



**THE ARTS
CENTER**

Arts in Education Program

2025-2026 CATALOGUE



Arts in Education Program

CATALOGUE CONTENTS

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

All Arts Experiences listed in this catalogue are available for booking during the school year of 2025-2026.

BOOKING CHECKLIST

PERFORMANCES

Performances include individual artists and artist groups that offer a 45-60 minute assemblies suitable for multiple grade levels. The ArtsCenter generally recommends booking no more than 3 grades; split into K-2 and 3-5 at the elementary grade levels.

WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCIES

The Art in Education Program offers 1-Day Workshops and 5-Day Residencies. Please ensure that you know which you request at time of booking. These programs can be catered to classroom curriculum and are suitable for 20 students at a time.

FUNDING ARTS EXPERIENCES

We know that funding is critical to getting arts programming in schools. Refer to this to find funding opportunities to help get arts experiences in your schools. Note: some of these resources have specific deadlines while others operate on a rolling basis. The sooner you request funding, the more likely your program will be funded.



Arts in Education Program

BOOKING CHECKLIST

- ☐ Appoint an Arts in Education Point of Contact.
- ☐ Browse the Arts in Education Program Catalogue and select an arts experience.
- ☐ Determine the source of funding.
 - School Funding
 - Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Funding
 - Grant Funding
 - Private Donations or Funding
- ☐ Submit a booking request. (<https://forms.gle/hcWapW8RhW8Qp2J49>)
- ☐ The ArtsCenter will reach out to the Point of Contact to coordinate scheduling.
- ☐ Sign the booking contract and pay the deposit 2 weeks prior to the first day of programming.
- ☐ Complete full payment by 1 week from program completion date.

Performances

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

**THE ARTS
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Arts in Education Program

PERFORMANCE GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Performance groups listed in this catalogue are available for booking during the school year of 2025-2026.

PERFORMANCE DATES

We want to make sure that you are able to book the artist/artist group that you want! Each artist/artist group has reserved dates which are listed alongside the performance description. If you are interested in booking a specific artist/artist group and the listed dates aren't conducive to your school or organization's schedule, reach out to the School Outreach Manager for alternative dates and scheduling.

PERFORMANCE RATES

Performance rates are set by the artists and reflect a variety of factors including artistry, travel, material cost, contracted dancers/musicians, and more. If you have budget restrictions, reference the [Funding Arts Experiences](#) section of this catalogue or reach out to the School Outreach Manager to inquire about booking opportunities.

PERFORMANCE LOCATION

Performances typically occur on site at the booking school in spaces such as an auditorium, gymnasium, media center, or other large gathering space. Performances can also be held in the ArtsCenter theater as a field trip, suitable for up to 100 students. Schools are responsible for coordinating transportation.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If your school has specific accommodations or requests for performances that are not listed in the catalogue, reach out to the School Outreach Manager to find a performer that reflects your school's needs.



MATT SANDBANK

Sept 17-19 & Jan 14-16 \$600/SHOW

A Wild Goose Chase! (Grades PreK-5): *A Wild Goose Chase!* is a series of shadow puppetry vignettes designed to inspire creativity in young people and teach them key literary devices in ways that are fun, engaging, easy to grasp, and interactive. The use of puppetry has the twofold effect of making abstract literary concepts more concrete as well as making poetry a fresh and exciting subject. The performance, which lasts 45 minutes, is appropriate for all elementary grade levels.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, Literacy & Language Arts



CHARLES PETTEE

Oct 8-10, Dec 3-5, & Mar 11-13 \$850/SHOW*

Catch the Bluegrass Bug! (Grades PreK-2): Come one, come all! Students are in for a treat when Mr. Charles brings the music of the North Carolina mountains to life in this fast-paced, interactive journey into the many sounds of NC Bluegrass music! Clap along as Mr. Pettee stirs it up with his variety of musical instruments. Try out a new rhyme while singing "Ain't No Bugs On Me!" or the "Lollipop Tree," or any of a number of the many joyful traditional tunes that make NC Bluegrass catchy!

Young-Ones Friendly



Bluegrass Stomp (Grades 3-5): This informative and interactive show continues the romp through the musical styles from around the world that make up North Carolina Folk and Bluegrass music. With his blazing skills on the mandolin, guitar, banjo and harmonica, he is here to delight students and teachers alike with a whirlwind of musical styles from Africa to Europe to our own backyards! Students will experience cultural diversity as they hear Irish jigs, Spanish Flamenco, Southern Blues, and Bluegrass, as Pettee demonstrates each instrument in turn. All are invited to "own" a portion of this unique NC style of music!

