



DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative Early Childhood & Family Engagement: Findings from a Community Partnership

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 4:30-6:00 p.m.,

Sitar Arts Center | 1700 Kalorama Rd NW, Washington, DC 20009

Facilitator Biography:

David Markey currently oversees the arts education portfolio for DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. He is responsible for assisting organizations working with children and youth in developing their respective internal capacities to ensure programmatic access, equity, and quality. He has spent the past 25 years working in the field of arts education as a teaching artist, director, and arts administrator. Mr. Markey has been an adjunct professor with the School of Education, Teaching and Health at American University where he worked with pre- and early-service teachers to build their skills in using the techniques of the arts to teach across the curriculum. He has also been a guest lecturer with the School of Education at the University of Tampa, the Theatre Department at the University of New Hampshire, and the Centre for Baroque and Renaissance Studies at the University of Maryland.

Mr. Markey holds graduate degrees from University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin, and his teaching qualification from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He was chair of the Youth Theatre Network of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education from 2006 to 2012. Most recently, Mr. Markey contributed a chapter on teaching artistry to a compendium titled *Arts Integration in Education: Teachers and Teaching Artists as Agents of Change* (Intellect Books).

Panelist Biographies:

Cristina Cotte is the Children's Program Language Enrichment Coordinator at the SED Center. Her role is to stimulate children's language and literacy development through story time, sign language and arts engagement. Ms. Cotte holds a B.A. in Visual Arts and a Minor in Sociology from Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, an M.A.T. in Museum Education from the George Washington University and a current CDA Credential from the CDA Council for Professional Recognition.

A. Lorraine Robinson, Senior Director of Programs - Sitar Arts Center oversees Sitar's afterschool arts program (designing the class schedule, overseeing curriculum development, faculty recruitment and training, evaluation), as well as Sitar's performance series, summer musical program and professional arts partnerships. She has a double bachelor's degree in Psychology and Theatre from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a Master's in Theatre from Brown University. Lorraine is a freelance professional theater director and dramaturg. She has previously served as: Artistic Founding Director of MuseFire Productions; the Allen Lee Hughes Fellows Program Coordinator at Arena Stage; and as an adjunct professor of theatre for St. Mary's College of Maryland. Lorraine is an award-winning theatre director (Central Ohio Theatre Critics Circle Award) and most recently won an Honorable Mention Award: 2017 Excellence in Theatre Education from the Tony Awards & Carnegie Mellon University. She was also presented with The Dr. Arnitra Young Butler award for professional arts work and community service.

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Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe is the Executive Director of the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative. She is a dedicated champion of the arts and an arts education advocate committed to improving the lives of youth and artists through public access, community engagement and public health campaigns. She has promoted and raised support for many leading national and local educational and cultural institutions including the Future of Music Coalition where as Executive Director she led advocacy initiatives and organizational optimization at the intersection of music, technology and public policy. She was Director of Programs for the American Council for the Arts (now Americans for the Arts) where she first coordinated the National Coalition for Education in the Arts along with spearheading national Arts Advocacy Day and the Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy and served as Development Director of the PS1 Contemporary Art Center (now MoMA PS1,) as well as the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

Her past work on behalf of art, culture and youth also includes public relations and fundraising consultation to youth and cultural programs in Pittsburgh for Gateway to the Arts, Pittsburgh Community Gallery Project, Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass and Light, and the 250th anniversary of the City of Pittsburgh.

As part of her public health and social justice advocacy, she served as the National Program Director for PAX: Real Solutions to Gun Violence (now a program of Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence). While there she directed its highly acclaimed national public health campaigns ASK and SPEAK UP dedicated to reducing youth gun violence in America. She has also worked extensively in AIDS Walk and Dance-a-thon fundraising event production, raising millions of dollars and awareness for AIDS service organizations nationwide. Her past volunteer service dedicated to youth includes work with Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation program, ranking her among their most effective national volunteers working to end childhood hunger.

Joanne Seelig is the Director of Education at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, MD-- a professional theater and education center dedicated to serving youth of all abilities. She is an arts educator with over 14 years of experience managing programs, teaching, and creating performing arts experiences for youth. She has administered youth programs for Berkeley Repertory Theater in California, the National Building Museum and most recently The Smithsonian Associates. Joanne has a passion for arts education research and was a Research Assistant on the Cultures of Thinking project at Harvard's Project Zero. Joanne has been a panelist and reviewer for the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Association of Children's Museums. She has taught in a variety of educational settings including museums, theatres, public schools, and juvenile detention centers. Joanne received her Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the Arts in Education program.

Sylvia Zwi is a firm believer that the arts are intrinsic to our humanity and is committed to its transformative power. A native of Brazil, Sylvia has moved to the United States 32 years ago. In her 26 years in the Greater Washington Area, she has worked with institutions dedicated to the arts, arts education and teaching through the arts. She has worked as Teacher, Master Teaching Artist, Administrator and Consultant for Levine Music (The Selma Levine School of Music), The Wolf Trap

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Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, BAPA (Imagination Stage - Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts), Sitar Arts Center, Choral Arts Society and Inner-City-Inner-Child among others.

Sylvia continues to work with most of these organizations in several capacities as well as providing Professional Development for Fairfax County Office for Children, District of Columbia Public Schools and through DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative. She teaches General Music and Dramatic Arts at the Oyster-Adams Bilingual Elementary Campus, a DCPS bilingual and inclusion school, and is Music District Course Chair for DCPS. She also holds the position of Dean and Director of Early Childhood Arts & Professional Development at Sitar Arts Center.

Special thanks to the parents participating today!

- Sharina Suned, Sitar Arts Center
- Gonzalo Ruiz Navarro, Sitar Arts Center
- Glenda Majano & José Martínez, Spanish Education and Development Center
- Katherine & Mario Gutiérrez, Spanish Education and Development Center

Thank you to Meghan Mahon of Sitar Arts Center for coordinating Sitar Arts Center family's participation in this cohort activities. Meghan Mahon is the Early Childhood Arts and Special Projects Manager at Sitar Arts Center. Meghan manages the early childhood program and oversees the staff and programming at Sitar's off-site middle school locations. Meghan graduated from University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a B.F.A in Acting.

Thank you to our co-panelists!



*A special thanks to our
host, Sitar Arts Center!*