



# Registration now open!



**Step 1:** [Click here](#) to connect to SignUp Genius to choose your sessions.

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**You may register for as many classes as you wish for one fee:**

- Member price is \$25.
- Non-member/membership renewal price is \$45 and includes a membership or renewal.

**Every Day in the Green Room from 11:30am-1:30pm:**

- Free Lunch!
- Kit Exploration: Discover how RAFT kits can be re-imagined into impactful design activities.

## Symposium Schedule

*Session descriptions below*

Tuesday, July 17	RAFTLab	9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Sparking Creativity through Picture Books and STUFF</b> Presented by Ellen Spangler, RAFT
	RAFTLab	1:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>Cardboard Automata</b> Presented by Rachael Rome, RAFT
Wednesday, July 18	RAFTLab	9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Look to Read, Create to Write with the Denver Art Museum</b> Presented by Denver Art Museum
	RAFTLab	1:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>UpCycling to Make Centers</b> Presented by Rachael Rome, RAFT
Thursday, July 19	RAFTLab	9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Art Meets History. And Geology. And Ecology?</b> Presented by American Museum of Western Art
	RAFTLab	1:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>Social Emotional Learning and Engineering through Literacy</b> Presented by Rachael Rome, RAFT
Friday July 20	RAFTLab	9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Creating Long-Term Projects that Keep Curiosity Going</b> Presented by Rachael Rome, RAFT
	RAFTLab	1:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>Balance in Education</b> Barry Kluger-Bell, PhD, Educational Consultant
Saturday July 21	RAFTLab	9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Early Childhood Artistry</b> Presented by Children's Museum of Denver
	RAFTLab	1:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>Opening Up Early Childhood Learning Environments</b> Presented by Children's Museum of Denver

## Session Descriptions

### Tuesday, July 17

#### 9am-12pm

*Sparking Creativity through Picture Books and STUFF*

Ellen Spangler, RAFT

Picture books are some of the first places that young learners build their imaginations, and there are so many titles that encourage kids to solve problems and look at their world with a creative eye. RAFT Raconteur Ellen Spangler will share some of her favorite picture books that spark creative thinking, and you'll also get and share ideas of how to extend the learning with hands-on activities using RAFTy materials.

#### 1-4pm

*Cardboard Automata: Art, Science, and Simple Machines*

Rachael Rome, RAFT

Developed by the Exploratorium's PIE Institute, Cardboard Automata are a playful way to learn about simple machine elements such as cranks, cams, levers and linkages while creating a mechanical sculpture. This activity uses simple materials to get started and can become as complex as the learner's imagination makes it. Cardboard Automata is a great example of integrating art, science and engineering. For the learner, the narrative and decorative aspects of the automata take on equal weight with the mechanical elements. In this workshop you will learn about the mechanics of simple machines by building creative automata incorporating elements from RAFT's vast store of materials. This is an activity that can be translated to the classroom at many levels, as well as being a fun opportunity to unleash your own creativity.

### Wednesday, July 18

#### 9am-12pm

*Look to Read, Create to Write with the Denver Art Museum*

Denver Art Museum

How can artwork unleash your youngest learners' stories and language? How can students' growing writing skills activate the creative process? The Denver Art Museum will provide a hands-on, minds-on workshop to uncover playful strategies and tools for supporting early learners in sharing their voice through the arts. Join us to learn more about creative ways to support literacy for early learners and leave with ideas to use in your classroom the following day!

#### 1-4pm

*UpCycling to Make Centers*

Rachael Rome, RAFT

Learning centers are almost as good as cloning and they aren't just for PreK and elementary students. They can allow you to give different instructions to multiple sets of students at a time. Students engage with them to explore content at their own pace and build skills around self-direction and independence. In this session everyone will explore RAFT materials to see how to best incorporate them into existing centers and then build a new center from scratch.

## Thursday, July 19

### 9am-12pm

*Art Meets History. And Geology. And Ecology?*

American Museum of Western Art

Intimidated by the prospect of creating interdisciplinary lesson plans? Seeking a fresh approach to old content? Allow the American Museum of Western Art to introduce its paintings, resources, and lesson ideas aimed at connecting visual arts standards to social studies, language arts, and yes, even science. In this workshop AMWA's educator will lead discussion around historic paintings that depict Colorado. We will work together to create an artistic textured topographic map of the state using found objects. We will add the characteristics of each region, important political, social, and cultural sites, and research natural and man-made resources, all while using our creativity and the oddities available to us in the RAFT store. Plan on a RAFTy morning of ideas and inspiration, and leave with the confidence to take an interdisciplinary approach in your classroom!

### 1-4pm

*Social Emotional Learning and Engineering through Literacy*

Rachael Rome, RAFT

Social Emotional Learning is a set of skills that students have to develop. Students can only practice them by doing something. The same goes with engineering and literacy. In this session you will get to see how the skills from all three domains can be practiced in one incredibly fun activity.

## Friday, July 20

### 9am-12pm

*Creating Long-Term Projects that Keep Curiosity Going*

Rachael Rome, RAFT

Setting kids up for long-term, deep exploration of concepts leads to more impactful learning, and thinking creatively about materials is the key to making it happen. Get tips and tricks for creating a year-long, cross-curricular project that sustains students' curiosity and interest while meeting standards.

Rachael Rome, RAFT

### 1-4pm

*Balance in Education*

Barry Kluger-Bell

All puns and metaphors aside, balance is an incredible phenomenon for students to explore. Come play and explore getting materials to stay upright with RAFT Board member and Exploratorium educator, Dr. Barry Kluger-Bell. You will see how something as simple sounding as balancing RAFT materials can connect to force, center of mass, stability, and torque.

## Saturday, July 21

### 9am-12pm

*Early Childhood Artistry*

Children's Museum of Denver

Art and early childhood go hand in hand, but it is much more than just finger-painting. In this session you will learn what it means to think like an artist and how to foster that thinking in young students. Come join educators from the Denver Children's Museum to create, explore, and think artistically.

### 1-4pm

*Opening Up Early Childhood Learning Environments*

Children's Museum of Denver

Young students are very much creatures of their environment. It helps them learn, grow, and develop. The more open it is the more transformative it can be. In this session educators from the Denver Children's Museum will help guide ways to make spaces more open-ended and learner-powered.