Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artists
Concerts in Schools (CIS) and In-School Artist Residencies (ISAR)

Music

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Cantaré, Latin American Music

Appropriate For: Grades Pre-K—12
Content Areas: Music, Health and Physical Education, History, Geography

Cantaré is lead by vocalist Cecilia Esquivel and guitarist Dani Cortaza, both from Argentina. The artists are very active in the Washington area music scene and have extensive training in performance and music education. Vocals are accompanied by string and percussion instruments from Latin America with bass, percussion and keyboard backing tracks.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Cantaré, Latin American Music performs songs in Spanish and Portuguese, while sharing the music’s cultural background. Cantaré introduces a variety of string and percussion instruments from different Latin American countries. Audiences learn about geography and history of Latin America and about the different cultures that shaped its music – Indigenous, European and African. In this highly interactive bilingual performance, audiences are invited to sing, play percussion and dance a basic Latin rhythm such as salsa.
Christine Kharazian

Christine Kharazian is a concert violinist, a graduate of the Komitas State Conservatory and the Tchaikovsky Advanced School of Music in Yerevan. She studied violin with Prof. Edward Dayan, a pupil of David Oistrakh. Her early performance experience includes 5 years with the Armenian National Opera's Symphony as a member of the first violins, and with the Sharakan Ensemble of Ancient and Medieval Music of Armenian TV and Radio, as a soloist. As a soloist, she has performed in concerts at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Hall, Dumbarton House, the Gallery at The Ellipse, and various Embassies in Washington, among other venues. Christine is an experienced educator. An alumna of the Inspired Teaching Institute, she teaches at Sidwell Friends School, and at Fillmore Arts Center in Washington, DC and is Washington Performing Arts teaching artist for the Capitol Strings program. Christine is also the author and presenter of a series of interactive programs in music education. Currently she serves as a Chair of Student Activities at Friday Morning Music Club, coordinating concert series for young aspiring musicians, and is a board member of Blues Alley Jazz Education Society.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Music and Painting: Sounds and Colors and what they unveil. Tuned piano needed.

The presenters explore the connection between music and art of different epochs and cultures. Music and paintings of famous composers and artists will be analyzed, from the perspective of what they tell us about the particular time and place. Music of Vivaldi, Debussy, Ravel, Joplin and Duke Ellington will be paired with paintings of Leonardo Da Vinci, Monet, Renoir, Hayden and Edward Hopper. Tuned piano and projector screen required.
Imani Gonzalez

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: music, world cultures

Imani Gonzalez is an international and national and professional jazz/world vocalist. Her voice is featured on many of the National Geographic Television's Explorer Series soundtracks, including the Emmy-nominated film Jane Goodall: My Life with Chimpanzees. Imani has had the honor of performing, touring, and recording with renowned artist, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for eight consecutive years. She is a 2016 - 2022 grant recipient of the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities. Since 1989, Imani has held the distinction of being the first and only American woman who performs, tours, and records with the traditional Ghanaian ensemble ODADAA. She has written two children’s world music books entitled, Dhimiki and Iyipo Ayé with sing-a-long compact discs, which have received rave reviews from teachers, students, universities and libraries.

PROGRAM OPTIONS
World and Jazz music are tools for understanding relationships between music and other cultures. Through other cultures, we come to know and appreciate Jazz as America’s only original contribution to Western music and the significance of our American culture and its’ history.

World Music Program
This performance gives a tremendous new way to bring young people into the living, breathing vitality of other cultures. Students learn about the lifestyles and values of children in these faraway countries and come to appreciate the similarities and differences between these cultures and their own.

Jazz Program
This fun and interactive performance features an introduction to Jazz music. Students learn songs through call & response and feel the richness and importance of this American culture.
An “outstanding voice,” according to the Washington Post, soprano, Karin Paludan works in opera, recital, operetta, cabaret and musical theater, and also works extensively in educational and community outreach through Washington Performing Arts, the National Symphony Orchestra and Music For Autism. Performing as a soloist in opera and recital she has performed throughout the United States with such companies as Community Concerts, New York City Opera, the Utah Festival Opera and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, at The Kennedy Center, The Library of Congress, The National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian. Karin is also a past regional Metropolitan Opera National Council award winner. An artist committed to connecting communities through the power of music, she believes we all have the potential to raise our voices and change the world. Karin is dedicated to reaching and connecting to audiences of all abilities, and specializes in inclusion and collaboration. She works with teachers to ensure that her performances meet the needs of every student.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

