently resides in Griffin, GA.

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS - Block #1

Artificial Intelligence and the Arts for the PreK-Grade 12 Classroom

Facilitated by: Jason Hurd and Faculty from Seckinger High School

Mood Boost: An Interactive Improv Experience

Facilitated by: Katie Causey and Avery Sharpe

Join us for a joyful, extemporaneous experience! Improvisation (“improv”) is a form of theater in which all elements of a story and scene are made up on the spot. In this interactive workshop, teachers will explore the curriculum for inspiration and practice the following rules: 1. Say “yes, and...” (follow your impulses); 2. Make your scene partners look amazing (listen and respond carefully); and 3. Fail boldly (lean into a brave and safe space). Participants will have the option to collaborate in small ensembles as actors onstage or enjoy the show from the audience (all levels welcome). Everyone will leave with a palpable mood boost from a good, shared laugh, as well as fresh ideas regarding improv as a practical tool for both academic and social-emotional learning.

Patterns in Abstraction: Black Quilts from the High’s Collection

Facilitated by: Marquetta Johnson and Andrew Westover

In conjunction with the High’s upcoming exhibition Patterns in Abstraction: Black Quilts from the High’s Collection, featured exhibition artist and educator Marquetta Johnson will be in conversation with Andrew Westover, Deputy Director for Learning and Civic Engagement. The two will discuss Johnson’s quilting practice as well as the exhibition’s broader consideration of Black women quilters and abstraction. Both speakers will then share practical strategies for educators, focusing on how teachers across disciplines can incorporate quilting in ways that engage and inspire learners of all ages.

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS - Block #2

Creative Fusion: Exploring Elementary Science, Movement, and Language Arts through Visual Arts

Facilitated by: Emily Yewell Volin

Join Emily for an engaging session that seamlessly blends science, movement, English language arts, and visual arts to inspire creative expression. Through interactive activities, participants will delve into the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle, while immersing themselves in choreographic elements, word association, and recycled art. In addition to the artistic exploration, Yewell Volin will provide valuable insights into grant opportunities for arts education programming through the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA), as well as details about the GCA Teaching Artist Registry. Don't miss this enriching session celebrating the intersection of creativity, education, and community engagement.

Experience: [The Preacher's Wife](#) at the Alliance Theatre (Matinee Performance & Talk Back)

BOOK BY AZIE DUNGEY

MUSIC & LYRICS BY TITUSS BURGESS

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ARDEN AND TINASHE KAJESE-BOLDEN

In their fast-gentrifying Harlem neighborhood, Preacher Henry and his wife Julia struggle to keep their congregation going in the face of development. When all seems lost, Henry asks God for help, and receives it in the form of an angel. But will this mysterious newcomer really help or make matters worse? Through it all, Julia must find her voice and the strength to lead their congregation through the crisis, reminding them that a church is not a building, but the people who inhabit it and the love they share. Featuring an original score by actor, comedian, and writer Tituss Burgess (TV's *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*) and a book by actress, producer, and writer Azie Dungey (TV's *Harlem*), *The Preacher's Wife* is a can't-miss theatrical celebration of community, family, and faith.

History + Technology + Art = Tips for Applying Photography in an Elementary Arts Integration Classroom

Facilitated by: Sarah Erickson

Explore history and current social truths with a gallery walk and discussion focused on photography, using the current High Museum of Art exhibition *Truth Told Slant* as a focal point. While exploring this ubiquitous art form, discover some highly engaging teaching strategies to encourage critical thinking in your students. You will learn fun modern tips, tools, and applications for digital photography. Finally, you will have the chance to be inspired by the pros and create your own art in the galleries.

Music and Media: Experiencing Film, TV, and Video Game Sound in the Secondary Classroom

Facilitated by: Scott A. Stewart

Music for film, television, and video games is often the only contact with "symphonic sounds" experienced by students today. This workshop will explore how to present this rich and often familiar repertoire in creative ways to teach the elements of music and film, how music functions with visual image, and a hopping-off point for critical listening and analysis of music of all genres. Ideas for capstone projects such as podcasting and producing visual and audio content will be explored.

