

FY24 ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT REVIEW PANELISTS

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT - Panel 1

Jennifer Dobbs

Jennifer D. Dobbs is the Executive Director for the ArtsBridge Foundation at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. Since her arrival in May of 2017, she has engaged new donors and volunteers, acquired over \$4 million for the organization, increased geographic outreach to now 70 Georgia counties and five surrounding states, implemented new performing arts and community outreach programs and partners, and more. During her tenure, Jennifer has received the 2022 PRSA Award of Excellence, the 2019 Woman of Achievement award from liveSAFE Resources and was featured as a “Maker” in the June 2019 Atlanta Magazine. Since her arrival, ArtsBridge became a part of the inaugural Atlanta Inno 50 on Fire Award and has received four Southeast Emmy® Awards for the Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards – Shuler Hensley Awards®. Jennifer graduated with a B.A. in English/Writing from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a MPA/Organizational Leadership from Gannon University, and is a current ABD doctoral student. She is a Jupiter Fellow through the Clarence J. Jupiter Fellowship for Minority Professionals at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and a Resident Fellow of United Way of America (now United Way Worldwide). Jennifer was a charter member and the inaugural Chair of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA - established in 2008), where she assisted in the distribution of over \$20 million into the community for economic development purposes and currently, she is a member of The Pennsylvania Society and the liveSAFE Academy of Women Leaders. She is a devoted mother to three children, Xavier, Roman, and Isis, and a proud grandmother to twins Presley Rose and Peyton Lilly and their newest sister, Piper Violet.

Valerie Lewis

Valerie Lewis is dedicated to the transformation of learning through engaging and creative activities for ALL students. Today’s classroom has not varied much from classrooms 100 years ago--- that is problematic! We are still behind many other countries and we should be leading the way. She grew up in Miami, FL and graduated with a Bachelor’s in Elementary Education from Oakwood University, a Master’s in Special Education from Howard University, and an Ed.S. in Leadership from Liberty University. She currently resides in Metro Atlanta and is a high school administrator supporting Special Education teachers and students. She is a wife and mother of 3 beautiful souls. Her belief is that critical learning possibilities should be activated NOW in order to prepare students for skills that will make them future ready. This will enable them to compete on a global scale! Students need to lift their voice and advocate for themselves but this skill should be modeled and taught explicitly and consistently. Lessons should be personalized and student-centered and not mainly based upon the teacher’s ideals and comforts. In this manner, cater to a variety of learning styles. Valerie is an encourager and motivator and has the mentality that the TEAM is better together. In order to strengthen the team, she understands that learning MUST create IMPACT. The formula should always be ONE SIZE FITS...ONE! She continues on her mission to show that learning is a daring lifelong journey but ultimately...TRANSFORMS.

Jessica Lynch-Oliver

Jessica Lynch-Oliver, MFA, is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary choreographer, performing artist, educator, and activist. Jessica Lynch-Oliver is currently the new Assistant Professor in Dance at Brenau University. She received her Master of Fine Arts Degree in Dance at Mason Gross School of The Arts, Rutgers University. Attending Professional Performing Arts School, in affiliation with The Ailey School, she then moved on to receive her BFA degree in Performance and Choreography at The College at Brockport. She has studied in Kingston, Jamaica at the Edna Manley School of Visual and Performing Arts, where she studied African and Jamaican folk dance. Lynch has choreographed several works that have been performed at SUNY - Brockport, America College Dance Association, Edna Manley School, The Apollo Theater, The Walt Whitman Theater, and Rutgers University.

