

Arts Integration Artists



ADAM FELLERS

Art Form: Theatre

Adam has 14 years of experience in the classroom and has been the Director of Theatre Arts at Ed White Middle School for 12 years. In 2010 he received Ed White Middle School Teacher of the Year. Adam has his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and History from Texas state university as well as his Masters of Science in Education from Walden University. He is currently receiving his Doctorate in Education at the American College of Education. Adam currently serves as a City Commissioner for the Commission for the Arts for the City of New Braunfels, where he has already served six terms.



AURELIA ROCHA

Art Form: Music

Combining her experience in arts administration, music education, and her research in arts for social change, Aurelia Rocha works to improve the quality of educational experiences for all youth. A native of San Antonio, she serves as a member of the Engagement Committee for the Excel Beyond the Bell, Out of School Time Collective, and she serves on the board of directors for El Sistema USA. Ms. Rocha holds degrees in fine arts, education, and cello performance from the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University.



BARBARA HAND

Art Form: Visual Arts

Barbara Hand has dedicated her life to helping young minds grow with over 23 years of teaching in San Antonio elementary classrooms. Her goal is to continue developing curriculum and instructional practices that expand education to build more creative problem-solving thinkers. Beginning with an education in psychology she understands that the best instruction reaches the whole child. Her arts integration methodology brings curriculum content and the arts to every learner. Specializing in visual arts she believes the knowing is in the doing. All children need to have art in their hands.



KATRIN LUDWIG

Art Form: Puppetry

With a degree in Theater from Northwestern University, and further education at the Drama Studio London-Berkely, the Henson Group and Madcap Puppets, Katrin has served as an artistic director, stage manager, co-producer of award winning one acts, stage, tech, as well as performer from Ohio to California. In Illinois, she co-founded a touring puppet theater company: Walkabout Puppets. This company used creative drama and audience participation with their K-8 audience. Walkabout Puppets had an arts-in-education component and provided residencies to underserved communities in the Midwest. These residencies incorporated visual arts, music, drama, writing and the class curriculum designed to support Illinois Stat Standards. In San Antonio, in addition to 4 years with SA Wolf Trap, she has worked with Classic Theatre in their education program and with Magik Theatre as Puppet Designer and Choreographer as well as actor. In teaching, Katrin encourages integrating different art forms with other subjects demonstrating that art, history, science etc. interrelate. "The arts are part of a lifelong education; informing us of other cultures and perspectives thereby broadening a life view, life thinking and life paths. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience and/or create art, whether visual, written, musical or dramatic."



RUTHIE BUESCHER

Art Form: Theatre

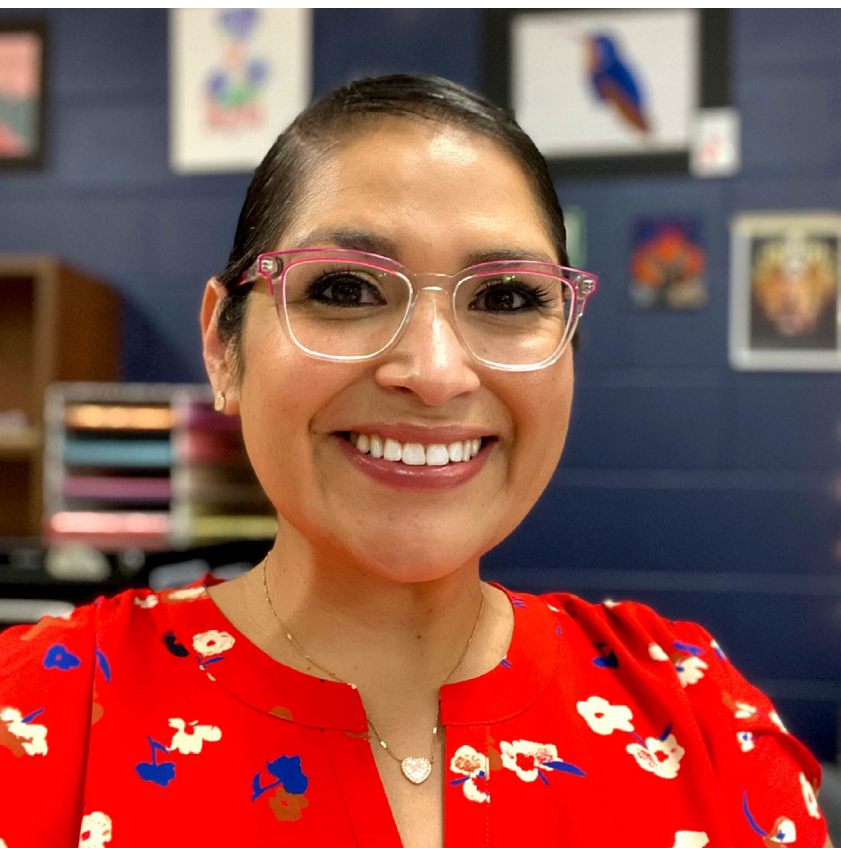
Trained in devised theater methods, Ruthie Buescher is a theater director who relies heavily on an English literature background in her work. She received an M.A. in educational theatre from NYU Steinhardt, with an emphasis on directing, and devised theater, which is an ensemble-based method in which the actors and participants are given the power to tell their own stories. This type of theater lends itself very well to Arts Integration, which connects an art form and another subject matter with evolving objectives in both. She is committed to empowering students to express their own experiences--to trust and develop their own voices--which in turn will help our communities by investing in the cultural wealth within our schools. She has worked with Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh's City Theatre Company, Brooklyn Acting Lab, NYC's New Plays for Young Audiences, Boston's Company One Theatre, and most recently completed a year of artist residencies focused on playwriting and developing physical theater workshops. Now settled in San Antonio, she is excited to bring devised theater methods to the students who make this city their home, and to empower them to share their own stories!