*Karin is also able to offer the below as a Sensory Friendly CIS*

**Singing is My Superpower!**

A joyous, inspiring and interactive program celebrating the power of the human voice. We all have a voice we can use to change the world! Join soprano, Karin Paludan, as she introduces students to the magical world of classical vocal music and inspires them to discover and celebrate the strength and power of their own voices. Through vocal exercises, storytelling, collaborative singing, guided imagery and audience participation, students will gain tools to explore and celebrate their “super power” within - learning and discovering ways they can strengthen and use their voices to empower themselves and change the world. Singing can be your “super power” too!

Karin is dedicated to reaching and connecting to audiences of all abilities, and specializes in inclusion and collaboration. She works with teachers to ensure that her performances meet the needs of every student.
Luis Garay Percussion World

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: Music, History, Geography

Luis Garay was born in Cordoba, Argentina. He is a Classical, jazz and Afro-Latin multi-percussionist, composer, recording artist and educator. (Percussion Professor at Cordoba State Conservatory of Music, Master of Music from The Catholic University of America, advanced studies include the Escola de Musica de Brasilia) He is a former principal timpanist of The Cordoba Symphony Orchestra, founder of the Cordoba Jazz Quartet and former director of Youth Percussionists of Cordoba, and former instructor and director of the percussion ensemble of the Cordoba State Conservatory of Music in Argentina. During his 40 year career, he has performed throughout the Americas and Europe at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, Department of State, Smithsonian Institution, The Argentine Embassy and Strathmore Music Center. Percussion soloist: Luis Garay Percussion World. Albums “Sacumba” and “Humanity” is a collection of his original Afro-Latin compositions performed by his group Percussion World: www.luisgaray.com, Lead percussion director at Latin Strings and Percussion at The Music Center at Strathmore. http://www.luisgaray.com/video.htm

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Luis Garay’s blend of spicy, undulating South American, Caribbean, and African rhythms is a highly educational and entertaining musical journey, introducing the audience to many exotic instruments such as the balafone, djembe, and talking drum, and also to the more familiar congas, bongos, timbales, and drum set. The audience participates throughout the performance as they learn to clap authentic rhythms from different cultures.
Quintango

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: English, Social Studies, History

Eva Cappelletti Chao, violinist, performs with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. She is the Concertmaster for Concert Opera of Washington as well as for many of the choral groups in the DC area.

Jon Nazdin, bass, is a native of Washington DC. A graduate of The Berklee College of Music, he plays all genres of music on double bass and electric bass. Noteworthy highlights include working with Barbra Streisand, The Three Tenors, George Benson, Doc Severinson, Yoyo Ma and his Silk Road project, Denise Graves, Branford Marsalis.

Joan Singer, violin, is the founder and director of QuinTango. She has performed in concert in England, France, Mexico, Italy, Holland, Germany, Costa Rica, Guatemala, India, Sikkim, Uruguay and Argentina, as well as throughout the United States. Since founding QuinTango, she has become a record producer, tour manager, grant administrator, arts panelist, Master Teaching Artist, and international lecturer on tango, realizing her dreams of combining music performance, travel, and writing.

Lukasz Szyrner, cello, Born in Poznan, the musical capital of Poland, Szyrner began his studies at the age of seven and at age ten was performing in the Poznan Philharmonic Orchestra, where he made his solo debut at 14 performing the Saint-Saëns cello concerto. He is the recipient of the Glos Wielkopolski "Medal of Young Art" award for his artistic achievements in Poland and abroad. Mr. Szyrner has performed solo and chamber works throughout Europe and the United States.

Jeffery Watson, piano, has appeared as soloist with the Honduran National Symphony, Pan American Symphony, Rosario (Argentina) Chamber Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, with additional performances in Croatia, Alaska, Uruguay and Peru. Dr. Watson was associate conductor for the Kennedy Center’s award-winning production of “Sunday in the Park with George” as part of the Center’s 2002 Sondheim Festival and music director and coach for the Maryland Opera Studio at the University of Maryland. He is on the faculty of the Washington Conservatory of Music in Washington, D.C.

