

# DANCE/THEATRE TRACK

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**Keynote 8:30am-9:15am**

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See [Arts & Physical Education Digital Summit Website](#) for Arts Keynote Information

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**Session #1 Social & Emotional Learning 9:30am-10:30am**

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## **Structuring Youth-Driven Space in the Dance/Theatre Classroom**

Join Rising Youth Theatre's Teaching Artists Thameenah Muhammad and Carlos Lara in a reflection session and group brainstorm focused on creating and holding space that centers the whole human in arts & SEL learning. They will talk through their process for shifting their work online while still staying true to one of RYT's core values of centering youth. You'll learn skills and tools for structuring youth-driven space and have a chance to brainstorm how to bring them into your online, hybrid, and socially distant theatre and dance classroom spaces and beyond.

**Rising Youth Theatre** is a youth leadership organization in Phoenix that uses theatre to position young people in advocacy spaces. Rising Youth's mission is to imagine and build the world we want to live in through youth-driven, multigenerational collaboration and justice-centered artistic process and performance that generates reflection, connection and action. The company works with youth and professional adult artists to create multigenerational, socially relevant, original plays and processes, operating on a power-sharing, horizontal leadership model. The diverse young people in our ensemble are central to our decision-making process and organizational structure. Rising Youth Theatre believes that change happens when we listen to young people. There are very few spaces in our state where young people are positioned as leaders, working alongside adults to make a difference. Through artmaking, storytelling, and embodied research around issues that matter in our community, we are able to create opportunities for young people to advocate for themselves and their peers. Connect with us to learn more: [www.RisingYouthTheatre.org](http://www.RisingYouthTheatre.org), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

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**Session #2 Instructional Strategies (Online/Hybrid/In-Person) 10:45-11:45am**

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## **Navigating a New Dance Education Landscape: Instructional Highlights**

In this session, participants will hear highlights from a panel of three dance teachers on successful instructional strategies in classrooms in online, hybrid, or in-person instruction.



**Jennifer Florey** graduated from Hope College in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Dance Education. During her senior year at Hope, she completed her student teaching in the city of Chicago and went on to be assistant director of Auroris Dance Company in the Chicago suburbs. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Florence Cavanaugh Award for her strong technique and theory, and for showing promise in the field of dance education. During the summer of 2013 she accepted a teaching position at Kofa High School in Yuma, AZ directing the dance program. She is in her eighth year of teaching at Kofa and has traveled with her dancers to Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade, San Diego for the Holiday Bowl Halftime Performance, and New York City. While in Hawaii, her team was awarded the Spirit Award for their positive attitude, enthusiasm, and hard work. Florey has also brought a number of guest teachers down to Yuma for her students to experience, including Stephanie Rankin, Steven Iannacone, William Crowley, and Dustin and Sheraton Philips. Her dancers had the honor of

learning and performing Iannacone's piece "Sur la Table" in spring 2018. Florey has been able to share her knowledge of dance education by leading sessions and presenting research at four National Dance Education Organization National Conferences, and has published an article in the Dance for Children International Newsletter. She recently completed her Masters of Arts in Dance Education from University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May of 2019. Florey currently holds the position of Treasurer for the Arizona Dance Education Organization, a chapter of NDEO, and is a Member at Large for the Dance and the Children International board.



**Christine Rudy-Reed** (MAT) is the Fine & Performing Arts School Specialist for the Department of Arts Education in Chicago Public Schools. There, she guides effective school implementation of Fine and Performing Arts curriculum, instruction, assessment and intervention through professional learning, continuous improvement strategic planning support, and program incubation and implementation support to the 70 Fine & Performing Arts Schools across the CPS district. She taught for 8 years at both public and charter schools, teaching dance, reading, and as a PreK teacher assistant, and built new dance programs from the ground up both in Ohio and Illinois. Christine has a passion for arts integration and loves combining the arts and other content areas to build connections for students. Christine is a founding board member and current Board Secretary of the Illinois Dance Education Organization; a long-standing

professional member, Development Committee member, and K-12 Teaching Mentor for the National Dance Education Organization; and an independent curriculum consultant and developer. Her most advanced degree is a Masters of Art in Teaching, with a focus in Elementary Education, from Columbia College Chicago. Christine is a modern and contemporary dancer, and enjoys taking class for her own continued practice, exploring movement improvisation, and attending dance performances across Chicago.



