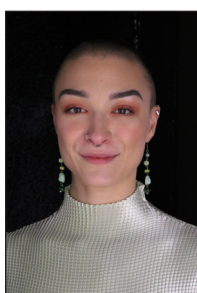


# TeachArtsOhio: Customizable Artist Residencies for PK-12 Students in Ohio's Schools



**Cynthia Amoah** | *Westerville, Ohio*

Cynthia Amoah is a Ghanaian American poet, national speaker, and teaching artist. A three-time TEDx speaker and 2025 Greater Columbus Arts Council Artists Elevated awardee, she holds an MFA from The New School and recently served as the Inaugural Writer-in-Residence at Bexley Public Library. She is currently the Arts in the Parks coordinator with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Her work explores themes of identity, migration, and belonging. Her chapbook, "Handrails," was published by Akashic Books in fall 2021. Amoah lives in Columbus with her family, where she leads workshops in poetry, confidence-building, and social change.



**Kristin Ashley Austin** | *Reno, Nevada*

Kristin Ashley Austin was born and raised in Las Vegas, and is a Reno, Nevada-based interdisciplinary artist with a passion for community and engagement. She has a BS in human development and family studies from the University of Nevada, Reno, with minors in dance and addiction treatment through the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT), and she is a master's candidate for her MFA in interdisciplinary arts. Her diverse training includes Fosse-style jazz, classical ballet, and post-modern/modern techniques. Focusing on relative performance, her art facilitates collective healing and creative storytelling. She uses these spaces to harness the creative mind, empowering individuals to improve their lives and functionality while honoring their unique identities.



**Zelma Badu-Young** | *Athens, Ohio*

Zelma Badu-Young, professor emerita of dance at Ohio University, holds a BFA in contemporary dance and choreography from Concordia University, an MFA in dance ethnology from York University, and a Ph.D. in culture and values in education from McGill University. Badu-Young is also a choreographer for and dance director of Azaguno, which performed at the 2001 World Cup in South Korea and with the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra in 2023. She has presented scholarly papers, conducted workshops, or performed internationally in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia, and has produced multicultural arts festivals, concerts, conferences, and symposia. She received the Ohio Arts Council's Individual Excellence Award in 2016 and 2008, the NAACP Image Award for Excellence in Faculty Academics and Research, and multiple international awards for her choreographic works.

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**Tom Bailey** | *Harrison, Ohio*

Tom Bailey is a former high school instrumental and vocal music teacher who has since worked in administration at both private and public schools as well as school districts. Through this and other work, Bailey has supported many arts initiatives, which includes the building of a performing arts center and having the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra play the grand opening concert; remodeling of an auditorium in Washington Court House; and assisting in starting two arts foundations. A trombonist, Bailey holds a degree in music education from Northern Kentucky University and doctorate in educational leadership

from Concordia University in Chicago. He is a former member of the Cincinnati Youth Symphony Orchestra, and he was awarded arts educator of the year by the Southwest Ohio Arts Council.



**Christopher Chaffee** | *Yellow Springs, Ohio*

Christopher Chaffee is professor of music and director of graduate studies in music at Wright State University, where he teaches flute and music history, and he is on the faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp. His former students have earned places in elite music programs, and have become successful public-school teachers in several states, thriving music entrepreneurs, arts administrators, college faculty, and members of orchestras and premier U.S. Military service bands. A deeply experienced nonprofit leader, he currently serves as a trustee at Antioch College. Chaffee received his BM from the Eastman School of Music, MM from Michigan State University, and DMA from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



**Al Dilorenzo** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Al Dilorenzo is an arts leader, creative strategist, and community-builder whose work bridges real estate, digital media, and cultural development. As a multidisciplinary practitioner, she integrates placemaking, immersive digital art, and community-rooted storytelling through initiatives such as Mural ReMix, the Milo Arts District, and partnerships with local galleries, neighborhoods, and creative collectives. Dilorenzo's cross-sector experience centers on expanding access, uplifting diverse voices, and activating spaces for public engagement. Her work is guided by a belief that the arts are infrastructure for thriving, equitable communities, and she brings a thoughtful, mission-driven perspective to her work.