Curriculum Addressed: Music Education, Cultural Studies, History

**Discounted rate of \$1,200 when booked together.*



WILLA BRIGHAM

Oct 13-17, Dec 8-12, & May 4-8 \$900/SHOW

Storytelling Fun, Laugh and Learn with Mrs. Willa (Grades K-2): In this presentation students will be entertained with songs, stories and poems that make them laugh and retain life lessons. There will be plenty of call and response in the form of poems and songs, giving students an opportunity to go on an interactive journey with Ms. Willa through tales of friendship, compassion, and cooperation.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, Music, Language Arts



THE MAGIC OF AFRICAN RHYTHM

Sept 18 & 25, Oct 16 & 23, & Apr 23 & 30 \$1,500/SHOW

The Griot's Gourd (Grades K-12): The Griot's Gourd is a performance with storytelling instruments made from gourds. Through both traditional and original melodies, singing and dancing, The Magic of African Rhythm's modern-day griots make connections between West Africa and North Carolina. Audiences are invited on stage to become part of the magic. Students will see, hear, and know for themselves that there is much more to Africa than just drums.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, Music, Dance, Cultural Studies



LUKE VANDERGRIFF

Nov 10-14 & Apr 14-17 \$750/SHOW*

Pepito & the Trash Cans (Grades K-5): Pepito & The Trash Cans is an engaging, bilingual musical story designed to captivate and educate students in grades K-5. Set in Bolivia, the story follows Pepito, a boy who longs to make music but faces poverty and limited resources. With the help of his siblings, he overcomes obstacles by building instruments from bottles, cans, and other found objects—turning trash into treasure.

Spanish-English Friendly



Homemade Music - A STEAM Powered Celebration of Creativity and Sound!

(Grades K-8): In this high-energy, interactive performance, Luke Vandergriff turns found objects and repurposed materials into a symphony of sound—teaching students how music, science, and imagination come together. With homemade instruments, looping technology, and a contagious passion for creativity, Luke guides students through the physics of sound while encouraging them to reclaim their creativity in a world dominated by screens. This is more than a show—it's a call to explore, invent, and listen differently.

Curriculum Addressed: Music, Cultural Studies, STEAM, Spanish

**Inquire for discounted rates when booking multiple shows.*



PIERCE FREELON

Contact School Outreach Manager with Preferred Dates \$1,600/SHOW

Books and Beats (Grades K-2): Picture book author and Grammy-nominated artist Pierce Freelon brings two worlds together with Books + Beats: an interactive book reading and performance, featuring Pierce's two children's picture books published by Little Brown Books for Young Readers: Daddy and Me: Side by Side and Daddy-Daughter Day. This storytime performance features a hands-on sound garden for kids weaved in with colorful illustrations and dynamic storytelling.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, Music, Language Arts

Workshops & Residencies

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

**THE ARTS
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Arts in Education Program

WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCIES GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Workshops and residencies listed in this catalogue are available for booking during the school year of 2025-2026.

SCHEDULING 1-DAY WORKSHOPS

In order to best accommodate schedules of artists and schools, please send the School Outreach Manager 3-5 single day options when submitting the booking request.

Ex. My school/class is available on 09/14, 10/22, 02/04-02/05, and 03/13 to book this artist.

SCHEDULING 5-DAY RESIDENCIES

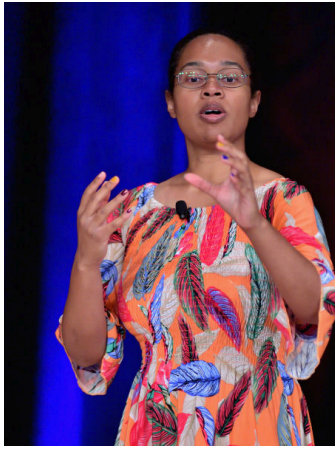
In order to best accommodate schedules of artists and schools, the School Outreach Manager will work with you to book 5-day residencies. Residencies will be booked on consecutive days and take place over the course of 1 school week. Please send preferred residency dates when submitting the booking request and the School Outreach Manager will do their best to accommodate.

WORKSHOP AND RESIDENCY RATES

Rates are set by the artists and reflect a variety of factors including artistry, travel, material cost, contracted dancers/musicians, and more. If you have budget restrictions, reference the [Funding Arts Experiences](#) section of this catalogue or reach out to the School Outreach Manager to inquire about booking opportunities.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If your school has specific accommodations or requests for performances that are not listed in the catalogue, reach out to the School Outreach Manager to find a workshop or residency that fits what you are looking for.