**Tiffany White** graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Dance and Choreography and BS in Creative Advertising. She taught Dance at several private and performing arts schools while dancing professionally in Washington D.C. before moving out to Arizona. Tiffany earned her Master's in Secondary Education from University of Arizona in 2015 and most recently, her Master's in Counseling from Prescott College in 2019. She was a member of the Arizona Department of Education's Standards Revision Committee in 2015 and the Student Learning Objectives Committee in 2017. Tiffany has advocated for Dance Education at AZ Arts Congress, has served as a Grant Panelist for the Arizona Commission of the Arts, a member of the Mesa Arts Center Dance Café (a group that was tasked at helping to revitalize the Dance community in Mesa), and a member of the NCAAS Model Cornerstone Assessments Pilot Team. She is currently the President Elect of Arizona Dance Educator's Organization (AzDEO). In 2019, Tiffany was awarded the Kathy Lindholm Lane Dance Educator of the Year and was recognized at a Gilbert Public Schools board meeting for outstanding work. Tiffany has taught at several high schools in the East Valley, but is currently directing the Dance department at Chandler High School.

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## Navigating a New Theatre Education Landscape: Instructional Highlights

In this session, participants will engage in an interactive workshop on successful instructional strategies specifically for theatre teachers navigating online, hybrid, and in-person instruction. Participants will gain knowledge and experience with how to utilize the various worlds of engagement on Zoom and other virtual learning platforms and learn tips to apply strategies across the synchronous-to-asynchronous spectrum of modalities. **We also welcome teachers from any discipline who wants to develop strategies for interactive, engaged, and embodied learning.**



**Kristina Friedgen** is a director/choreographer, theatre deviser, and educator who seeks to create theatrical experiences that connect the community and promote social action. Currently, as an MFA candidate in ASU's Theatre for Youth & Communities program, her research explores how to create participatory and immersive theatre through digital performance in order to foster a relationship between the audience and the performer. In addition to her graduate work, Kristina is the Education Director at Young Artists of America, a youth-focused musical theatre training company for singers, actors, dancers, and musicians in Washington, D.C. She worked as a theatre educator for the past 13 years after earning her BA in Theatre from the University of Maryland and a Certificate in Teaching from Notre Dame of Maryland.



**Dr. Mary McAvoy** is an associate professor of theatre education and theatre for youth at Arizona State University where she directs theatre teacher preparation programs. Her research and creative practice focuses on histories of theatre and drama in educational contexts; educational theatre/drama; teaching artistry; performance with, by, and for young people; and performance pedagogy and activism. She is the co-author of *Drama and Education: Performance Methodologies for Teaching and Learning* (Routledge), author of *Rehearsing Revolutions: The Labor Drama Experiment and Radical Activism in the Early Twentieth Century*, and co-editor of *Youth and Performance: Perceptions of the Contemporary Child* (OLMS) and the forthcoming "Routledge Companion to Drama in Education." Her articles have appeared in *Youth Theatre Journal*, *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *Arts Education Policy Review*, and various edited collections. She is a former K12 theatre educator and has

worked extensively in education and community engagement for performance and theatre. She has presented master classes and professional development in theatre teaching and theatre arts curriculum development in the US, Russia, and China and has developed engagement programs for a variety of audiences in professional and educational theatres.