Website: http://www.quintango.com/

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“Long ago - so long ago that your great great grandmothers were little girls - the Tango was born in an immigrant neighborhood on the banks of the Rio de la Plata, the River of Silver, in faraway Argentina... High society ignored the poor Tango, until one day....” And so begins the Cinderella-like story of Tango’s rise from humble beginnings to international stardom - a story of immigrant dreams, power of music, and importance of geography -- all with sizzling live performance and audience engagement in Spanish and English by music group QuinTango (2 violins, cello, bass, piano). Piano or keyboard required from school.
Reverb

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: Music, English, History

Reverb is a Wammie Award-winning a cappella vocal group who sings an uplifting blend of soul, pop and Gospel classics and original songs written and arranged by group members. Reverb has performed along the East Coast and toured East and Southern Africa, the Persian Gulf and the Caribbean. In addition to Black History in Harmony, Reverb teaches choral music to K-6 pupils in DC Public Schools through Capital Voices and performs for senior citizens through Enriching Experiences -- both programs sponsored by Washington Performing Arts.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The five male singers of Reverb take students on an a cappella musical journey through African-American history, focusing on the social issues of 1619, 1866, the 1960s, and today. Students participate by answering and asking questions, singing, and playing hand-held percussion instruments. Reverb’s repertoire engages students and provides insight into issues that are still thought provoking today.
Rhythm Wranglers

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: Music, Health, History

Since 1969, Steve Bloom has performed and/or recorded in over a dozen countries. His work in Afro-Cuban folklore, Celtic music, and in Persian percussion has taken him to the Lincoln Center, to top-tier folk festivals around the U.S., and in 2006 Bloom performed for the United Nations General Assembly, presented by Ban Ki-Moon. He has been engaged for the last four years as "Resident Creative" at the National Building Museum. For information about concert and workshop offerings visit his website: www.musicbyhand.com.

John Peiffer played French horn with the Washington Opera for 17 years, is currently an instructor at the Landon School, and leads an innovative and eclectic jazz group called Peiffer's Corner, featuring renowned bassist John Previti and Steve Bloom

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Rhythm Wranglers duo presents a participatory lecture/demonstration throughout which the artists perform short works on a wide variety of instruments, whose origins and sonic properties are compared and contrasted. The program is adaptable for all audiences, features segments on Persian drum rhythms, Cuban conga rhythms, and even a spotlight on the phenomenon of the hybrid drum set in such styles as jazz, and Samba. Peppered with units of vocal call-and-response, rhythm games, and the like, this rapid-fire program challenges audiences of all ages, and entices them with insights into such musical domains as meter, melody, syncopation and polyrhythm.
Coyaba Dance Theater was founded in 1997 by Founder/Artistic Director Sylvia Soumah. The mission of Coyaba Dance Theater is to present traditional and contemporary West African dance and music focusing on the diverse ethnic groups and various humanitarian themes of West African culture. Coyaba Dance Theater performs throughout the year and has been featured at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Public Playhouse, the Lincoln Theater, the Lisner Auditorium, Dance Place, the Chicago Theater and the World Culture Open in Seoul, South Korea.

Website: [http://www.danceplace.org/coyaba-dance-theater/](http://www.danceplace.org/coyaba-dance-theater/)

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**OH’ Africa: Africa is Continent not a Country**
Oh’ Africa, is a 45 minute, high energy, interactive performance highlighting the music dance and culture from the Mali Emperor (Mali, Senegal, Guinea). Students will experience their rich history and culture from these amazing countries and diverse their ethnic groups. Program will include: Drum Call (Calling of the Ancestors) Harvest Dance, Drum History Dance Of the Griot, and audience participation and closing Mantra LOVE-PEACE-RESPECT for EVERYBODI’. Coyaba looks forward to you taking this journey with us.
We are creators. We generate movement, dialogue and joy. Like many artists, we thrive in community. We often choose to work collaboratively as directors, cast-members, choreographers, teachers, and friends. Together we:

• Build community and create safe, supportive spaces our community to explore contemporary social issues
• Put dance in unexpected places like crosswalks, offices, living rooms, and... you get the idea.
• Engage the community through conversations, pop-up events, delight and curiosity. Often these engagements look like workshops, performances, residencies, and partnerships
• Create and present works that blend several dance forms with multimedia elements, storytelling, and theater
• Provide a broad scope of dance and theater education classes for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities

CIS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
A modified version of Contradiction Dance Theatre’s performance: "Making Space : Taking Place :: Making Place : Taking Space". We will focus on how we choose to share spaces and places with our community. How do deal with challenging people - like bullies - in our everyday lives? The concert will include audience participation activities including:

1. Guided discussion/reflection of theme and performances integrated throughout
2. Dance the B.E.S.S.T. (Body, Effort, Shape, Space, Time). Definition of Dance (stationary exercise, full assembly):
3. Locomotion Across the Floor (15 student volunteers dance in groups across the floor)
4. Dance your feelings (stationary exercise, full assembly): Sometimes our emotions are bigger than we are; dance is a great way to examine them and find ways from one emotion to another.
5. Create a Dance (stationary exercise (full assembly), with student volunteers and company on stage): The company builds a dance, based on suggestions from the audience. The audience learns a stationary version. The whole room dances it together, with the student volunteers and company providing variation to the theme.

ISAR PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Contradiction Dance Theatre builds creative artistic experiences with and for the students, exposes the students to professional dance and performance, and works to integrate dance and movement into the core curriculum. Contradiction Dance Theatre’s Artistic Director Kelly King works with teachers to build a personalized curriculum to suit the needs of the students, teachers, and the school culture. Kelly works to build a common vocabulary for movement within the classroom setting, so that each member of the community can contribute and help create the physical content with confidence.
Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble

Appropriate For: Grades K - 12
Content Areas: History, Social Studies, Physical Education, Geography

Celebrating 40 years as a performing arts ensemble, Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble is an internationally recognized, roots-based music and dance company showcasing the cultural diversity of percussive dance. Footworks maintains a reputation for exceptional performances, bringing the joy and energy of percussive dance and music to audiences all over the world. The ensemble always performs with its own highly accomplished award-winning musicians and is dedicated to teaching and working with youth, recognized for over 39 years in Arts-In-Education. Footworks offers a wide range of services including theater productions, festival performances, workshops, arts-integrated school assemblies and residencies, and youth and community outreach programming. All of Footworks programming is a celebration of the cultural diversity found in the United States. The Washington Post declares, "The eruptive joy of Footworks dancers is as contagious as laughter!"

Website: http://www.footworks.org

CIS PROGRAM OPTIONS

Keeping the Beat: Multicultural Influences in American Music and Dance
Footworks conveys the power and joy of percussive dance while illuminating the multicultural roots of American music and dance, including African, European, and Native American traditions. Live music and an exciting array of percussive dances are performed, including step dance, gumboot dance, tap, clogging, and hamboning, along with inspiring audience participation.

Irish Roots and American Branches
Performing live Irish music and dance with their descendant American styles, Footworks illuminates the American story of traditions coming from the Old World and meeting others here, resulting in new traditions. Students learn the powerful role the Irish played in the shaping of the United States, and American culture.

Build A Better World
Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble presents "Build A Better World", a family-friendly show for all ages that includes live music, dancing, audience participation, and lots of fun that will inspire students and audiences of all ages to do their part to build a better world. Come join world class artists as they perform an interactive and uplifting show that is sure to get you smiling, toe tapping, singing and clapping!
ISAR PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Roots and Rhythm: Exploring Cultural Diversity through Traditional Dance

This arts-integrated residency explores the diversity and commonality of the people of the United States. Dances and their histories from different cultures are taught in a fun and inviting way, bringing students together in rhythms and songs that build community and connect participants to each other and to their shared American heritage.