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**Jerzy Drozd** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Jerzy Drozd is a cartoonist and teaching artist who has worked with high-profile publishers, including Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, Marvel Comics, VIZ Media, and others. He is the author of the middle-grade graphic novel, “The Inscrutable Doctor Baer and the Case of the Two-Faced Statue.” He co-authored the graphic novel “Science Comics: Rockets” with his wife, Anne. He leads cartooning workshops for children and teens in libraries and schools, as well as for teachers who want to bring comics to the classroom. He also hosts a podcast, “Thunder Punch Daily,” where he discusses comics and how to make them.



**Sidney Jones Jr.** | *Gahanna, Ohio*

Sidney Jones Jr., Ph.D., is an educator, writer, and literacy advocate with over 27 years of experience in English Language Arts instruction and curriculum design. A native of Baldwin, Louisiana, he earned a BA in English (creative writing) and an M.Ed. in secondary education, both from Louisiana State University. He began his teaching career with Columbus City Schools and has taught at both The North Education Center and Columbus Alternative High School. He also served as an African literature teacher and instructional coach at Columbus Africentric Early College, where he helped revive and co-coach the Africentric Nubian Slam Team. Currently a secondary literacy specialist for Columbus City Schools, Jones promotes literary arts through initiatives such as the district’s Poetry Slam, Slam Poetry Retreat, and Fall Fiction Camp.



**Dana Carlisle Kletchka** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Dana Carlisle Kletchka is an associate professor of art museum education in the Department of Arts Administration, Education, and Policy at The Ohio State University and is the faculty director for the museum education and administration specialization. Her research areas include post-critical art museum education theory; an Ethics of Care as a relational model of museum work; the use of social media and digital technologies on interpretation and engagement in the art museum; and the professional positionality of art museum educators within the profound paradigmatic shift of art museums over the last 40 years.

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**Heather Autumn Lee** | *Antelope, California*

Heather Autumn Lee is a multimedia artist who grew up in the United Kingdom, and is now based in Sacramento, California. She holds an AA in art from American River College, a BFA in design from University of California, Davis, and she is currently working on her MFA in interdisciplinary art from University of Nevada, Reno. Autumn Lee creates in multiple mediums, though she usually incorporates at least one of her two biggest focuses, textiles and photography. Layering and patchwork are often seen within her work, showing her signature style. She currently serves on the board of the Sacramento Collective for Textile Arts (SCTA) as the programs chair. Her work has been shown at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District Art Gallery, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, and the 57th Motherlode Show at Mills Station Arts & Culture Center in California as well as several others.



**Larada Lee-Wallace** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Larada Lee-Wallace is a proud Black writer, storyteller, and doula whose work centers Black reproductive histories, community care, and diaspora connections. Her writing and advocacy have been featured in the University of California at Los Angeles Journal of Gender & Law, Essence, Teen Vogue, Elle, The Nation, Cosmopolitan, and more, along with appearances on BBC News, NPR, and Next Question with Katie Couric. As a state campaign manager at Advocates for Youth, she leads national storytelling and state-based cultural strategies. She completed a writing residency with the Library of Africa and the African Diaspora (LOATAD) in Ghana and continues to develop work exploring Black reproductive storytelling across communities in Ohio and the diaspora.



**Karla Long** | *Granville, Ohio*

Karla Long joined The Dawes Arboretum in July 2021, bringing more than 20 years of experience as an educator and school administrator. She is passionate about creating welcoming, inspiring environments and developing programs that help people connect deeply with the Arboretum's mission. Throughout her career, she has served in roles such as Head of Middle School at All Saints Episcopal School, Columbus Academy, and Trinity Valley School, as well as leadership and teaching positions at the Bryn Mawr School for Girls, Dana Hall School, and Keith Country Day School. Long earned her master's in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and her bachelor's in American studies from Smith College.