As a woman of color of African American and Native American descent, she has shaped her work as an artist and choreographer around the issue of race, gender, social justice, and community engagement. Her thesis and research work, titled “ReVeil” performed in 2021, utilized the Africanist movement aesthetic and incorporated both a collaborative and immersive approach to deliver embodied movements based on the dancers' lived experiences. She served as a Part-Time Lecturer at Rutgers University from 2019-2022, where she taught Modern, Jazz, African Diasporic

Movement Practices, and online Dance Appreciation courses. Her teaching philosophy utilizes a fusion of Africanist Aesthetic practices and theories. Jessica's main objective is to present challenges within a safe and positive teaching/learning environment, offer students opportunities for new perspectives, design lessons and courses that foreground student-led/self-discoveries, and express my dedication and commitment to their learning as a leader and educator in this field. Her interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach in both her classroom as well as her creative practice will provide artists with new methods of thinking that will create self-reflective individuals that will be dedicated to critical inquiry across all disciplines.

Samone Norsworthy

Samone has a bachelor's degree in Drama and an MS Degree in Leadership and Ethics. She has a Doctorate in Education. Her professional experience includes Dramatic Arts and Theatre. Samone teaches Fundamentals of Theatre through Liberty County High School's Gifted Program, which is a mentorship/internship. Samone is a board member of the Hinesville Area Arts Council. She provides guidance and leadership in Fine Visual Arts and Community Theatre Programs. Her targeted audience is all ages and reaches a population of 61k with a 32% growth rate due to the Military Presence at Fort Stewart. Samone has been teaching since 2005 in theatre and fine arts. Ages 12 to adult are included in the community being taught. Samone's teaching philosophy is to provide a hands-on practical approach to the theatre to embody the resemblance of theater to real life. Create unity and inclusivity through instilling values of compassion, understanding, and acceptance.

Dr. Scott Stewart

Dr. Scott Stewart is Music Director and Conductor of the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony. He holds Bachelor and Doctoral degrees from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and a Masters from the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught in the Austin Independent School District, Emory University, and the Westminster Schools in Atlanta. He specializes in wind band/ensemble, orchestra, chamber music, saxophone, conducting, wind band history and repertoire, and film music.

Dr. Stewart is an active guest conductor, teacher, clinician, author, speaker, and saxophonist. Stewart is the founder and on-air host of Atlanta National Public Radio affiliate 90.1 WABE's "Strike Up the Band" radio program.

Scott Wood

E. Scott Wood supports the Southern Highland Music Foundation (SHMF), a 501(C)(3) organization dedicated to preserving and providing instruction in the music traditions of the Piedmont and Southern Appalachian mountain regions. He currently serves as the organization's treasurer. For 25 years Wood served as the President of Milestone Marketing, Inc. an Atlanta-based, full-service business-to-business marketing communications firm supporting high technology clients. The company's client list included General Dynamics' SATCOM Technologies, MI Technologies, Paradise Datacom, Crystal Computers, Suniva, Inc. and AMTA, the Antenna Measurement Techniques Association. Wood holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from California State University, Fullerton and a Juris Doctorate (JD) degree from Loyola Marymount University's School of Law in Los Angeles. He is a member of the California Bar Association. As a member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for more than 20 years, Wood attained the Accredited Public Relations (APR) designation.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT - Panel 2

Casey Hall

Mr. Casey Hall is a Fine Arts Education Program Specialist at the Georgia Department of Education. As a Fine Arts Education Program Specialist, it is our mission to create the next generation of fine artists and foster a deep appreciation of the arts for students and fine arts patrons in the State of Georgia. In Georgia, we believe this occurs with a world-class fine arts education, fine arts experiences in the arts community, and fine arts extensions of learning after school. He joins the GaDOE Fine Arts Department team from Fulton County Schools as a Fine Arts Support Teacher (FAST) and the Music Specialist at Wolf Creek Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. On the FAST Team, he coached and provides support for elementary music teachers across the district. He was a member of Fulton County's Vanguard Team and works with educators across all grade levels and disciplines to support a personalized learning environment in their

classrooms, build capacity, and seamlessly integrate technology. He was selected to be a member of the Working Committee to revise the Georgia Performance Standards for Music in 2017. Most recently, he was awarded the title of 2019-2020 South Learning Community Teacher of the Year for Fulton County Schools.