KanKouran West African Dance Ensemble

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: Music, Health and Physical Education, History, Geography

KanKouran was formed in 1983, in Washington, DC, by Artistic Director and Senegalese native, Assane Konte. The Company’s success is perhaps best judged by its longevity and the large number of company members who are involved in diverse academic, professional, and entrepreneurial pursuits, who credit KanKouran with instilling within them the discipline, pride, and commitment to self and community which have made their life pursuits meaningful as well as successful. Throughout the last 36 years, KanKouran has established itself as a premier center for the study and performance of traditional West African dancing and drumming. Weekly classes for adults and children have been a key component of furthering the Company’s mission and establishing an appreciation for African performing arts. The Company has worked extensively to bring African dance and drum to children of all ages through various in-school and extra-curricular programs. KanKouran also performs concerts based on the traditions and rituals of West Africa and has showcased at numerous national and international venues, local and federal government agencies, civic and private organizations, and educational institutions throughout the U.S. www.kankouran.org

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

KanKouran showcases the dances and instruments of Senegal, Guinea, and Mali. Students explore nonverbal means of communication and participation through dance and percussive instruments, and learn African cultural traditions through the arts. Accompanied by the djembe and doundoun drums, the dancers also use such instruments as the balafon and shekere. The program objective is to increase the audiences understanding and appreciation of African culture via the presentation of traditional African dance and music.
ReVision Dance Company

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: Physical Education, English, Social Studies

ReVision is a contemporary modern dance company committed to artistic excellence and community building. Through performances, workshops and teaching residencies, ReVision works with diverse populations of professional dancers and novice movers. A unique aspect of our work is our dedication to engaging people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Artistic Director Shannon Quinn has spent her career developing effective ways to introduce students and audiences to modern dance and its relevance to our everyday lives. ReVision dancers share Shannon’s personal mission of bringing the joy of dance to everyone. Website: http://www.danceplace.org/revision-dance-company/

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Revision dance company's educational and interactive performance focuses on humanitarian themes such as self-development and community awareness, through the lens of modern dance. ReVision dancers engage, entertain and inspire audiences with movement, dialogue, and audience participation. Students will learn how the arts can be a vehicle for self-expression by experiencing a professional dance performance and contributing their own ideas which enhances comprehension and communication skills.
Step Afrika!
Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: History, Geography

Step Afrika! is the first professional company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping. It promotes an appreciation for “stepping” and its use as an educational, motivational and healthy tool for young people. We accomplish this mission through arts education activities, international cultural exchange programs and performances world-wide. Over the past 19 years Step Afrika! has grown to become one of the top 10 African American Dance Companies in the US based upon Dance USA’s survey of African American dance companies by budget size. Step Afrika! began as an exchange program with the Soweto Dance Theatre of Johannesburg, South Africa, and has expanded to become a national and international touring company. Step Afrika! reaches tens of thousands of Americans each year through a 50-city tour of colleges and theatres and performs globally as a cultural ambassador.

www.stepafrika.org

CIS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Stepping with Step Afrika! is a highly interactive 45-minute performance for K-12 students that highlights the rhythm, physicality and history of stepping, and culminates in a group activity to get students on their feet. The program introduces the ties between stepping, college life and academic achievement. It introduces the concepts of teamwork, discipline and commitment. Performers incorporate world traditions, demonstrated through the lively South African gumboot dance. Students enjoy learning basic step choreography and discover how dance brings people and cultures together

ISAR PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Step Up to College is a weekly residency program (in school or after school) for 4-12 grade students. The curriculum covers stepping, its history, tradition and meaning, preparation for college life and simple health and fitness. Participating students receive an age-appropriate activity journal that will supplement in-class discussions. Students learn the core values of stepping: teamwork, commitment and discipline as a part of their own “step team” by working together to create choreography and seeing how every member of the team adds value to their performance. Students also gain self-confidence through creating their own steps and performing at a culminating performance for family and friends.
Ziva’s Spanish Dance Ensemble

Appropriate For: Grades K-12
Content Areas: Dance, History, Social Studies

Ziva’s Spanish Dance Ensemble engages students of all ages with dances that were inspired by the culture of Spain’s Andalusia region. A skilled professional dancer and instructor, she blends traditional Spanish and modern dance, resulting in unique neoclassical choreography. Her ability to connect with students through creative expression while educating them about the historical influences of dance, has made Ziva one of the most sought-after teachers in the Washington, D.C., area.

Guest artists have come from a variety of dance and musical fields such as jazz, modern, tap, Indian, African, and Moorish. The Ensemble has appeared in venues throughout the Washington, D.C., area including the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, Corcoran Gallery of Art, George Washington University’s Lisner Auditorium, Alden Theatre, Jack Guidone Theater, Dance Place, and the Atlas Theater. Ziva’s Spanish Dance Ensemble provides programs for diverse audiences, including embassies and numerous private engagements throughout the region.

