

Genesis Arts Kentucky, Inc.

Arts Programming Overview + Teaching Artist(s) Bio

Genesis Arts Kentucky currently offers beginners creative movement at Valley High School (freshmen through seniors) through the Family Resource Center. In addition to our work at Valley, we provide dance to youth in the Shawnee neighborhood and arts programming for older adults in the Russell community at the West Chestnut Street YMCA. The combined programs serve 70 individuals.

Teaching Artist(s) Bios(s)

Portia White has worked in the field of arts education for more than thirty-years. Her experience has been as a performing artist and administrative as Director of Community Arts Education for Kentucky Performing Arts; Education Director and Modern Dance Instructor for Louisville Ballet and as Manager of Arts Programs for Metro Parks & Recreation. Prior to her administrative role in the arts, Portia studied in New York City with the Alvin Ailey School, Broadway Dance, Eleo Pomare and Forces of Nature Dance Companies. Her dance training began in her hometown of Louisville, KY with Jewel K. McNari, Courtney School of Dance and Louisville Ballet, where she performed three seasons with the Civic Company. Portia's passion is to share with students of every age, all of the wonderful things that the arts can do - educate, teach tolerance, inspire, motivate and boost self esteem.

Gwendolyn Murphy is a teaching and exhibiting fiber and clay artist. She graduated from the University of Louisville with a BA in fine art - concentration in ceramics. She later returned to U of L to complete post baccalaureate courses in textile surface design, printmaking design, art for elementary students and art for high school students. Gwen has taught for Kentucky Museum of Art & Craft, the Americana Community Center with a project funded through the National Endowment for the Arts, Kentucky Performing Arts' ArtsReach Program, the Lambarena Project with Louisville Ballet and textile and ceramics for the Louisville Metro Government Office of Youth Development Studio 2000 Arts Program which she also directed in 2012 through 2014.

Artistic Content of Programming

The out of school time program proposed for the artist directory is "My Voice, My Super Power." This program engages middle and high school students in a ten-week residency that combines contemporary, hip-hop & African dance styles and visual art, resulting in a student-created performance piece. Gwen Murphy will work with students on their individual costume designs for the performance/sharing, using the method of fabric surface design. This project will provide a space for students to explore their voice through movement, dance & visual art in response to the question "why is my voice necessary?" Program outcomes will be measured with input from the organization/community center that requests the program. Measuring tools regularly used to evaluate

Genesis Arts programs are participant surveys and samples of completed works through photos and live performance.

Educational Content of Programming

Participants will receive instruction in contemporary dance, consisting of warm-up exercises, floor work, loco-motor movement and choreography. Participants will also explore improvisational movement and be made aware of dance vocabulary and encouraged to use language to provide critiques of some of the dance choreography that students will help create. During the costume design portion, participants will use the method of fabric surface design. Participants will begin costume designs using markers and poster boards. Designs can include dresses, wraps, tops, hats or other, as long as it's budget and movement friendly. Designs will be transferred to the fabric that participants have selected for their costumes and constructed by Ms.Murphy and students. Participants will learn the importance of costume design elements, textures that compliment design and costume composition.

Process for hiring, training, and evaluating performance/effectiveness.

Genesis Arts considers the following areas to determine if a collaborating artist is a suitable match for programs and projects. Is their artistry engaging and does it keep the attention of the participant?; Is the artist able to manage the delivery setting in an organized manner that lends to student engagement and enjoyment?; Is the artist able to complete activities at agreed upon time range? In the proposed residency, the lead artists will be Genesis Arts leadership.

How are participants of all backgrounds and abilities included in programming?

Persons from all communities and backgrounds are welcomed participants to Genesis Arts programming. Programs are promoted via community share groups, FB marketing tools and word of mouth.

How do I engage teachers and community center staff before, during, and after programming?

Meeting with instructors and center staff separately, then together, will allow all parties to share program expectations and outcomes, discuss participant recruitment and determine the program schedule. Checkin communication throughout the residency and and program evaluation before the residency concludes are all important communication among teachers and center staff.

How do I engage participants in the creative and learning process?

Participants are engaged at the start of the residency "My Voice, My Super Power" by responding to the question "why is my voice necessary." The body of work that will be completed by the end of the 10-week residency is participant driven with the guidance of the lead artists. Participants will have input in choreography, costume design and final performance.