He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University and a master's degree in music education from Georgia State's School of Music. While at GSU, he studied and developed the term, culturally driven pedagogy (a comprehensive term that uses students' culture to drive instructional practices) as well as developed a songwriting curriculum for the Johnny Mercer Foundation. Mr. Hall has presented at various conferences on topics such as Project-Based Learning, Personalized Learning, App Smashing, and Behavior and Classroom Management at international, national, state, and local school district professional development sessions.

Barbara Kreamer

Originally from the Chicago area, Barbara earned a Bachelor of Arts with a focus on history and political science from Columbia College. She spent ten years working for The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International managing several grant programs, developing and conducting training sessions for volunteers, and overseeing the Foundation's contribution allocation system. After the birth of her son, when she felt extended international travel was no longer feasible, Barbara returned to school, earning a Master's in Teacher from National Louis University. She spent the next fifteen years teaching both upper elementary and middle school, first in Illinois, then in Florida. In 2021, Barbara sold her Florida home and bought a small farm outside Thomasville, Georgia. Today she works for Thomasville Center for the Arts, assisting with development, memberships, and volunteers. She enjoys the quiet life in the country, spending quality time with her six dogs.

Pilar Lowden

Georgette Pilar Wilder Lowden founded both Hayiya Dance Theatre (21st Season) and Hayiya Dance Theatre, Inc. (26th Season) as a student at Wesleyan College. She is a first-year doctoral student in Texas Woman's University's Dance PhD program. In 2017, she was selected by the International Association of Blacks in Dance and currently serves in the Next Generation Leadership Program as well as the inaugural COHI | MOVE cohort. Pilar is currently teaching dance at Hayiya Dance Theatre and Cutno Dance in Augusta, GA. She also teaches West African dance at Wesleyan College as an adjunct professor.

Pilar taught dance as an adjunct professor at Fort Valley State University, continuing education instructor at Macon State College, dance teacher at Tubman African American Museum, and Artist-In-Residence for the Macon Arts Alliance. Pilar also served as the first dance instructor and Fine Arts Department Chair for Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School from 2004 to 2009. While there she was also awarded the honor of Teacher of The Year in 2008. Pilar served as the Performance Arts Technology Consultant, Fine Arts Department Chair, and dance instructor at West Side High School in Macon, GA until 2018.

An active member in the community, Pilar is currently the Executive Director of Hayiya Dance Theatre, Inc. and is a member of the Tubman Museum board. She is a new member of the Theatre Macon Board and Production Committee for Macon Little Theatre. She has served on the boards of Firehouse Productions and Middle Georgia Food Bank. She is Macon's only representative for Leadership Georgia's class of 2014. Pilar is also a member Macon Magazine's 5 Leaders under 40 (2011) and the I Love Macon Campaign as well as Leadership Macon's class of 2012. Pilar serves on the Bibb County Judicial Citizens Review Board and was a member of the Museum of Arts and Sciences executive board and Pan African Festival Executive Planning Committee. Pilar has volunteered as a docent and environmental science teacher for the Museum of Arts & Sciences and currently serves as ministry leader for Fellowship Bible Baptist Church's Praise and Worship Dance Ministry. Pilar formerly served as a member of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Macon Arts Alliance boards as well as Tattnell Square Center for the Arts Programming Advisory and Friends of Historic Tattnell Square Park Boards and Junior League.

She currently holds professional memberships with the National Dance Education Organization and the American Alliance for Health Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In April 2014, Pilar was honored by Wesleyan College as Young Alumna of the Year and was also awarded Judges Choice Champion of Dancing Stars of Central Georgia that same year. She is a founding member of the Medical Center's Champions for Children and was selected by the Knight

Foundation and Dance/USA to serve on a national panel of dance instructors. She holds a Master's Degree in Dance Education from University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Pilar is the wife of Reverend Tony Lowden. The two reside in Middle Georgia along with their daughter Tabitha.