Ziva also teaches Israeli folk dance with a focus on the origin and roots of cultural song and dance movements. A certified yoga instructor, she hosts special sessions for students focused on ways to combat bullying by improving mental and physical health as well as improving a student’s body image and increasing self-esteem.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Teaching Artist Ziva Cohen guides students through a historical journey of the roots of flamenco Spanish dance. Using footwork, hand movements and basic choreography, students are led through an authentic flamenco routine. Participants learn about the influences that led to the creation of these unique dances. Through dance and positive energy, Ziva teaches students the importance of leadership, teamwork, and collaboration, helping build students’ confidence in many aspects of their lives. Residency activities conclude with the students performing an authentic Spanish dance, including costuming and accessories.
Karen O. Brown

Appropriate For: Grades Pre-K-5
Content Areas: Visual Arts, History, Geography, Math

Karen is a professional artist with extensive experience as an arts educator. She draws students into the learning curriculum as they discover the joys of artistic expression. She conducts 30 to 40 workshops and residencies a year in DC, MD and VA for organizations such as The Kennedy Center, Washington Performing Arts (WPA), The National Museum of the American Indian, Teaching for Change, Inner City Inner Child and numerous public libraries. Karen recently led professional development workshops for 20 Native American Elementary Education Teachers in North Dakota for the Smithsonian Education Outreach Program.

She has permanent art installations at the DC Commission for the Arts, Children's National Medical Center and the DC Convention Center. In 2010, she completed a 23' mural based on the painted house designs of the Ndebele women of South Africa with help from first through fifth graders at Ideal Academy Public Charter School. Karen has also created artwork for six annual meetings of The Washington Area Grantmakers Association. Each year she has made 25 sculptural centerpieces and 250 individual pieces of artwork for attendees including flying birds, articulated puppets and hand-painted houses and chairs! Her international travels in Asia, Europe, Central and South America and South Africa inform and enrich her creative and imaginative approach to teaching, leading workshops and creating public art. Ms. Brown’s education includes graduate studies in textiles, ceramics, sculpture, 3-D and surface design, bookmaking and photography. Karen's teaching methods reach all types of students and their individual learning modalities. Content is deepened as art is infused into every aspect of classroom curriculum. She is passionate about her work with students and teachers and loves bringing creative and culturally enriching residencies to all.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Hands-on workshops explore the best of children’s literature with a focus on East and West Africa, India and Mexico. Karen O. Brown’s workshops begin with an accurately written children’s book, highlighting a person’s life and accomplishments, or a part of life from a specific culture. Students read the book and create related artwork during hands-on workshops. Bookmaking and other arts workshops are also available! Examples are:

Wangari’s Trees of Peace, the True Story of Wangari Maathai, the first woman from Africa to win the Nobel Peace Prize for planting millions of trees in Kenya and beyond and the effect this had on the land and its people!
**A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Ines:** The amazing true story of a childhood prodigy from the 16th Century and how she became one of Mexico’s most revered poets and treasures! In our workshop, we create a beautiful, 3-dimensional book illustrating Sor Juana’s childhood, her Father’s library, her sister’s school - where Juana couldn’t attend, and the natural world around her home where she spent so much time learning about the natural world.

**Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams:** Students participate in a strong STEAM project creating vehicles - with moving parts - made of recycled materials based on the popular toys made by children in West Africa.

**Matatu by Eric Walters:** Kenya is the home to an amazing array of trucks, vans and cars - all individually decorated to highlight the life of a musician, music genre or a popular product. Students use cereal boxes to create funky trucks and vans in their own contemporary style.

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba:** A true story of a child who invented a wind-powered machine to bring electricity and water to the land in his parched village - restoring crops and in turn, the lives of its population. Students create windmills from recycled materials in this strong STREAM based project.

**Baby Goes to Market by Antinuke:** An exciting book by the author of the Anna Hibiscus books - combines math with a cultural lesson for young children. Students delight in embellishing fabric to use as Nigerian head wraps and baby wraps. Everyone learns how to tie the wraps as well as use them in curriculum based lessons.