**Pricing:**

\$800 for two same day workshops, \$375 for each additional same day workshop (maximum of 4).

Workshops run between 40-60 minutes and are suitable for up to 30 students.

WRITE INTO WONDER: SCIENCE STORIES FOR CURIOUS MINDS

Erim Akpan

1-Day Workshop (Grades K-5)

In this engaging workshop, students explore science through the power of storytelling! Using imaginative writing prompts and creative activities, participants will dive into key science concepts like the solar system, the respiratory system, or the life cycle of plants. Students might write from the perspective of a traveling seed, a talking lung, or a curious alien visiting the planets. By blending creativity with scientific facts, this workshop helps students deepen their understanding while developing writing skills. It's perfect for curious minds who love both science and storytelling—where creativity meets curiosity, and learning becomes an adventure!

Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Museum of History.

Curriculum Addressed: Language Arts, Creative Writing, Science

**Pricing:**

\$400 for first workshop, \$250 for each additional same day workshop

Workshops run between 40-60 minutes and are suitable for up to 30 students.

LEARNING THROUGH STORIES IN MOTION

Heather Pike

1-Day Workshop (Grades PreK-2)

This workshop, Learning through Stories in Motion, will give PreK-2nd grade elementary students of all abilities the opportunity to connect literacy skills with dance and movement. Meaningful, arts-integrated lessons that enhance teachers' literacy instruction and foster important literacy skills in students will be presented. The workshop includes literature and subject matter chosen collaboratively by the classroom teacher and teaching artists. Movement activities will encourage students to "dance the story" while learning vocabulary, phonics and reading comprehension strategies. Lessons are based upon and aligned with the NC ELA Standard Course of Study and NC Essential Standards for Dance. This workshop engages all learners through multi-sensory experiences and active participation. Movement is a powerful learning tool!

Young-Ones Friendly

All Abilities Friendly

Curriculum Addressed: Dance & Movement, Literacy



Pricing:

\$400 for first workshop,
\$250 for each additional
same day workshop

Workshops run between
40-60 minutes and are
suitable for up to 30
students.

HOMEMADE INSTRUMENTS

Luke Vandergriff

1-Day Workshop (Grades 3-8)

In this engaging STEAM-based workshop, students will discover how music can be made from everyday objects. Luke Vandergriff, a multi-instrumentalist and educator, introduces students to a wide variety of wind, string, and percussion instruments crafted from found objects, trash, and reclaimed furniture. Through live demonstrations, students will explore the science of sound—how volume, vibration, length, and tension affect pitch and tone.

Students will then build instruments of their own, such as, a paper kazoo and a straw clarinet. This hands-on experience reinforces scientific concepts while sparking creativity and resourcefulness. By the end of the workshop, students will leave not only with their own instruments, but also with a deeper understanding of sound, an appreciation for repurposed materials, and the confidence to create music with whatever they have on hand.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, STEAM, Sound Science, Sustainability



Pricing:

\$800 for two same day
workshops, \$375 for each
additional same day
workshop (maximum of 4).

Workshops run between
40-60 minutes and are
suitable for up to 30
students.

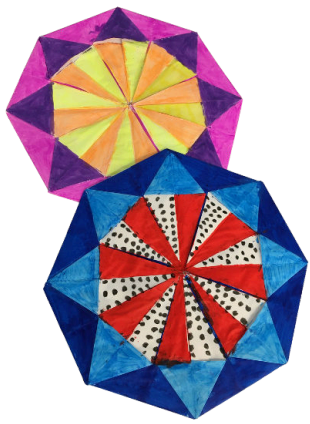
TIME TRAVELERS' THEATER: HISTORY THROUGH DRAMA

Erim Akpan

1-Day Workshop (Grades K-8)

Step into the past in this interactive workshop where history comes alive through theater! Students will explore major events like the Boston Tea Party, the American Revolution, and key moments from world history by acting them out. Through role-play, improvisation, and short skits, participants will deepen their understanding of historical figures, cultures, and events while building confidence and creativity. Whether reenacting debates or dramatizing turning points, students will connect with history in a fun, hands-on way that makes learning memorable and exciting.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, History



VISUAL(IZING) MATH & SCIENCE THROUGH THE ART OF ORIGAMI

Erim Akpan

5-Day Residency (Grades K-5)

Teaching artist Erim Akpan makes math meaningful as students practice concepts and vocabulary through origami, the ancient Japanese art of paper-folding. Depending on instructor goals, the residency can integrate mathematical concepts such as fractions, geometry, and/or the coordinate plane. Alternatively, for science integrations, the residency can explore ecosystem concepts, such as seed plants' life cycles, land or ocean animals' habitats, or the symmetry of microorganisms like plankton. Students will also learn about Japanese culture and folklore as they create traditional origami forms.