Mandy Mitchell

Mandy Mitchell is an energetic, creative and ardent teaching artist, director and performer. Mandy holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting/Directing from The Ohio State University, where she focused on the creation of new works and integration of new media. She has worked with the RSC, The Abbey Theatre of Dublin, The SITI Group, The Alliance Theatre and The Center for Puppetry Arts. Mandy is passionate about sharing the craft of acting with the next generation of stars and has coached several students into Broadway and Regional professional productions, countless film and TV appearances as well as some of the most competitive collegiate programs in the country. Mandy is a Kramer grant winner and also holds TOPS awards for excellence in teaching.

Callan Steinmann

Callan Steinmann is curator of education at the Georgia Museum of Art (GMOA). She started her career in museum education at GMOA as associate curator of education in 2013, and she was hired as curator of education in 2018. She holds a master's degree in Art Education with a focus in Museum Education from the University of Texas at Austin. Steinmann earned her PhD in Art Education from the University of Georgia in 2017. Her doctoral research examined the museum as a site for creative exploration, focusing on the experiences of visitors who engaged in focus studio practice in response to works in a museum collection.

Randy Taylor

Taylor has been working in the arts in Atlanta since the 70's. He has provided visual art as an illustrator, painter, and image maker. Randy served as a performer with CREATE Children's Theater in roles representing Vincent van Gogh, da Vinci, Calder and others. Taylor was the curator for education for the Museum of Design and has served as a teaching artist for Young Audiences, The High Museum of Art, The Carlos Museum, The Fox Theater, Georgia Council for the Arts, The Children's Museum of Atlanta, and Fulton County Arts Council. For ten years he was an instructor in Early Childhood Education at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. He is the enrichment coordinator for the City of Decatur Afterschool programs. Taylor has exhibited with 'Fine Arts 2020' Decatur Arts Festival, Juried Show; Automata: A Kinetic Art Show, The Irma Freman Center for Imagination, Pittsburgh and a solo show of 25 shadow memoir boxes – "Journey of a Queer Skinny Kid," Sycamore Gallery, Decatur; Taylor created a paper theater performance – "The Worm of Lambton," which combines illustration and theater, Alternative History Museum, DragonCon; Art of Nature, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, artists collaboration 2019 and 2020. More recently Taylor has been working with the Fulton County Schools Teaching Museums in creating traveling teaching trunks and advising on exhibitions.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT - Panel 3

Kimberly Kelsey Epps

Kimberly Kelsey Epps has worked with the Otis Redding Foundation in various capacities over the past 6 years. From coaching to private instruction, programming to production, Kimberly now serves as the Center Director for the Otis Redding Center for the Arts. Over the past few years, she has worked to provide music and arts education in communities across Middle Georgia. Working to support and expand the various classes, workshops and summer camps provided by the Otis Redding Foundation, Kimberly has found a true passion for igniting creativity, critical thinking, and self-empowerment in our young people through the gifts of the arts. With a 30-year background in singing, songwriting and stage performance, Kimberly understands the important impact that music and the arts can have on young minds. As the Otis Redding Foundation breaks ground on a new, state of the art Otis Redding Center for the Arts, Kimberly is eager to expand the reach and impact of all the current and forthcoming programs.

Charlotte Foster Williamson

Charlotte Foster Williamson received a BA in dance from the University of Georgia in 2006. Three years later, she founded Atlanta Dance Central with the mission to offer students exceptional dance education in a non-competitive environment. Charlotte's passions for inclusion and mentorship sculpted ADC into a flourishing community for dancers

and their families. Her innovative approaches paid off, and in 2016, ADC was awarded the BULLDOG 100 Award for being one of the fastest-growing businesses owned by a UGA graduate. Charlotte is the co-founder of Foster-Schmidt Dance Company and the founder and artistic director of SIDEWAYS Contemporary Dance Company. She meets weekly with studio owners worldwide, collaborating, educating, and learning. She loves helping her students create careers out of their passions, just like she did.