Personal Narrative Self-Portraits in Secondary Classrooms

Facilitated by: Ondrian Reid

Artists often explore topics that are personally meaningful while striving to communicate a viewpoint. While looking at the figural art of Aaron Gilbert, Caledonia Curry, and other contemporary artists, educators will discover how to guide students through the creation of narrative self-portraits which tell a personal story or a specific social justice issue.

Playful Power of Puppets: Create and Integrate Puppetry into Your Early Learning Classroom

Facilitated by: Anna Elizabeth Oakley

In this highly interactive workshop, participants will discover how puppetry in the early childhood classroom can enhance student's social emotional learning while making meaningful connections to concepts and themes. Utilizing puppetry strategies and techniques, participants will learn key skills to easily implement in the classroom. As a group, we will explore how to use puppets to introduce concepts, support transitions, and build empathy. Then, participants will have the opportunity to learn how different types of simple puppets can be made, build their own puppet, and work in small groups to create an original puppetry experience. Participants will leave the session with the tools to enhance their curriculum using their new classroom puppet creation (or newly built classroom puppet).

Students at the Symphony: Stories through Music for all PreK-Grade 5 Classrooms

Facilitated by: Brianne Turgeon

Theater Arts Integration in Action!

Facilitated by: Abbey Kincheloe, Ann Marie Meeker, and Sarah Elizabeth Wallis

Join three Alliance Theatre Institute teaching artists as they model arts-integrated lesson plans implemented in elementary classrooms through [Drama Partners](#) residencies. These lesson plans activate learning in any content area using a variety of drama strategies, including Process Drama, Reader's Theater, playwriting, improvisation, puppetry, and/or storytelling. In this interactive session, participants will discuss helpful tips and tricks and identify how it will look in their classrooms. Whether they are learning about this work for the first time or mastering specific strategies, participants will gain more experience and confidence in authentic arts integration.

Tour: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Facilitated by: Beth Freeman

Experience the Orchestra from a different point of view! This tour will provide backstage access to the stage, production level, and information about the people who make it all happen. Bring back insider information to students about Symphony Hall and help students understand expanded career opportunities related to the arts.

RECEPTION

Join us in celebrating this incredible community of educators and related professionals! After a successful and impactful school year, we invite you to kick off your summer with a special evening reception in the High Museum of Art's Margaretta Taylor Lobby. Dinner will be provided by Williamson Brothers Bar-B-Q, and all attendees will receive 1 complimentary drink ticket to enjoy a beverage provided by Premier Events. Guests will enjoy exclusive, after-hours access to the High Museum of Art, as well as informal, creative art-making stations to design friendship bracelets and buttons in the Orkin Terrace.

After-Hours Access to the High Museum of Art includes:

- [Dutch Art in a Global Age: Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#) (Wieland Cousins Galleries, Level 2)
- [Truth Told Slant: Contemporary Photography](#) (Wieland Lucinda Bunnell Galleries, Lower Level)

EVENING PERFORMANCES

Experience: [Stutzmann + Trifonov](#) at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Piano superstar Daniil Trifonov joins the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and music director Nathalie Stutzmann for the formidable Piano Concerto No. 2 by Johannes Brahms, a piece that is as sunny to the ear as it is fiendish for the pianist. With fistfuls of notes and a hint of Hungarian folk song, this winning concerto remains a concert-hall favorite. Also on the program, Maestro Stutzmann brings out a rarity for the orchestral music world, part of a collection of laments by the Elizabethan composer John Dowland. The evening concludes with the frolicking and exuberant Symphony No. 2 by Robert Schumann.

Experience: [The Preacher's Wife](#) at the Alliance Theatre

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