Curriculum Addressed: Visual Art, STEAM, Cultural Studies

Pricing:

\$2,000 for 2 classes a day for the full 5-day residency + \$3/student for materials.

Classes run between 40-60 minutes and are suitable for up to 30 students.



MUSIC DISCOVERY LAB

Jason A. Mullinax

5-Day Residency (Grades 2-5)

Music Discovery Lab is an interactive five-day residency that blends science, sound, and storytelling into a vibrant, hands-on learning experience. Students explore the science of sound—what it is, how it travels—and use that knowledge to create music and tell stories through rhythm, noise, and creativity.

Suited for grade levels 2-5, but pairs particularly well with 2nd grade science standards.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, Music Education, STEAM

Pricing:

\$1,200 for 1 class a day for the full 5-day residency, \$600 for each additional class.

Classes run between 40-60 minutes and are suitable for up to 30 students.



THE SCIENCE OF SHADOWS

Matt Sandbank

5-Day Residency (Grades 3-5)

The Science of Shadows is a five day residency that uses shadow puppetry to elucidate the fundamental principles of light and shadow. Over the course of a week, professional shadow puppeteer Matt Sandbank guides students to design and construct their own shadow puppets, while teaching essential concepts about optics. The residency is designed for grades 3-5 and can take place over the course of single week or be blocked across a month with weekly visits.

Curriculum Addressed: Performing Arts, STEAM

Pricing:

\$2,000 for 2 classes a day
for the full 5-day residency,
\$700 for each additional
class.

Classes run between 40-
60 minutes and are suitable
for up to 30 students.



DISCOVERING CONNECTIONS FROM CAROLINA TO WEST AFRICA

Braima Moiwei

5-Day Residency (Grades K-5)

Why are diversity, equity and inclusion important in a community? Students will be engaged in celebrating diversity through their personal expressions and reflections. Students write poems, essays and share folklore, music and art that show understanding of their cultural heritage and some of the challenges they encounter in the community where they live.

Students will explore hands-on drumming, interactive games and stories while learning about the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the classroom.
Photo credit courtesy of Natalia Weedy, 2020.

Curriculum Addressed: Storytelling, Language Arts, Cultural Studies

Pricing:

\$1,200 for 1 class a day for
the full 5-day residency,
\$600 for each additional
class.

Workshops run between
40-60 minutes and are
suitable for up to 30
students.

Funding Arts Experiences

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026





Arts in Education Program

FUNDING ARTS EXPERIENCES IN SCHOOLS

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Best Approaches to Funding Arts Experiences:

1. Submit requests to your program/department, principal, PTA, or district Arts/Culture Coordinator.
2. For Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, submit a request to the Chapel Hill Carrboro Public School Foundation (this funding operates on a rolling basis and can be acquired throughout the year).
3. Apply for funding through the Orange County Arts Commission (OCAC) or NC Arts Council during annual grant cycles. *Note: Funding is more accessible and available through the OCAC.*

SUMMARY OF FUNDING SOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) or School Funding
Orange County Arts Commission

- Grassroots Program Grant for Organizations and Schools

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation

- Classroom and Student Enrichment Grant (CSEG)
- Strowd Roses Grants

North Carolina Arts Council

- cARTwheels Program Grants
- Arts in Education Artist Residency Grants

GRANT SUMMARY - ORANGE COUNTY

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Funding Organization	Name of Grant	Application Dates	Ease of Application	Link
Orange County Arts Commission	Grassroots Program Grant for Schools (GAP)	Opens 06/03/25 Due 06/30/25*	Easy	https://artsorange.org/ocacgrants/grassroots/
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation (CHCPSF)	Classroom and Student Enrichment Grant (CSEG)	By Semester 09/30, 12/15, 04/30	Easy	https://www.publicschoolfoundation.org/grants
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation (CHCPSF)	Strowd Roses Grants	By Semester 09/30, 12/15, 04/30	Easy	https://www.publicschoolfoundation.org/grants
North Carolina Arts Council	cARTwheels Program Grants	Opens January 2026, Due March 2026**	Intensive	https://www.ncarts.org/grants-resources/grants/grants-organizations
North Carolina Arts Council	Arts in Education Artist Residency Grants	Opens January 2026, Due March 2026**	Intensive	https://www.ncarts.org/grants-resources/grants/grants-organizations

*Grant cycle for school year 2025-2026.

**Grant cycle for school year 2026-2027.