Angela Harris

Angela Harris is a choreographer, Director and the Executive Artistic Director of Dance Canvas, Inc., a career development organization for emerging professional choreographers and youth. Angela is originally from Baltimore, MD and a graduate of The Baltimore School for the Arts. She trained at Dance Theater of Harlem, School of the Hartford Ballet & Eglevsky Ballet. She attended Mercyhurst College and City College of New York, earning a B.A. in Journalism, while dancing on a full ballet scholarship at Steps on Broadway in NYC. Angela danced professionally with The Georgia Ballet, Columbia City Ballet and Urban Ballet Theater. She has choreographed for companies and academies, including The Georgia Ballet, Steps on Broadway, Ballet Lubbock and Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. Her theater choreographic credits include Frankenstein's Funeral (Found Stage); the Southeastern premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Song & Dance' (Aurora Theatre); 110 in the Shade (Theatrical Outfit); The First Noel (True Colors Theater Company); Bridges of Madison County (Aurora Theatre). Angela was one of five Inaugural National Visiting Fellows at the School of American Ballet. In 2017, she received a SDCF Observership and worked with Tony Award winning director/choreographer, Susan Stroman, on the new musical, Little Dancer, during its Broadway Lab. As a Director and through Dance Canvas, Angela has been a catalyst, consultant, and resource for numerous new dance organizations and artists. Angela has developed programs for the City of Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs, Usher's New Look Foundation, and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation. Angela served on the national Emerging Leaders Council for Americans for the Arts and was a member of the 2014 class of Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta. She received the National Emerging Leader Award from Americans for the Arts and American Express and was a 2021 Women in the Arts and Business Honoree through Synchronicity Theater. Most recently, Angela was recognized with the 2022 Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Choreography for her work on 'Song & Dance' at the Aurora Theatre. Angela is currently on faculty at Emory University, Spelman College, Brenau University and is a ballet instructor at Dekalb School for the Arts & Academy of Ballet.

Belinda Klein

Belinda Klein has been employed as the Director of Medical Imagery and Executive Director at The Hughston Foundation in Columbus, GA since 2007. Ms. Klein's degrees include an Associate of Applied Arts in Commercial Art from Casper College, a Bachelor of Science in Scientific Illustration from Arcadia University and a Master of Arts in Medical Illustration from UT Southwestern Medical School at Dallas. As the Director of Medical Imagery, Ms. Klein is the Art Director of the Hughston Health Alert, works closely with Editor, and the editorial board to plan, publish, and produce all artwork and layout of the patient-education newsletter. Project responsibilities include Illustrations, graphs, or photographs for requested journal articles, textbook manuscripts, poster presentations, and legal documents. Ms. Klein assists staff, physicians, fellows and residents with artwork and production of PowerPoint and poster presentations. Additionally, Ms. Klein photographs and assist with video production for surgical procedures and lab demonstrations. Multiple Independent awards received for illustrations and layout of Hughston publications.

Ms. Klein accepted the Executive Director position in 2014. Her responsibilities include overseeing day-to-day operations, administrative and finance, and report to the board. Ms. Klein administers individual programs, events, fundraising efforts, and community outreach programs on behalf of the Hughston organization.

Meghan McFerrin

Meghan McFerrin is an art educator at Capstone Academy Atlanta, a Teaching Artist at the High Museum of Art, and independent consultant for STEAM and arts integrated teaching and learning. Meghan has served as a STEM/STEAM Program Specialist at the Georgia Department of Education and the Coordinator of School and Teacher Services at the High Museum of Art. Meghan received a BFA and MAEd in Art Education from the University of Georgia along with teaching certification.