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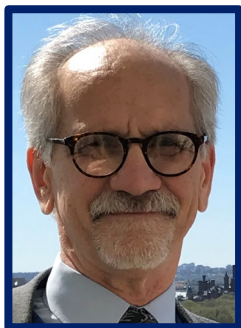
### Session #3 Advocacy “Arts Education is Essential” 12:45-1:45pm

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**Elise Kohli** is the current President of the Arizona Art Education Association (AAEA), Arizona Representative for National Arts Education Association (NAEA), and YAM Chair for Arizona. Elise's passion is to advocate for the arts and serve Arizona's youth populations. Elise has helped coordinate and designed different youth art events throughout her 10 plus years of teaching experience as well as provides mentoring and professional development for current and future visual art professionals.

**Lynn Monson** completed Hartford Ballet's Teacher Training Certificate Program and earned a BA in Dance at ASU. She has taught dance to all ages and is a certified Labanotation teacher. She managed an arts-based charter school, developing curriculum, training staff, writing grants, directing school accountability, and teaching dance. Lynn teaches Creative Dance for Early Childhood for the National Dance Education Organization's (NDEO) Online Professional Development Institute. She worked on the writing team to revise the Arizona Dance Standards and worked on a team to develop student assessments and SLOs for dance. She helped formed the Arizona Dance Education Organization, serving as Secretary, President and currently Executive Assistant. Lynn serves as the State Affiliate representative on the NDEO board.



**James Palmarini** is the Educational Theatre Association Director of Educational Policy. He was the founding editor of *Teaching Theatre* journal. James serves on the Arts Education Partnership Advisory Board; the Washington D.C.-based Arts Education and ESSA Working Groups; National Federation of High Schools Speech, Debate, and Theatre Committee; the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) Leadership committee; the Innovation Collaborative Board; the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education Board; and manages EdTA's Advocacy Leadership Network. Most recently, he led a staff team that created the EdTA *Recommendations for Reopening Theatre Programs* guide. In 2005, he was awarded EdTA's Founders Award, for significant contributions to the growth and development of theatre education, research and practice.

**Tooshar Swain** serves as Public Policy Advisor for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). In his role, Tooshar focuses on ESSA implementation, higher education policy, and other policies aimed at promoting music education in underserved areas.

Prior to Joining NAfME, Tooshar most recently served as Policy and Communications Director for congressional candidate Micah Edmond in Virginia's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Tooshar also served as Deputy Policy Director for Rick Santorum's 2012 presidential campaign, focusing on economic policy.

Additionally, Tooshar spent five years at the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) where he developed and advocated for tax and financial services policy supporting the biotech industry. Tooshar also spent four years on Capitol Hill serving as a policy staffer on tax issues.



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### Closing 2:00pm-2:30pm

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Join the Title IV-A Arts Education Specialist, Haley Honeman, and the Safe, Healthy & Active Students Specialist, Keri Schoeff for an overview of updates for Arizona's Arts Education and Physical Education programs at the Arizona Department of Education, including information on the Title IV-A grant and how to access funding.

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# MUSIC TRACK

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## Keynote 8:30am-9:15am

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## Session #1 Social & Emotional Learning 9:30am-10:30am

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### Social Emotional Learning Rocks!

Unleash the power of Rock and Roll as a springboard to rich and engaging Social Emotional Learning Lessons. TeachRock's Randa Schmafelfeld will share free lessons and resources that support the needs of your students in both in-person and distance learning settings. TeachRock's emphasis on creativity and relevant learning experiences make these resources especially powerful for students of all ages, and fun for teachers too.



**Randa Schmafelfeld** is a lifelong educator who loves all music, and especially Rock and Roll! Randa has a passion for arts integration and has promoted the arts within her community both as a teacher and an administrator for nearly 35 years. Randa views a rich arts-based program as essential in ensuring that students make meaningful connections in their learning, while promoting creativity and self-expression. In 2018 and 2019, Randa promoted TeachRock's free lessons and resources to thousands of teachers throughout the United States, Australia, and New Zealand while on tour with Steven Van Zandt and The Disciples of Soul.