**Aani and the Tree Huggers by Jeannine Atkins** tells the true story of a young women in India who organizes women to protest deforestation in her village. She is successful in stopping the destruction and leads a movement to plant thousands of trees - allowing the natural habitat to regenerate and crops to grow successfully in her region. A number of tree and ecology related programs can ‘sprout’ from this story for students of all ages.

**Bookmaking for Every Subject:** Infuse art into your classroom with books made from simple, inexpensive materials. Book structures taught can be used for all ages, curricula and learning modalities. Curriculum content comes alive with each book structure - as we cut and fold paper and recycled materials into 3-Dimensional structures, and ‘Think Outside the Book’ to create fun, age appropriate projects inspiring students with the subject matter of your choice. Strong emphasis on literacy and creative self-confidence. Workshops address all learning modalities as we learn Maze books, the Japanese Accordion, Pop-Ups, the French Fold, and lots more. Teachers learn new ways to teach any curriculum.

**Going Green for the Environment and Our Future:** Colorful birds and fish are just a few examples of meaningful projects created by students of all ages. Karen, widely recognized “Green’ artist, emphasizes not only creativity, but, how to be an “Artist Activist”! We learn details of specific animals, including habitat and how they exist within their ecosystem and the varying levels of endangered species and how we can help make our environment healthier to counteract negative trends.
Story Tapestries: Arianna Ross and The Ensemble

Appropriate For: Pre-K-12
Content Areas: ELA, Literacy, STEAM, Social Studies, History, Geography, Creative Writing, Math, Science, Specialties: ELL, Special Education

Story Tapestries: Arianna Ross and The Ensemble executes performances and residencies that uses the arts as a means to bridge barriers and help individuals foster a deeper connection to what they are learning and teaching. Story Tapestries creates international, dynamic programs that weave the power of dance, music, theatre, hip hop, rap, written word, visual art and spoken word with any school subject. For over 20 years, Arianna Ross and her ensemble of artists have performed across the United States in festivals, concert halls, colleges, libraries, and schools. They believe in the power of the arts to Empower, Educate and Engage.

Main Artists Available, offering customized arts integration programming:
Arianna Ross (Storyteller, Dancer, Writer, and Theatre Artist)
Valerie Baugh-Schlossberg (Director, Devising and Movement Artist, and Musical Theatre)
Regie Cabico (Slam Poet, Spoken Word Artist, Writer, Theatre Artist)
Bomani Armah (Hip-hop Artist, Poet, Songwriter, Producer, and Performer)
Ashlee McKinnon (Hip Hop Dancer, Choreographer, Jazz Dance, Musical Theater, Modern Dance)
Drew Anderson (Hip Hop Artist, Parody, Spoken Word, Poet, Songwriter, Producer, and Performer)
Noa Baum (Storyteller and Theatre Artist)
Jamaal Collier (Hip Hop, Poet, Writer, and Performer)
Theresa Cunningham (Playwright, Theatre Artist, and Musician)
Khaleshia Thorpe Price (Theatre Artist)
Sarah Brady (Storyteller and Theatre Artist)
Suzanne Richard (Theatre Director, Writer)
Dunia Best (Composer, Performer and Producer focused on punk and the music of the Caribbean diaspora)

Artist Artforms Available:
- All Theatre Topics: Acting Technique, Voice, Movement, Puppetry, Devised Theatre, Playwriting
- Dance Topics: All Forms, Technique, Choreography
• Music: Melody and Song Creation, Parody, Rhyme
• Storytelling: Building a Story, Voice, Reflective
• Poetry: (Spoken Word, Slam, Written
• Hip Hop: Music, History, Dance, Spoken Word, Beat Boxing
• Visual Art: All mediums
• Media Arts
• Creative Writing
• Intergenerational Workshops, Amplify US! (Racial Equity Facilitator and a Writer)
• Arts integrated lessons: Discovering the Power of the Written Word, Empowered Math Understanding, Stories in Motion, Math plus Dance=Learning, Explaining Science Through Story, Spoken Word, Slam Poetry, Hip Hop and Shakespeare, to just name a few.

PROGRAM OPTIONS
CLICK HERE to view a sample of Story Tapestries programs, all of which can be offered in-person, virtually synchronous, or virtually asynchronous.