Matthew Porter

Matthew Porter, Curator of Education at the Morris Museum of Art, received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The College for Creative Studies in Detroit Michigan, and completed graduate courses as part of a Master's of Art in Teaching degree at Fairmont State University in West Virginia. He has worked in a variety of roles supporting educational initiatives at a number of art museums including the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Cranbrook Art Museum, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. As curator of education, Porter seeks out opportunities to provide meaningful hands-on engagement with the public whenever possible, believing that providing access and opportunity leads to understanding. His duties include designing programming for a wide range of audiences, producing curriculum, and building partnerships with other community organizations.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT - Panel 4**Wendy M. Cooper**

Wendy M. Cooper is the Executive Director of the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation in Watkinsville, Georgia. She has over 20 years of experience in leadership positions at various arts and cultural organizations. After receiving her Master of Fine Arts at the Savannah College of Art and Design, she was an Associate Professor of Art at Southeast Missouri State University for six years. Cooper is a practicing artist and is a native of the Athens, Georgia area. Cooper partners with several other non-profit organizations in the community to bring the arts and art education to underserved populations in the area.

Makeda Kemit

Makeda Kemit or Iya as she is known by the youth, has been groomed for the arts. A Pennsylvania native, wife, and mother, Makeda has been in the arts all her life. She began her unique study of the arts as a child first with her Mother, a dancer and choreographer herself, then with Children's Theater company and Timbuktu Dancers and Drummers in Trenton NJ, and Maimouna Keita School for West African Dance and drum in New York City. As a youth, Makeda had the opportunity to travel to Senegal with Maimouna Keita to perform at the National Theater and to study culture through the arts. In 2002 she obtained her BA in Theatre Arts and Africans studies from Rutgers University all while touring as a freelance dancer and teacher of the arts. In 2005 she met her husband Baye Kemit, and co-founded Egun Omode/The Garvey School, a culturally center school that serviced children in the community from daycare to high-school for over 12 years where they received awards and acknowledgment of impact in education from the state, city, and community. Then in 2007 Egun Omode Performing Arts Collective was created. Makeda has worked as a classroom teacher for over 15 years and as a teaching artist in public and private schools, community organizations, corporations etc. for over 20 years. Makeda, as a playwright, has written six 90 min musical productions that have been produced and staged at The Passage Theater in NJ, Bo Robinson Theater in VA, The Painted Bride in Philadelphia, PA, Mary Burch Theater in Newark, NJ, Symphony Space in NY, Spellman College in GA, University of DC Theater in DC, and more. She has also traveled to Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, and studied under master artists like Yousouff Koumbassa, Marie Bass Wiles, and still continues her studies with Master Sekere Artists Adetoyese Adeyeye and Omomola Oyabunmi. Her mission of intergenerational transmission is presently on full display as Artistic Director of Egun Omode (children of the ancestors). The only youth professional Sekere folkloric dance and drum ensemble in the country! Egun Omode hosts consistent weekly youth Sekere/African dance classes at the SW Arts Center, Montessori Schools, and on her family's land in SW Atlanta. Egun Omode presently performs/tours throughout the east coast and collaborates with local artist to help bridge the cultural gaps seen and felt in our communities, especially in our youth.

Connor Lynch

Connor Lynch, Manager of Exhibits, manages the Children's Museum of Atlanta's temporary exhibits, changing galleries, and permanent exhibitions. Prior to this role she served as CMA's Education Lead and as a Build-It Lab and Outreach Educator. Ms. Lynch has a BA-Art & Design from LaGrange College.

Olivia Ponder-Wallace

As Education and Program Director at the Colquitt Center for the Arts, Olivia Ponder-Wallace has been tasked with the duty of making sure all sectors of the community are equally exposed to diverse media of art such as painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, decorative arts, photography, and installation. She does so in various ways including initiating

new programs, directing stage plays, conducting literacy workshops, author's night, grant writing, etc... just to name a few. The arts have been a major part of Ponder-Wallace's life even before her position at the Arts Center, including initiating a gamut of theatrical presentations at my church (and a few previous jobs). Much of her art experience can be attributed to the Arts Center long before she began working there. While working with Communities in Schools for ten years she partnered with the Arts Center of Moultrie to be able to incorporate the arts into the lives of the youth in our community. She views herself as a very dependable and reliable person who happens to be a wife, a mother, a minister of the gospel, a business owner, and an author.

