

HOUSTON'S ARTS FOR LEARNING LAB AWARDED \$50K NEA GRANT

Posted by Zazil Farfan | Art



young audiences
arts for learning
HOUSTON

Leading arts infused learning
Supporting every child
Transforming educational culture

On Dec 2, 2019, Young Audiences of Houston (YAH), in partnership with University of Houston Kathrine G. McGovern (UHKGM) College of the Arts Dance Program and Center for Art & Social Engagement, received an award from the National Endowment for the Arts of \$50,000 in support of the Arts for Learning Lab (ALL).

The highly coveted grant, awarded to few arts associations will be used to enhance YAH's Arts for Learning Lab (ALL) in its advocacy for enhancing arts

education throughout Houston as well as their 2020 mission to incorporate dance and theatre strategies and training across the ALL program. The funds will cover the continued development and growth of the ALL program, a year-long professional development pipeline for emerging and established artists and educators who seek to widen their teaching platform by incorporating arts integration strategies into the classroom.

The program is the first of its kind in the City of Houston. ALL strives to provide equitable access to this training program and its resources to artists, educators and students that are underrepresented in arts-in-education programs due to socio-economic, social, and/or cognitive limitations. The Arts for Learning Lab is an intensive program where participants are invited to share their experiences in a common space to develop their teaching and learning practice through the arts. ALL serves as a model for broad inclusion, acceptance and appreciation for the teaching artist field. This non-degree, academic certificate program recognized by the University of Houston provides a robust and immersive learning experience for grades K-12 in the fundamentals of arts integration emphasizing artistry, curriculum learning objectives, and planning and preparation.



A CURRENT SESSION OF ALL 2019-2020; ARTISTS AND EDUCATORS WORK ON A TABLEAU FOR STORYTELLING, DEMONSTRATING A VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

Piloted in 2018, ALL selected artists from dance and movement disciplines trained professionally in diverse styles from hip-hop to classical Indian dance. In 2019, ALL expanded to include theatre artists and is currently on trend to add visual arts in 2020. During the program, ALL delivers 45 hours of training to each teaching artist and up to 25 hours of training for classroom educators.

The program is ambitious and rigorous, and serves as a model for sustainability for arts integration expansion across the Houston region. ALL's program goals aim to provide high-quality art residencies to youth, administer professional arts education development to K-12 educators and career artists with low access to training and support, reinforce the level of quality and skill of arts-integration policies, and increase the number of arts-based strategies in Houston's K-12 schools provided by artists and educators.

Young Audience Houston's ALL program offers benefits including seminars in designing, writing, and teaching artist-in-residence programs aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the National Fine Arts Standards, opportunities to field test lessons and receive feedback from teachers and colleagues, free admission to the Houston Arts Partners Conference on Sep 13-14, 2019 at UH Downtown, joining the Young Audiences of Houston Teaching Artist Roster for the 2020-2021 schools year, with annual contract renewal based on continued positive performance, and more.



ALONZO MOORE, PROFESSIONAL DANCER, TEACHES A CLASS OF YOUNG ARTISTS AS AN EDUCATOR FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES OF HOUSTON.

YAH is a nonprofit organization founded in 1956, recognized throughout Houston for their decades of experience and passionate approach to art education. Some of their past and current efforts include after-school programs implemented by trained artists, interactive arts & cultural performances in assembly settings, hands-on workshops that encourage the discovery of students' artistic potential, healing arts programs for children undergoing medical treatment, assistance funds, public library programs that encourage meaningful community engagement in world arts, and other innovative activities.

YAH Executive Director Mary Curry Mettenbrink envisioned a program that "invests in and reduces barriers for artists, creating new opportunities and pathways of highly-qualified teaching artists interested in entering the field, while at the same time introducing highperforming educators to arts integration. As an organization solely dedicated to learning through the arts and connecting teaching artists with classroom educators, investing in professional development programs like the Arts for Learning Lab are vital to our success."