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**Francine Marchelle** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Francine Marchelle has been involved in the arts for more than 40 years as an educator, producer, director, playwright, lyricist, and performer. Currently, Marchelle is the founding director of Achievement Retro Awards Education Research Arts (ARAERA), an organization dedicated to teaching school-age youth how to create research-based artworks. She collaborates with educators and youth program leaders to integrate arts into the academic curriculum and instruction of any subject. Her goal is to develop research and arts integration programs that foster intergenerational relationships between school-aged youth and adults. She has worked with individuals and organizations, including schools, as an education and arts consultant and cognitive coach through her LLC, FM Consulting and Coaching. Marchelle is the recipient of the 2024-2025 Greater Columbus Arts Council Individual Artist Award. Under her arts production name FranScene MarchelleArts, she continues to produce literary and staged art.



**Ikera Olandesca** | *Granville, Ohio*

Ikera Olandesca is a theatre and communication senior at Denison University, where she is a recipient of the Osborne Endowed Scholarship for the Fine Arts and the Reese/Shackelford Theatre Award, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honors Society, Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honors Society, and Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honors Society. Olandesca has written, directed, stage-managed, and performed in more than 20 productions internationally, including a Stephen Sondheim musical at Denison University, a BroadwayWorld.com-reviewed production in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and a grant-winning play addressing mental health in her hometown of Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. Beyond theatre-making, Olandesca is also passionate about writing, film, and academia, having self-published two books of poetry, interned for New York-based studio Valiant Pictures, and presented work in performance and communication theory at several conferences, including the Global Fusion Conference at the University of Texas in Austin.



**Hyacinth Paul** | *Dayton, Ohio*

Hyacinth Paul, Ph.D., is an artist from Dayton, Ohio. She is a retired scientist and professor and is also the author of a children's book, "Billy Jean the Cloud and Bill the Hawksbill Turtle." She has served as an artist in residence at the Trotwood School District and studied Plein Aire painting in Provence and Barcelona, awarded by the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District. Paul currently studies the role of arts in mental health and tells the stories of immigrant Indian women and their contributions in Dayton through paintings, mixed media fiber arts and textiles, and fabric sculptures. Through service on the boards of several community organizations, artist talks, and art classes for communities of all ages, she continues to educate and advocate for the arts and mental health.

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**Adam Remnant** | *Athens, Ohio*

Adam Remnant is the director of arts education at Stuart's Opera House. For more than a decade, he has led the Stuart's Opera House After-School Music Program (AMP) and the After-School Audio Production Program. Remnant has a background in education and music with a master's degree in technology and education and years of musical experience leading bands as a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Remnant's experience also includes audio and video production. He loves inspiring creativity in the arts and holds a master's in computer technology and education from Ohio University.



**Charlie Stewart** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Charlie Stewart has worked for the past six years at Ohio Voice, Ohio's nonprofit table, where they supported grassroots organizations doing civic engagement for underrepresented communities across the state. Stewart's work focused on community and relationship building, incubation and onboarding, project management, outreach, and capacity and needs analysis for civic engagement programs. Now, they support grassroots organizations with campaigns and civic engagement via their new consulting firm, Stewart Strategies. Additionally, they are a core organizer for Black Queer & Intersectional Collective, a grassroots abolitionist organization, and they are a co-founder of Columbus Community Pride. Originally from Cleveland, Stewart earned a BA from Denison University in Granville studying political science, Spanish, and queer studies.