Olivia was born and raised and still resides in Moultrie, Georgia. She is the wife of George Wallace III and the mother of four beautiful children. She graduated twice from Albany State University (ASU). In 1998, she received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management, and in 2014, she received her Master of Public Administration degree.

Nicholas Sostillio

Incoming State Chapter Director, Georgia Thespians Nicholas Sostillio is an experienced theatre educator, having graduated from Columbus State University with a Masters in Theatre Education and currently serving as the director of theatre at Warner Robins High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. With nearly 300 students involved WRHS's annual audience is 15,000, including 8,000 elementary school students. He has been a part of the Educational Theatre Association Georgia Chapter Executive Board since its founding and has been a vital part of the Georgia Thespian Conference, Georgia Junior Thespian Conference, and Georgia Theatre Educators Conference, taking on roles such as publications and marketing, social media, hosting, guest artists, All-State production planning, sponsorships, Quiz Bowl, Karaoke and Thespys. Nicholas is passionate about providing theatre opportunities for Georgia's students and educators and is excited to continue his work in the field as the incoming Chapter Director of Georgia Educational Theatre Association.

Karen Zgonc

Karen Zgonc is the Director of Ztunes Music in Atlanta and Decatur, GA. She has a BM in Music Performance (Flute) and has performed and taught throughout the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Before founding Ztunes, she worked in the non-profit and for-profit sectors in Marketing and Communications. She currently serves on the board of the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony and has presented at colleges and conferences throughout the state.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT - Panel 5

Richard Bell

Richard Bell is currently Professor Emeritus at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia where he taught orchestra, double bass, music education, music composition, and music theory during his 10 years as a full-time faculty member. He currently conducts the CSU orchestra and the Southern Crescent Symphony. Prior to joining the faculty at Clayton State, he taught middle school and high school orchestra in the Clayton and Henry County schools for 29 years. Groups under his direction have performed for the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service conference and the MENC Southern Division Conference. A strong advocate for music education throughout Georgia, Richard is a graduate of the Arts Leaders of Metropolitan Atlanta class of 2018 and was a member of the steering committee for the Atlanta Regional Commission's Arts and Culture Strategic Plan. He holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from Florida State University and a Doctorate from the University of Georgia. He has served as president of both the Georgia Music Educators Association and the Georgia Chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Dr. Bell has presented sessions at the GMEA In-Service Conference, the American String Teachers Association National Conference, the Music Educators National Conference, and the National Association for Music Education in Ireland. As a composer he has numerous published and commissioned works for school orchestra. Awards received during his career include the Georgia Music Educators Association Distinguished Career Award, the Georgia String Teachers Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the Georgia String Teachers Association Advocacy Award, the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Award, the Wal-Mart Foundation Teacher of the Year Award, the STAR Teacher Award, and the Clayton State University College of Arts and Sciences Gene Hatfield Service Award.

Lucy Bryson

Lucy is currently the Theatre Director and Teacher at Brunswick High School and the Vice President of the Georgia Theatre Conference. Before joining the Glynn County School System, she served as the Education Director for Golden Isles Arts & Humanities. Lucy Lynn also spent time as a freelance Director and Teaching Artist working with Lexington Children's Theatre, the Orlando Repertory Theatre, Springer Opera House, University of Central Florida in partnership with the Kennedy Center, and others. She holds a BSEd from Columbus State University in Theatre Education and a MFA in Theatre with an emphasis in Theatre for Young Audiences from the University of Central Florida.

