

# The Molly Blank Fund Teaching Artists Program Roster



## Kim Buchheit

Visual Arts | K-12

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math

[kim@buchheitcreative.com](mailto:kim@buchheitcreative.com)

Kim's 25-year-plus career in the arts includes art director posts at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts and Grand Canyon Association. A degreed artist, Kim's fine art pieces have been featured in West of the Moon gallery (Flagstaff), and as part of a group show at Tilt Gallery (Scottsdale). She teaches fiber arts workshops throughout the region, has taught college-level design courses in the Valley, and received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She's been a long-serving juror for the Tempe Fine Arts Festival, Arizona Commission on the Arts, and Grand Canyon's Artist-in-Residence program. Kim also operates her own design business.

## Andrea Canales

Visual Arts | High School

Language Arts, Social Studies

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Since 2006 Andrea Canales has hosted award-winning genre film events in Arizona at various locations. She was the Festival Director for the International Horror & Sci Fi Film Festival, Arizona's largest genre film festival for 6 years (2008-2015). For her programming series she received 3 Best of Phoenix New Times Awards as well as being awarded a Best of the Valley 2010 by Phoenix Magazine for Best Movie Theater. Andrea has hosted events with some of her favorite female film icons throughout her film programming career: Tura Satana, Mink Stole, Heather Langenkamp, Adrienne King. She resides as the Film Programmer at FilmBar since 2012 where they have continuously been voted Phoenix's Best Indie Movie Theater (Phoenix New Times). Her work has allowed her opportunities to work with numerous community organizations which has positioned FilmBar as Phoenix's only Art House Theater.

## The Molly Blank Fund Teaching Artists Program Roster

### Young Nae Choi

Dance/Movement | K-8

Language Arts, Social Studies

[ychoi79@asu.edu](mailto:ychoi79@asu.edu)

Young Nae Choi is a Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) artist whose work has taken place in the UAE, India, South Korea and the US. Currently as an Emerging Leader in TYA Fellow, she visited Seattle Children's Theatre to assist and observe The Lamp is the Moon's rehearsals and the Spring Break Drama Camp. Additionally, she recently collaborated with a choreographer and a visual artist to devise an original theatre for the very young piece, Good Night, Dream, which was presented at Edna Vihel Center. She enjoys both of her roles as an educator and an artist, finding their coexistence essential to her career.

### Lisa R. Chow

Dance/Movement | K-12

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math

<http://www.DesertDanceTheatre.org>

[lisa@DesertDanceTheatre.org](mailto:lisa@DesertDanceTheatre.org)

[@chowdance](#)

Lisa R. Chow serves as Desert Dance Theatre's artistic director, company manager, choreographer, performer and educator, and has toured with the company throughout the US and Mexico (since 1982). She is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Crossroads Performance Group with her husband Step Raptis, performing interdisciplinary music and dance projects throughout the state of Arizona and regionally since 1989. Lisa is also a manager, performer and collaborator in Step's Junk Funk. She is one of the founders and President of the Arizona Dance Coalition, a web-based non-profit organization that supports dance resources throughout Arizona. Since Desert Dance Theatre, Crossroads Performance Group and Step's Junk Funk were listed on the roster of the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Lisa has had experience as a teaching artist in dance, music and interdisciplinary performing arts since 1982.

### Heidi Cocco

Theatre | 3-12

Math

[hcocco@pvschools.net](mailto:hcocco@pvschools.net)

As a coordinator, a teacher coach, and an elective teacher, Heidi Cocco leads the AVID program at Greenway Middle School. Previously, she taught various subjects at the elementary and high school levels. At Greenway, she conceived and developed the Honors Core, a magnet program for underrepresented, gifted children. Throughout her career, Heidi has aimed to find novel ways to engage her students. Her passion for engagement led her to arts integration. She began her own arts integration programs over 15 years ago and has since partnered with Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix Theater, Arizona Opera, among many others.

*last updated 7/19/2019*

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### Harriet Cole

Oral Storytelling | 6-12

Language Arts, Drama

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Harriet Cole's storytelling life began in a class at the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute. This led her to complete her education and become a Storytelling Institute adjunct instructor. As a professional storyteller, Harriet has worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix and introduced educators and fellow adjunct instructors to the use of storytelling to support STEM. Harriet's storytelling performance experience ranges from appearing at the National Storytelling Network Conference to a performance at the Phoenix Fringe Festival. A specialist in Scandinavian folktales, she has told several times during the Musical Instrument Museum Experience Scandinavia.

