



Young Audiences/Arts for Learning
2601 North Howard Street, Suite 320
Baltimore, MD 21218
410.837.7577
www.yamd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 3, 2011

CONTACT: Michelle Clesse at 410.837.7577 or michelle@yamd.org

PRESS RELEASE

Teaching Artist Institute holds arts education retreat on the Eastern Shore

The 2011 Teaching Artist Institute (TAI) Seminar will begin with a three-day retreat, January 6 – 8, 2011. This retreat will be held at the Ward Museum in Salisbury, MD.

Holding the TAI retreat on the eastern shore is an exciting opportunity to work with an often-underserved area of Maryland's arts community and expand access to professional development to more teachers and artists outside the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. TAI is dedicated to supporting and providing more art education resources to the communities and students on the eastern shore. This is the first time the TAI Seminar is being hosted on the eastern shore and both Worcester and Wicomico Counties have been very supportive.

Launched in 2006, the mission of TAI is to ensure teaching artists play a more meaningful role in our schools and communities and help make our schools more joyful, creative places to learn and grow. Well-trained teaching artists are an invaluable resource to the education system. The arts have proven to enhance learning, and keep students engaged in learning and excited about school. To date, TAI has trained over 100 teaching artists in Maryland.

The TAI Seminar is a unique, comprehensive training program for teaching artists interested in addressing 21st Century Skills through their art form. All activities focus on empowering and informing teaching artists on how to authentically integrate the arts into schools. During the retreat, workshops are presented on 21st Century Skills, lesson plan design, the impact of "No Child Left Behind" and Maryland State Curriculum. Workshops are led by master teaching artists from each artistic medium: theater, dance, visual arts, and music. Master teaching artists are leaders in their respective fields, have experience teaching at the Maryland Artist/Teacher Institute (MATI), understand the Maryland State Curriculum (SC), and are on the MSAC artist roster.

Teaching artists are paired with partner classroom teachers on the third day of the retreat. Each pair will then work together over the next five months to design, refine and rehearse an arts integrated residency. Over twenty teaching artists and over twenty partner teachers will attend. Some participants are coming from the eastern shore, but many will arrive from all over Maryland. After field testing the residencies during the spring, TAI Seminar participants will return to the eastern shore on June 14, 2011 to showcase what they have learned and created.

Due to the quality and impact of this innovative professional development program, it has received national recognition and funding. Based on praise from arts education leaders throughout Maryland, arts leaders from Western New York, New York City, Connecticut and Northern California will be attending the retreat in Salisbury to observe.

The Teaching Artist Institute is a collaborative project by the Maryland Chapter of [Young Audiences/Arts for Learning](#) (YAMD), the [Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance](#) (AEMS) and the [Maryland State Arts Council](#) (MSAC).

The TAI Seminar is sponsored by the Kennedy Center, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation and Young Audiences/Arts for Learning.

For more information, contact Michelle Clesse at 410.837.7577 or michelle@yamd.org.

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning Maryland Chapter is a non-profit organization devoted to enriching the lives and education of Maryland's youth through educational and culturally diverse arts programs. For more information, contact YA at 410.837.7577 or visit us on the web at www.yamd.org.

###