Laura Cole

Laura Cole, Director of Education and Training at Atlanta Shakespeare Company, BS, Northwestern University. Laura has worked in professional theatre as an actor, teacher, and director for 30 plus years. She has taught Shakespeare in performance with Shakespeare & Co Lenox, MA, the Prague Shakespeare Co., Folger Library DC, the Southeastern Theatre Conference, Columbus State University, GA Perimeter/GA State University, Georgia Tech, and New York Classical Theatre. She has consulted on Shakespeare in the classroom for Agnes Scott College, Emory University, University of North Georgia and Georgia Tech, among others. Most recently she has taught playing Shakespeare with Pre-K children in shelters and college students earning degrees after returning from incarceration. She also serves as a mentor for women artists at all levels of professional growth. Recent work includes presentations with Folger Library Education consultants and Emory University during the National Council of Teachers of English national convention and partnering with the American Shakespeare Center to train teachers on all aspects of teaching active approaches to Shakespeare in their classrooms.

As a professional actress she has performed Internationally, Off Broadway, and in regional and Atlanta theatre throughout her career and has directed numerous plays at the Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse in Atlanta.

Candise Curlee

Candise C. Curlee is the Director of Education and Collections Management at the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art. She holds a master's degree in Folklore with a concentration in Historic Preservation and Museum Studies from Western Kentucky University. She has over 20 years of experience working with arts administration, programming and interpretation, project management, special events development and management, and collection care, in higher educational institutions, cultural and art organizations, and nonprofit organizations. Curlee is a graduate of the Jekyll Island Management Institute, a professional development institute for museum administrators focusing on developing administration and operational skills, sponsored by the Southeastern Museum Conference.

Rachel Elkins

Rachel Elkins is the Box Office Manager, Communications Officer and Rental Coordinator for the Averitt Center for the Arts in Statesboro. Elkins grew up and lived most of her life in Warner Robins, GA. She has studied and performed vocal music under many instructors and in all sorts of venues and has been a part of several choirs and bands over the years. She studied vocal performance and participated in theater productions at Mercer University for several semesters. One of the highlights of her musical career was touring Italy with Mercer Singers. She later transferred to Middle Georgia State University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in History. She was a member of the Chamber Singers at Middle Georgia State. Rachel was a church worship music leader at two United Methodist churches in the Middle Georgia area between 2008 and 2017. During this time, she also recorded two studio albums as the lead singer and one of the composers of The Alex Tjoland Band. She moved to Statesboro, GA in 2017 and fell in love with the community and arts scene.

In her spare time, Elkins sings with a local cover band called The Ripleys. They recently were awarded Most Fabulous Band by Statesboro Magazine. She is also currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Professional Communication and Leadership at Georgia Southern University. Rachel also works part time at a local non-profit, called Homebound Services/ MedConnection, that helps low-income community members find help with their Healthcare needs.

Lisa E. Smalls

Lisa E. Smalls is a native of Atlanta, GA who has always had a passion for the arts. After graduating from Talladega College in Alabama, she returned home to study English Education at Clark Atlanta University. Ms. Smalls spent twenty years as an educator before transitioning into a career in arts management. She is now the Academy Administrator for Balletnic Academy of Dance, where she utilizes her skills in non-profit development, project management, and professional development. Ms. Smalls will graduate from Winthrop University with a master's in arts administration in May 2023.

Tiffany Wilson

Tiffany Wilson, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, has more than 20 years of experience ranging from special event planning to grant writing in the non-profit sector. She has worked for the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and Historic Westville. Tiffany spent 8 years with Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services where she helped secure more than \$2.5 million dollars in federal grants and private funds. In 2013, she was hired as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries where she oversees the strategic development of the organization's internal and external marketing efforts, advertising placement, public relations, institutional fundraising, programming, and most recently volunteer services. Tiffany graduated in 1999 with a B.S. in Public Relations from Georgia Southern University.