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## Session #2 Instructional Strategies (Online/Hybrid/In-Person) 10:45-11:45am

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### Navigating a New Music Education Landscape: Instructional Highlights

In this session, participants will hear highlights from a panel of three music teachers on successful instructional strategies in classrooms in online, hybrid, or in-person instruction.



**Efrain Casillas**, the Coordinator of Music Programs for the Tolleson Elementary School District (TESD) in Tolleson, Arizona, has had a tremendous impact on his students. He has been a public-school music teacher for 21 years and is currently working for the Tolleson Elementary School District, teaching both general and instrumental music at two district schools.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance and Education degree from Western Connecticut State University in 1999. While wearing both a classroom teacher and Department Coordinator hat at TESD, he has created and implemented the district's first Mariachi, Jazz, Marching, Concert and Latin Jazz bands on two school campuses. The Tolleson Elementary School Mariachi band has competed at the Tucson Mariachi International Conference and won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Choice Awards for 3 years in a row. They have also performed at Disneyland and participated in the Disney Land Parade. His middle school Latin Jazz band opened for Pete Escobedo and played alongside his band throughout their performance. The Tolleson Elementary School Marching band participated in the Fiesta Bowl Parade for 3 consecutive years.

In 2015, Casillas was selected for as TESD's Teacher of the Year and nominated for the Life Changer of the Year Award in 2017. He was selected to receive the Esperanza Award from Chicanos Por La Causa in 2018, and the Music Teachers of Excellence from the Country Music Foundation (CMF) in 2020. His versatility and dedication as a music teacher also had him featured at the Kelly Clarkson Show in 2020.



Grammy nominated music educator **Steve Holley** served as the Producer for the Commercial Music Program at the Kent Denver School outside Denver, CO, for 19 years. During his tenure the R&B, soul, salsa, and jazz bands of the CMP were recognized by DownBeat magazine's Student Music Awards 15 times. The bands performed hundreds of gigs in the U.S. and abroad, held standing gigs at local clubs, performed on dozens of radio and television broadcasts, recorded at some of the most hallowed studios in the country, and performed with dozens of Grammy caliber artists. He is a sought-after bassist and clinician with performances, master classes, and presentations given at dozens of state, national, and international conferences. Holley has written numerous articles for the National Association of Music Education, the Association for Popular Music Education, and the Jazz Education Network. Holley authored the book *Coaching a Popular Music Ensemble: Blending formal, non-formal, and informal approaches in the rehearsal* and is currently co-editing his second book on action-based popular music pedagogies. Currently, he serves on the executive board of the Association for Popular Music Education is pursuing his Ph.D. in Music Learning and Teaching at Arizona State University.



Viewed as a creative leader, **Nathan Johnston** demonstrates the ability to foster artistic expressions from both novice and accomplished members alike. He focuses on the opportunities for "creative education", blending traditional and progressive approaches in the same classroom or community space. He has served a variety of classroom and Administrator roles throughout the East Valley (ASU, Chandler, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, and Tempe). As a contemporary educator, Johnston champions the integration of modern technology and mobile applications to enhance individual and community musicking opportunities. Striving to emphasize that diligent practice and hard work can be relevant and rewarding, Johnston remains cognizant of emerging educational techniques, keeping the creating and sharing process engaging for all participants. He serves on a variety of committees representing Arts Education throughout Arizona, including Co-Chairing the Round Table Advisory Committee (RTAC).

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### Session #3 Advocacy “Arts Education is Essential” 12:45-1:45pm

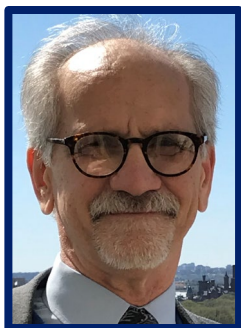
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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION TRACK

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## Keynote 8:30am-9:15am

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See [Arts & Physical Education Digital Summit Website](#) for Physical Education Keynote Information

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## Session #1 Social & Emotional Learning 9:30am-10:30am

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**George Fairfield** is an educator with over 25 years' experience in the classroom, on the gym floor, administering programs, and mentoring new teachers. Like you, George puts in time and energy to be the best teacher he can. As any athlete can share, when you drive hard, there is the risk of injury and even worse "burn out!" In this presentation, you will learn how the brain and body change with enhanced social and emotional skills. Furthermore, upping your social/emotional skill set will help bring more connection, kindness, compassion, and resilience to your personal and professional life.