**Samantha Tucker** | *Columbus, Ohio*

Samantha Tucker is an activist, teacher, and writer. Her first book, "Collective Chaos: A Roller Derby Team Memoir," co-authored with Amy Spears, was published in 2023 from Swallow Press. Tucker has written for Lithub, Ecotone, Bust, The American Literary Review, The Toast, Columbus Alive, and Guernica. Her essay "Fountain Girls" is a listed notable in Best American Essays 2017 and is included in Contemporary Creative Nonfiction: An Anthology. She holds an MFA in creative nonfiction from The Ohio State University and MA in English from Colorado State University.

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**Christina Turner** | *Hilliard, Ohio*

Christina Turner is a professional singer, actress, and performing arts educator. She received a bachelor's degree in vocal music performance from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, during which she toured abroad, performing in countries such as Germany, Austria, and China. Turner then developed experience as a performing arts educator in private schools and eventually transitioned to becoming a music teacher in Columbus City Schools. For more than a decade, she has motivated and nurtured young artists' gifts and talents and furthered her skills working in the community for organizations such as Columbus Children's Theatre and the Lincoln Theatre. Her artistic excellence was recognized in 2022, winning two drama awards. Turner is currently the education coordinator and Goldsmith Artist in Residence at Columbus Children's Theatre.



**Craig VanRenterghem** | *Findlay, Ohio*

Craig VanRenterghem is the education director at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts (MCPA) in Findlay, Ohio, where he leads all educational programming, including Youtheatre, Arts in the Schools, SPARK School Day Performances, and a wide range of arts workshops for both youth and adults. After serving as education director at The Arts Partnership, VanRenterghem has helped expand MCPA's reach to more than 10,000 students through full-scale student musical productions, professional teaching artist collaborations and impactful school-day performance opportunities. He also brings extensive musical theater experience, having served as a music director. VanRenterghem earned his BM from Bluffton University and is an active arts advocate, currently serving on the board of the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) and participating in several statewide arts and leadership organizations.



**Jennifer Williams-Cordova** | *Bakersfield, California*

Jennifer Williams-Cordova is a multidisciplinary artist based in Bakersfield, California, blending digital precision with the warmth of traditional media. Her practice spans graphic design, photography, illustration, and mural painting. Williams-Cordova studied art and design at California State University and is pursuing her MFA in interdisciplinary art at University of Nevada. She is also a partner and creative director at Willis and Williams Design, Bakersfield's longest-running graphic design studio, and teaches graphic design at California State University. Her impact on the creative culture and community was recognized in 2025, when she received The Hub of Bakersfield's Toucan Award for Public Artist of the Year, as well as the Beautiful Bakersfield Award from the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce in the Urban Core category.

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**Ceylon Wise** | *Galena, Ohio*

Ceylon Wise is a multidisciplinary teaching artist, creator, and youth arts advocate. He is the co-founder of The Wise Mosaic, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening student well-being through arts-integrated social emotional learning, and the cocreator of The Wise Channel, a family-focused educational media platform serving children, parents, and schools. Wise's work blends music, storytelling, and community engagement to help young people build confidence, empathy, and emotional regulation. He has led teaching artist residencies across Central Ohio, developed arts-based SEL curricula, and collaborated with schools, districts, and community organizations to expand access to creative learning. As a composer and contributor to the GRAMMY-nominated "All One Tribe" children's music album, he brings both artistic excellence and deep educational insight to his work.



**Paschal Yao Younge** | *Athens, Ohio*

Paschal Yao Younge, Ph.D., is an Ohio Arts Council 2020 Ohio Heritage Fellowship recipient and 2019 Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow. Younge, an advocate of intercultural, interdisciplinary, and multicultural music and professor of world music at Ohio University, is the executive and music director of Azaguno, Inc., a multi-ethnic ensemble based in Athens, Ohio. The ensemble focuses on the research, preservation, and performance of African, African American, Caribbean, and Latin American music and dance. Younge has presented and performed at several festivals, concerts, and conferences in more than 45 states and provinces in the U.S., and 30 countries internationally. Previously, Younge taught at West Virginia University, served as director of the World Music Center, and taught at the University of Ghana.