### Dani Godreau

Visual Arts | K-12

Science

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Dani Godreau is a local artist who is best known for her explorations of women's traditional crafts through paper cutting. Her work stretches the definition of drawing by creating line and form through incisions and shadow while paying homage to the global tradition of paper cutting as an art form. She graduated from Florida State University with a BFA in Painting and BA in Art History in 2012 going on to receive her MFA in Drawing/Painting from Arizona State University in 2016. She currently resides in Tempe AZ while teaching at ASU and within the Tempe School District's Visiting Studio Artist Program.

### Melanie Holm

Music | High School

Language Arts, Social Studies, Theater, Speech and Debate, French, German

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Melanie is a passionate educator who believes in tailoring teaching methods to help meet each student's individual needs and goals. Since 2015, Melanie has taught private voice and piano at Music Maker Workshops in Phoenix. Her teaching is informed not only by her own performing experiences, but also her background in arts administration. Since 2013, Melanie has worked in The Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts and became the TCA's Arts Programming Assistant in 2016, managing and coordinating the TCA's Edge Series and Performance with a View Series. She is currently finishing her DMA in Voice Performance at Arizona State University, where her research focuses on incorporating dance techniques into voice pedagogy, with the goal of blurring the lines between opera singer and dancer. Melanie holds degrees from Arizona State University (MM/Opera Performance), and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (BM/Voice with Minor in Dance).

*last updated 7/19/2019*

## The Molly Blank Fund Teaching Artists Program Roster

### Keith Johnson

Music | K-12

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math

<http://islandmagicmusic.com/>

johnsonkeith2013@gmail.com

Keith Johnson is a percussionist, master drummer, craftsman of tradition, and educator who has worked with the Arizona Arts Council for the past 20 years. Since traveling extensively through Mali, Senegal, and Ghana, he has shared his knowledge of West African drums with eager audiences all over Arizona. He uses djembe drums, balaphons, and Caribbean steel drums from Trinidad and Tobago.

### Kandice Kardell

Visual Arts | 9-12

Science

[Kandice.kardell@gmail.com](mailto:Kandice.kardell@gmail.com)

Kandice Kardell earned a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in 2005 from Arizona State University and began her career as a Teaching Artist in Chicago. She partnered with nonprofit organizations, and the Chicago Public Schools to create arts-based programs which improved learning, affirmed identity, and enhanced cross-cultural understanding. While teaching culturally and linguistically diverse students in Chicago's communities, Kandice developed interests in language acquisition and cross-cultural communication. She has since earned a Master's in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, and has taught in Mexico, Honduras, South Korea, Myanmar and the US. Over the last decade she has used visual art to facilitate language acquisition, literacy, and critical thinking in TESOL and English Composition classrooms. In 2017 she returned to her native state of Arizona, and continues to work as an artist and English/TESOL educator in higher education.

### Anthony Kelly

Theatre/Dance/Spoken Word | 6-12

Language Arts

[ajkelly4@asu.edu](mailto:ajkelly4@asu.edu)

In 2013, Akellz graduated with a BA in Theatre and a BFA in Dance from ASU's Herberger Institute for Design and Arts. He had the privilege of battling at Juste Debout in Paris France (2013) and also represented Team USA at Hip Hop international in 2015. AKELLZ is currently based out of Phoenix, AZ. He is currently teaching at Arizona State University and Glendale Community College, a co-founder of The Sacred G's (Touring Hip Hop movement collective), a resident artist with Rising Youth Theatre, and the Content Development Manager for The Be Kind People Project.

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### Felipa Lerma

Theatre | K-12

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math, Humanities, ESL

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Felipa Mendoza Lerma is an Arizona native, raised in Sonora, Mexico for the first portion of her childhood. Felipa's background in theatre has provided her with the tools to create social experimental work, focusing on deciphering the woman identity and cultural identity along with their many roles, researching social and cultural layers, to not only develop an understanding of identity, but also practice inclusiveness amongst one another. Felipa is part of the Comun Teatro Experimental Collective that emerges from the need to ferment dialogue, question, listen and sustain an understanding of social issues and thus strengthen the cultural identity of a group/community.