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## Session #2 Instructional Strategies (Online/Hybrid/In-Person) 10:45-11:45am

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**Dr. Jennifer Houston** has been teaching physical education and adapted physical education for 22 years. After earning her master's degree in Kinesiology, she began her teaching career in the upper east bay of California. Dr. Houston completed her National Board certification in physical education in 2006, then went on to earn her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction in Physical Education from Arizona State University. Dr. Houston regularly presents at state, regional and national conventions on subjects from assessment in physical education to working with students with disabilities in general physical education.



**Matthew Mixer** is an Elementary Health and Physical Education Teacher at Horizon Honors Elementary in Phoenix. He is a graduate of Arizona State University and has certifications in K-12 Health and Physical Education and an Adapted Physical Education Endorsement.

Matt has been fortunate enough to teach daily Health and Physical Education at Horizon Honors Elementary for the past 23 years. He is also the current Executive Director for Arizona Health and Physical Education and the Chair of the Society for Association Management.

Matt was the Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year and received the Honor Award from Arizona Health and Physical Education. His goal has always been to promote health and physical education to all ages and to advocate health and physical education as essential to the success of our schools in Arizona.



**Jason Norman** started with the Phoenix Union High School District, PXU, in 2012 as a student-teacher with a Health & Physical Education background, motivated to make a difference with our youth. He quickly realized that PXU was where he wanted to be and was given the opportunity to teach 9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology and Health the following year. He is now in his 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Physical Education. He coaches the Varsity Girls Soccer team on campus, a hobby that he made a year-round obligation. He loves having the opportunity to mentor the students on my campus, and cherishes the conversations they have about physical activity, school, the future, and just life in general. On top of all his educational responsibility, he and his wife have 3 kids (Maddox 6, Malone 3, Quenton 9mo.) that keep them plenty busy.



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## Session #3 Advocacy 12:45-1:45pm

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**Kyle Bragg** is a National Board-Certified Teacher, as well as the 2019 Arizona Innovative PE Teacher of the Year and 2018 Arizona Elementary PE Teacher of the Year. He is the Advocacy Chair for the Arizona Health and Physical Education Association. He received his bachelor's degree at Illinois State University and his master's degree from Nova Southeastern University. Kyle integrates both technology and Social Emotional Learning to create developmentally appropriate lessons, which allow students to experience success and improve their physical literacy.



**Josh Meibos** has been teaching K-8 Physical Education for 10 years. He earned a M.Ed. in Physical Education from Arizona State University in 2010, and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Northern Arizona University in 2018. Josh started his teaching career in the Balsz School District in Phoenix, and in 2019, he accepted a position as a teacher leader with Maricopa County Regional School District and helped open Esperanza Community School - Arizona's first teacher-led school. In 2017, Josh achieved his National Board Certification in Middle and Early Childhood Physical Education and in 2018, Josh was named Arizona Educational Foundation's - Arizona Teacher of the Year.

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## Closing 2:00pm-2:30pm

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# VISUAL/MEDIA ARTS TRACK

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## Keynote 8:30am-9:15am

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## Session #1 Social & Emotional Learning 9:30am-10:30am

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### It's Not Failure if You Learn Something: Using Visual Art to Promote a Growth Mindset

In this interactive discussion with Natalie Marsh, director of learning and innovation, and Brittany Arnold, teen and family coordinator, for Scottsdale Arts, you will explore how visual arts connect to social emotional learning (SEL) competencies. By exploring impactful aspects from existing programs and by using Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art's collection, you will leave this session with practical yet creative ideas that you can immediately implement into any classroom to inspire a growth mindset in your students. For this session, you will need to be prepared to look at art and use digital engagement tools to participate in a discussion that will hopefully inspire you to use visual art to embrace a "fail forward" mentality.



