



ARKANSAS LEARNING *through the* ARTS



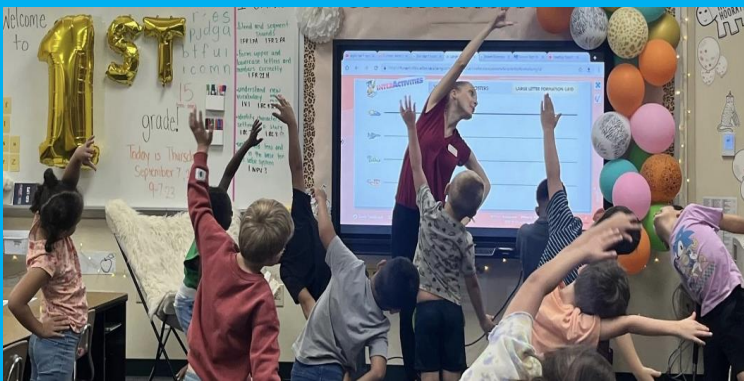
affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network

PARTNERS IN ARTS AND EDUCATION

November 2023

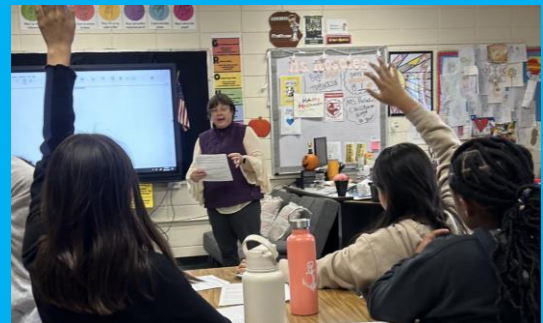
INTRODUCING NEW AND UPDATED CURRICULUM-BASED WORKSHOPS

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts continues to develop engaging new arts workshops based on the needs of the schools, as identified by their teachers and instructional leaders. New to the ALTTA Roster this year are programs directly correlated to both the Arkansas Department of Education Frameworks in Literacy and Content areas, as well as the Social-Emotional / Behavioral standards found in the Arkansas Dept. of Education's **G.U.I.D.E. For Life** (Growth, Understanding, Interaction, Decisions, Empathy).



ALTTA Teaching Artist Kathleen Marleneau engaging first grade students in the *Spinning In The Wind* program at Malvern Elementary School. This program, covering weather, movement, emotions and empathy, blended perfectly with the school's Wizard of Oz theme. It was an exciting way to engage students and welcome them into the new school year.

ALTTA Teaching Artist Lanie Carlson leads a group of fifth grade students in the study of Shakespeare at Main Street Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School. The students were thrilled to have "Ms. Lanie" back as they instantly recalled her from the *Hamilton* program they enjoyed year.



WORKSHOPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE

ALTTA Executive Director Dan Breshears is working with instructional leaders to develop new programs, custom designed to meet the needs of their school. Two draft programs in development now utilize visual arts skills that compliment, but do not overlap, what is being taught in the art classroom. These highly engaging literacy lessons are for 3rd grade students:

- **Story Quilt** is a workshop that will engage students in a five week, multi-text study utilizing five books by Patricia Polacco (including *The Keeping Quilt*). Each student designs a paper quilt square reflecting their own family traditions with a culminating activity of students combining their squares to create the collaborative Story Quilt.
- **Graphics Details** is a workshop in which students learn to identify and summarize key details as they design and create their own comic strips reflecting assigned literature or non-fiction prompts.

Compare and Contrast Two Books by Patricia Polacco

Book 1 Title: _____

Book 2 Title: _____

Book 3 Title: _____

Book 4 Title: _____

Book 5 Title: _____

Book 6 Title: _____

Book 7 Title: _____

Book 8 Title: _____

Book 9 Title: _____

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THE CREATIVE ECONOMY IN ARKANSAS

In October, the *Arkansas Arts Council* hosted the *2023 Artlinks Conference* in Little Rock which brought together artists and arts organizations. The purpose was to share information and different approaches for arts delivery and funding that exist in Arkansas.

One presenter was Dr. Genna Styles-Lyas with *Americans for the Arts*, an advocacy group that lobbies legislators nationally for arts funding. She shared the role that the (non-profit) arts and culture organizations play in the economy of Arkansas, as follows:

- ✓ Approximately 4800 jobs
- ✓ \$182 million in personal income paid to residents
- ✓ \$3 million in city and county tax revenue
- ✓ 3.2 million attendees at in-person events
- ✓ \$104 million in event-related expenditures

At the same meeting, poet Kai Coggin was presented the *Don Munro Leadership in the Arts Award* (see next page).

