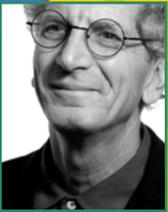


THE ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL

A conference exploring how the Arts are essential to: a well-rounded education, a strong school culture, reaching all learners, innovative STEAM curriculum, *and* learning 21st century skills.

Speakers and presenters include:

Stuart Kestenbaum



Jumping in to Creativity

Thoughts on the Creative Process

Stuart is the current Interim President of Maine College of Art, and was the former Director of the Haystack Mountain School of Craft. At Haystack he established innovative programs that combined craft, writing, and new technologies. Prior work includes Maine Arts Commission and the Children's Museum of Maine. Stuart is currently Maine's fifth poet laureate. Stuart has written four collections of poems. *(Stuart will also lead an afternoon workshop.)*

Amy Zhang



Illustrating Science

Amy is a senior at Dartmouth College where she is majoring in Biology and the Arts. She uses drawings and animations to "bring the mysteries and magic of science to the public, using art to translate the technical." Amy is a Stamps Scholar which enables undergraduates to explore experiential learning in their junior and senior year. She also participates in the DALI Lab focusing on communicating complex ideas and data using a mix of technology and design.

Brian Pickering



& Amanda Bastoni



From ConVal High School in Peterborough, NH, Brian Pickering is the 2016 NH School Principal of the Year and Amanda Bastoni is the photography teacher and AIE coordinator. They will present on the dynamic curriculum environment created to facilitate a successful STEAM learning environment and artist in residence program.

Zakiya Thomas



Ensuring Access in

Creative Youth Development

Zakiya is the former Director of Education and Community Initiatives for the Boston Ballet where she oversaw the organization's nationally-acclaimed education programs Citydance, Taking Steps, and Adaptive Dance. Prior to joining the Boston Ballet staff, Zakiya worked for the Museum of Fine Arts and Boston Symphony Orchestra. Zakiya studied violin for over 20 years, and currently serves on the board of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Sociedad Latina.

Matt Wilson



Opportunities for Arts Education

in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

MASSCreative's first Executive Director, Matt directs advocacy campaigns and organizational development. For 30 years he has run campaigns and organized volunteers and communities for the public interest on a local, state, and national level. As the National Director of the field staff for MoveOn.org, Matt helped develop and implement the strategy behind MoveOn.org's Call for Change, which trained more than 100,000 volunteers in 60 swing Congressional and Senate districts. *(Matt will also lead an afternoon workshop.)*

John Windmuller



Improv: An Asset for Everyone

John loves improv ... Being present in the moment, supporting and being supported, laughing and having fun... what's not to love? John has over a decade of experience designing, delivering, and overseeing professional training and graduate education focused on communication and collaboration. Additionally he holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. For the past 20 years, he has worked professionally as a facilitator and mediator, helping groups and communities have constructive conversations.

Marek Bennett will lead a warm up drawing exercise on doodling for comprehension. **Heather Oberheim** will lead a group movement exercise for Healthy Learning and Teaching. In addition to these eight keynote presentations, we will have **24 workshops led by local teaching artists and educators.**