**Natalie Marsh** is currently the Director of Learning & Innovation at Scottsdale Arts. As a passionate arts advocate and educator, working for the organization combines her experience and enthusiasm for building vibrant, healthy communities through opportunities that connect diverse audiences to arts and culture. Marsh received her MA in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University with a focus on digital engagement and her BFA and K-12 education certificate from the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. She is a member of Scottsdale Leadership, Class 33, on the board of The Opportunity Tree, and a member of the PTSD Foundation of America, Phoenix Chapter steering committee.

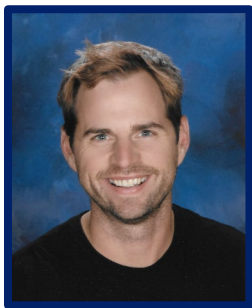


**Brittany Arnold** is the Teen & Family Coordinator for Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation. Her passion lies in meaningfully connecting with communities through the creativity of local artists and giving young adults the platform to be arts advocates. Last year, Arnold received her MA in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University with a focus on community engagement and previously received a BA in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance with a Minor in Art History from Arizona State University. At Scottsdale Arts, she oversees one of the longest standing teen art programs in the country, titled Visions. Arnold also provides high quality art experiences to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale and Scottsdale Public Libraries.

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## Session #2 Instructional Strategies (Online/Hybrid/In-Person) 10:45-11:45am

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**Ryan Williams** is a designer of authentic environments for the development of creativity, connections, and collaboration for all learners. He graduated from Augustana College with a Bachelor of Arts in both Psychology and Studio Art, and later completed his Masters of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in Art Education from Western Illinois University. He moved from Illinois winters to Arizona sunshine and has been an Arizona educator for 14 years. Ryan has a wide range of experiences as an educator, which include k-8 Art Ed, Gifted Ed, 6th grade Science and Social Studies, and currently High School Art Ed. In addition to teaching, Ryan is involved in many other aspects within his education community. He is the Director for the Conservatory of Arts and Design at Desert Edge High School and Agua Fria Union High School District's Fine Arts Program Facilitator. He supports districtwide fine arts instruction, facilitates professional development, promotes arts programs to the local community, and organizes the Arizona State

Seal of Arts Proficiency procedures for his district. Outside of teaching, Ryan is a father to two active young children and married 11 years to a very patient wife. He is a community artist. He has produced several commissions for the City of Goodyear, exhibited in Arts HQ in Surprise, AZ, and held a solo Art Show in Flagstaff, AZ in the summer of 2019. In the summer of 2020, Ryan instructed Gallery 37 with 13 high school students through Estrella Mountain Community College and the West Valley Arts Council. He adapted the program curriculum to an online format for safety and successfully developed a student designed public art sculpture for the city of Avondale at Festival Fields Park. Ryan's best kept secret is his opportunity to teach his passion every day.



**Candace Greene** is a Phoenix native who is currently in her 19th year of teaching at Sevilla West in the Alhambra School District. Candace teaches visual art To grades 4th-8th as well as sponsoring drama and Native American Club. Ms. Greene has also taught band and general music, and also sponsored art club and video game club. Candace has her Bachelors of Art degree in Multimedia and Web Design from the Art Institute of Phoenix, Masters in Elementary Education from University of Phoenix and Masters in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Candace is also the President-Elect and Regional Liaison for Arizona Art Education Association. She has been organizing professional developments around the state for art teachers for the last six years. Recently, she was named Arizona Art Education Middle School Art Educator of the Year.

When Candace is not busy teaching, she loves spending time with her boyfriend, family and pets. She loves traveling and exploring art, checking out new movies and listening to podcasts.

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