DIRECTOR BRESHEARS ENGAGES WITH SCHOOL LEADERS

In his first few months of service in the ALTTA leadership role, Executive Director Dan Breshears has made outreach to school leaders across the state his primary focus. Breshears, often accompanied by ALTTA Board President Martha Smither, has attended and presented at multiple educational conferences since July 1, 2023 including the *Arkansas Association of Alternative Educators*, the *Arkansas Rural Education Association* summer conference, the *Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators* summer conference, the *Arkansas Association of Federal Coordinators* fall conference, and recently served as a keynote speaker at the *Arkansas Rural Education Association's* fall conference.

Later this month, Breshears is slated to speak at the quarterly meeting of the *Arkansas Association of Curriculum and Instructional Administrators* where he will continue to share a message of service and collaboration with schools to develop and support arts-integrated programs to meet the needs of the student in schools across the state.

In addition to attending constituent organization's meetings and conferences, Breshears has also engaged with Superintendent groups at both the Dawson Educational CoOp in Arkadelphia and the Great Rivers CoOp in West Helena.

INTRODUCING NEW TEACHING ARTIST!

NISHEEDAH GOLDEN



Ms. Golden is joining the ALTTA roster this fall, engaging upper elementary and middle school students in programs involving poetry, theatre and vocal music. She has a Bachelors in the Performing Arts from University of Central Arkansas. A seasoned actress in many stage plays, she also teaches acting/improv with the Bearden Productions Performing Arts Studio. She has served as the Artistic Director in the *Arts in Action Summer Camp* at U of A -LR in which she focused on how various art forms aid in the emotional development of a child. Ms. Golden is a resident singer for *Opera in the Rock* and has a lead role in the premier of the opera *Little Rock Nine* at UCA.



Martha Smither and Dan Breshears engage educators at the ALTTA booth at the AAEA summer conference.

LOOK FORWARD TO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
ARKANSAS LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS
MARCH FUNDRAISER

KAI COGGIN RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mid-America Arts Alliance awarded its *Don Munro Leadership in the Arts Award* to Kai Coggin at the AAC ArtLinks Conference in October. The award, named in honor of the late Don Munro who supported many cultural activities in Hot Springs and beyond, recognizes an artist who have made significant impact on the local arts community. Kai is the inaugural Poet Laureate of Hot Springs, author of four collections, host of Hot Springs' Wednesday Night Poetry open mic series, recipient of the 2021 Governor's Arts Award and a Teaching Artist with Arkansas Learning Through The Arts (on sabbatical this year). She said, "It is an incredible honor to be chosen for [this award] and to walk in the noble shoes of a man who made the world better with every step he walked."



DID YOU KNOW?

The *Arkansas Community Foundation* constructs a report (aspirearkansas.org) on leading indicators about different aspects of those living in Arkansas county by county.

The most recent information indicates that a quarter of kids under 18 live in poverty. In Garland County, almost a third of the families with children are living in poverty. This leads to large numbers of young children who become malnourished or do not receive adequate nutrition on a daily basis.

The effect is potentially long-lasting in that a young child's growth is stunted and brain development is delayed such that it may never recover. Hunger effects a child's ability to learn, personal and social behavior in school and gross and fine motor adaptive skills. Ultimately, the likelihood of long-lasting issues increases.

The National Institute of Health recommends 10 policy and program approaches to reduce child poverty:

- 4 focus on policies related to work
- 3 involve modifications to safety net programs
- 2 are from other countries that have child support assurance and allowance programs

The big question is what can we as individuals do to support the children of our community?



YOU CAN ENCOURAGE ARKANSAS' YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN LEARNING!

Want to build a better world but not sure how? Art helps children develop on many fundamental levels, ranging from increased confidence, focus, motor-skills, problem-solving and, of course, inspiring creativity. YOU can encourage our youth to engage in art by ensuring our programs continue through individual donations.

Arkansas Learning Through the Arts thrives with the support of organizations, foundations, businesses and individual friends. You can become a FRIEND by donating to ALTTA. **Your contribution makes a difference!**

Picasso	\$100	Reaches 25 students	(1 session)
Joplin	\$300	Reaches 75 students	(3 sessions – a complete workshop in a small school)
O'Keeffe	\$500	Reaches 125 students	(1 workshop for 1 grade level in a medium size school)
Beethoven	\$1,000	Reaches 250 students	(1 workshop for 1 grade level in a large school)
Shakespeare	\$3,000	Reaches 750 students	(3 workshops for 3 grade levels in a large school)

Please visit our website www.altta.org and selecting "Donate" or send a check with the form on the back page. Your contribution can make art more affordable for schools when combined with other grants and donations.

Thank you for making Arkansas a better place by investing in our children.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND

AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR ALTERNATIVES FOR GIVING PRIOR TO THE END OF THE YEAR!

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is a 501(c)(3) non profit.

To become a volunteer, please call 501-302-3175 for Martha Smither {ext. 705} or Dan Breshears {ext. 701}

ALT TA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATION

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