

The Washington State Arts Commission and Seattle Repertory Theatre, in collaboration with the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, 4Culture, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and the National Endowment for the Arts, present:

Teaching Artist Training Lab 2011-2012

An eight-month professional development program for Washington State teaching artists.

The Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC) is partnering with Seattle Repertory Theatre and the Pacific Northwest Ballet to expand the Teaching Artist Training (TAT) Lab into an eight-month program that includes five full days of training, teleconferences, and mentorship with a cohort of 40 teaching artists from various artistic disciplines and regions across the state.

BACKGROUND

The Teaching Artist Training (TAT) Lab is a professional development initiative originally developed in 2005 by education professionals and teaching artists from the Shakespeare Theatre Company (Washington DC), the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Seattle Repertory Theatre. At the core of the TAT Lab is the enduring understanding that reflective practice and thoughtful planning are essential to effective educational experiences—and a key building block for partnering with schools and classroom teachers. The essential, guiding question for the program aligns directly with WSAC's strategic plan: "How do we build capacity for teaching artists to provide quality educational experiences for all students?"

While the TAT Lab originally focused exclusively on theatre practitioners, beginning in March 2008, the Rep began working with Puget Sound area dance and visual artists, including the education director at Pacific Northwest Ballet, to expand the program's focus. Through funding from WSAC and the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, more than 120 teaching artists have experienced the two-day training. The consistent request from those participants has been to extend the training program to allow for time to apply new approaches, and then come back together for on-going reflection and professional development. This goal, combined with WSAC's interest in advancing the quality and capacity of teaching artist work around the entire state, led to the development of the 2011-12 statewide, eight-month TAT Lab.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Essential to the partnership model between teaching artists and classroom teachers is the spark that a teaching artist brings by demonstrating their own passion and artistry and allowing students to experience that art form firsthand. With this in mind, the curriculum for the TAT Lab is formed around the following key questions:

- What are the unique talents that a professional artist brings to the classroom?
- How can utilizing multiple art forms enhance student learning and assist in on-going development of teaching practice?
- What are "reflective practice" and "thoughtful planning" and why are they important?
- How can we create and sustain a learning environment that is safe and inclusive for all participants?

Utilizing these guiding questions, the TAT Lab will address nuts and bolts of teaching artist practice including: developing and articulating clear student learning objectives and outcomes; understanding, aligning to and utilizing the state standards in the arts; implementing practical classroom management strategies; and learning different approaches to assessing learning in and through the arts.

The team of facilitators for the program is led by Andrea Allen, the Rep's director of education and Lisa Jaret, education program manager at WSAC, and includes Scott Koh, the Rep's school programs manager and Kayti Bouljon, Pacific Northwest Ballet's manager of community education programs. Other teaching artists will be included as faculty and mentors.

This training is appropriate for professional teaching artists with a variety of levels of experience, including those with as little as one-year paid experience looking for foundational knowledge; as well as experienced teaching artists

looking to enhance or refresh their work, particularly in the areas of assessment strategies and articulating lesson plans. All participants will benefit from the peer learning and reflection which can be rare in this profession.

SCHEDULE

Participants are expected to attend all of the in-person sessions which will be held in Seattle. Travel and lodging reimbursements are available (see below). The dates are as follows:

Fall 2011: Weekend Training

- Thursday, September 8, 4-7pm
- Friday, September 9, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, September 10, 9am-3pm

Late-Fall 2011: One-Day Training

- Tuesday, November 15, 9am-5pm

Spring 2012: Weekend Training

- Thursday, April 12, 4-7pm
- Friday, April 13, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, April 14, 9am-3pm

A light evening meal will be provided at the two Thursday evening trainings; a light breakfast and a lunch will be provided at all of the full-day trainings.

In addition to attending these sessions, participants will be assigned to a smaller group for monthly teleconferences with a teaching artist mentor. Participants will complete a lesson plan with embedded assessment, which will ideally be tested during one of their own workshops or residencies, and will be shared with the cohort during the final in-person session.

TUITION & TRAVEL

The TAT Lab is a fee-based program, subsidized in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, 4Culture, , and WSAC. The 2011-2012 TAT Lab includes five full days of in-person workshops, several teleconferences, and direct communications with a teaching artist mentor. Additionally, all participants will receive a notebook of curriculum planning materials and related resources. Meals will be provided at the training days in Seattle. All participants will be expected to commit to the full program, and will be responsible for writing, implementing, and refining a lesson plan, with the support of their mentor.

The full tuition for this program is \$500. We have built in a sliding scale for tuition, recognizing that scholarship assistance will be necessary for many participants. We ask that you consider the value of this training for your work and assess your ability to pay. We will make scholarship decisions based on a combination of factors, including the demographic variables that we are looking to balance, the applicant's suitability for this program based on their level of experience, and the applicant's indicated ability to pay. *Note that we will not provide any full scholarships; we expect all participants will pay between \$150 and \$500 towards tuition.*

Support for travel-related expenses will be available for all teaching artists accepted into the TAT lab. Travel-related expenses include lodging and all forms of transportation (mileage reimbursement, airplane, ferry, bridge/road tolls, bus, shuttle, etc.) as well as parking. Participants will be responsible for all travel expenses up front, and then will be reimbursed after receipts are submitted. For those who will need lodging in Seattle for the in-person workshops, we will coordinate hotel reservations. We have budgeted to cover travel expenses for anyone who needs it, whether your travel expenses will be \$25 or \$500. At the same time, we are looking to put as much money as possible into programming, so we will look to keep expenses at a minimum by matching people up with roommates for the hotel rooms, encouraging carpooling, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Teaching Artists interested in applying should complete the online information form at <http://www.seattlerep.org/Interact/ForTeachers/TAT/TAT.aspx> which collects name, address, email and artistic discipline. Applicants will then receive a link to the full online application which will include questions about teaching artist background and experience as well as questions about tuition and travel support needed.

In addition to the online application form, the application process includes emailing a resume and a sample lesson plan. The resume should address training and experience both as an artist and as a teaching artist. The lesson plan (no more than two pages) should reflect a typical workshop or residency for a K-12 public school. In the lesson plan, please indicate the student learning goals, the age group, length of time and how you incorporate reflection and/or assessment strategies. These items must be emailed to scottk@seattlerep.org with the subject line "TAT Lab Application".

Application deadline is Monday, July 25, 2011. Participants will be notified by August 8 of their status. First tuition payment will be due by August 26.

In reviewing the applications, the following factors will be taken into consideration for building a diverse and dynamic cohort:

- Geographic diversity (at least half from outside Puget Sound region);
- Diversity of experience, including emerging Teaching Artists (1 to 2 years paid experience), early career (2 to 8 years) and experienced (9+ years);
- Varied artistic disciplines;
- Types of employers (e.g. arts organizations, schools, districts, community organizations); and
- Overall teaching artist background, experience, and lesson planning abilities

Basic eligibility requirements:

- Resident of Washington State;
- Teaching Artist for a minimum of one year; and
- At least 18 years of age.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Lisa Jaret (lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov; 360-586-2418) or Scott Koh (scottk@seattlerep.org; 206-443-2210) with any questions about the TAT Lab program or the application process.