LOUIS CARDENAS

Art Form: Music

San Antonio native Louis Cardenas is a small business owner and supporter of local artists and charities. Louis honed his artistic skills while attending San Antonio College and landed his first job in publishing. After six years in publishing, a start-up communications company in Austin recruited him. During the Dot-Com years, Louis, along with his colleagues, was credited with taking the company public. In early 2001, Louis took a risk and opened a creative/multi-media firm, Blonde Creative. Since its inception, Blonde Creative, which consists of a great group of creatives, has become an award-winning agency with clients ranging from small start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. As the owner of a small design group, Louis is an active member of the advertising industry, plus he has served on the board of the San Antonio Advertising Federation and was President of the organization in 2008. Louis is also an active board member of SA Reads and a past board member of SA Youth and Alamo Colleges Foundation, and in 2015 he founded the non-profit, The AM Project: A Digital Arts and Music Program. Louis has expanded his creative passion with a mission to give youth in the community access to inventive ways to express themselves creatively with art and music. His vision is to nurture the artist in our community's youth while instilling values and skills for school and life. Louis enjoys witnessing the confidence and pride of his students as they advance their skills in the arts and grow as an artist.



MISTY MENDOZA

Art Form: Visual Arts

With over a decade of teaching experience, Misty has had the opportunity to teach a variety of subjects such as web design, graphic design, digital art, photography, advertising, and traditional art. Misty graduated from the University of the Incarnate Word with a degree in Computer Graphic Arts with an emphasis in Web and Graphic Design and a minor in Photography. In her first career, she worked as a web designer, developer, webmaster, and graphic designer. Getting her teaching certification made her dream of teaching become a reality! Misty loves sharing her passion for technology and art with our future generation while gaining as much knowledge from her students as possible in return. She is currently working on her Master of Education in Technology and Innovation and hopes to continue learning more about bridging the worlds of technology, education, and art.



AUSTIN THOMPSON

Art Form: Puppetry

Austin's love of puppetry started at a very young age. In college, Austin was hired by the City of Orlando Puppet Troupe where he was able to meet other puppeteers and continue to learn all that he could about puppetry. A highlight during this time was performing a show for Heather Henson and her mother at the Puppet Slam Festival. Austin now travels across the country with his wife (Air Force) connecting with different puppet guilds and puppeteers. From time to time he still goes to Orlando to perform in the Puppet Slams and has had the chance to meet Leslie Carrara-Rudolph. Austin started his own puppet troupe and company to educate children and adults about the joy of puppetry and the various puppet art forms. Crosstitch Productions has allowed Austin to continue to educate others in the art form of puppetry, techniques, and how to fabricate puppets. Austin is currently working on a project to do puppet shows for Syrian, and South-Asian refugees.



TAMMY FRAZIER

Art Form: Theatre

Tami Kai Frazier is an experienced speech and theatre teacher as well as a professional performing artist. She has served as artistic director for The Vexler Children's Theatre in San Antonio, Texas and has co-produced the Sheldon Vexler Theatre in San Antonio with her husband Ken Frazier. Together they were awarded the Jasmina Wellinghoff Award for Artistic Contribution for Theatre. Tami has also received numerous Globe Awards for excellence in direction and costuming design. If you ask her, though, she will tell you her two wonderful sons, Kailyr and Konnor, are her greatest accomplishments.