### Cheryl Mertz

Theatre/Drama/Visual Arts | Elementary

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies

[cmertzrun@cox.net](mailto:cmertzrun@cox.net)

Cheryl Mertz is a master teacher trainer with 29 years of experience as a Curriculum and Instruction Coach, a Gifted Cluster Coach, and an Arts Integration Coach in Arizona Public Schools. Cheryl is skilled in a wide range of arts integrated teaching strategies that connect visual arts, drama, music, and movement to all areas of the elementary curriculum. She writes Arts-Integrated curriculum and creates Arts Integration training and Professional Development. Cheryl is committed to sharing how the arts support meaningful learning through engaging students intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.

### Hussein Mohamed

Visual/Interdisciplinary Arts | K-12

Language Arts, Social Studies

[hamoham2@asu.edu](mailto:hamoham2@asu.edu)

Hussein Mohamed is an Arizona native, with a BA degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance. He is an experienced artistic associate of both Second Stage West, a black box theatre located on the ASU West campus, and also works with iTheatre Collaborative, a resident company of the Herberger Theatre in downtown Phoenix. As an Interdisciplinary artist, Mr. Mohamed has many skills in lighting design, sound design, videography, directing, and theatre management/production. Mr. Mohamed has planned on continuing his career as a global citizen by having joined The Halsten Enterprise as a research intern studying developing countries' sectors for growth, where he aims to refine his diplomatic approach when dealing with international affairs, and is now Assistant Director.

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### Jisun Myung

Theatre and Music | K-12

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math

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Jisun Myung is a theatre artist/teaching artist from South Korea working in Arizona. She uses theatre and drama as a tool to explore multiculturalism and interculturalism in order to stimulate interesting conversations, challenge the norm(s), and make a meaningful progress in a community. She is also an experienced pianist and musician who has worked in professional theatre settings and in a classroom. She worked with National Theatre of Korea, National Traditional Opera Company in South Korea. She received a Teaching Excellence Award for the Spring semester in 2018. She holds a MFA in Theatre for Youth from ASU.

### Gabriele T. Ramirez

Dance/Movement | K-6

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math

[gtramire@asu.edu](mailto:gtramire@asu.edu)

Gabriele Ramirez is a dance and theatre artist born and raised in Arizona. She combines Raqs Sharqi (Egyptian style belly dance), contemporary dance forms, and theatre to create a style that is all her own. She is currently pursuing her BA in Performance and Movement at ASU with an expected graduation date of Spring 2019. She wants to further her dance education at ASU and will be pursuing a Dance MFA and a teaching certification.

### Eleanor P. Reidy

Storytelling | 3-6

<http://www.ellyreidy.com>

[ellyreidy@hotmail.com](mailto:ellyreidy@hotmail.com)

Elly Reidy has worked as a storyteller since 1998. She has been a member of the National Storytelling Network since 2002, and is a graduate of the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute. Her CD, "Paddling the Storied Water," was released in 2010. She was a contributing author to the book "How To Be a Storyteller," released in 2012. She has led workshops, both locally and internationally. As a three-time member of the Nu Wa Storytelling Delegation to China she has shared stories in a Chinese village as well as the International School of Beijing.

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### Kathleen Richards

Theatre/Drama/Storytelling | K-8

Language Arts, Social Studies, Social Behaviors/Bullying

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Kathleen Richards is a proud arts educator and performer. A graduate of The Catholic University BT Rome School of Music, Kathleen has worked with young artists to enrich their performance skills and appreciation for the performing arts for over a decade. Kathleen has been seen working on stage and off with several Phoenix area theater companies since relocating from Maryland in 2016. In 2018, Kathleen opened her private studio Desert Song Studio to work one-on-one with students in the East Valley cultivate their music and theater skills.

### Natalie Trelstad

Theatre/Drama/Storytelling | Elementary

Science

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Natalie Trelstad has been active in the education field for over 6 years. She has taught children ages 0-13. She has experience teaching theatre, music, dance, kindergarten and preschool. Natalie currently teaches kindergarten at Create Academy, an arts integrated charter school. Natalie's love of the arts began at an early age, growing up in a very musical home. She has participated in many theatre productions and learned to play several musical instruments.

### Ruth Annie Wilson

Puppetry, Storytelling, Music | Elementary

Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math

[Missannie1104@gmail.com](mailto:Missannie1104@gmail.com)

Annie effectively uses the art of storytelling and puppetry to encourage creative and critical thinking. The students actively engage in the process of creating stories and puppets that support, and connect to the Arizona Standards, and curriculum. Annie has begun to write and share the stories of her experiences with children from all walks of life and cultures. She brings to the table, experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm. She is a motivator with a positive attitude, aptitude, and passion for the integration of arts in the classroom.