

Meet your Arts Integration Learning Labs Keynote Speaker! Yorel Lashley, PhD.



Yorel Lashley is the Director of Arts in the Office of Professional Learning and Community Education at UW—Madison’s School of Education and Director of Student Empowerment for the Center for Arts Education and Social and Emotional Learning. He is a developmental psychologist interested in self-efficacy and social-emotional learning in arts, academic and integrated environments as well as the Founder/Director of Drum Power. Drum Power uses West African Traditional, Afro-Brazilian, and Afro-Cuban percussion to help young people develop and practice social-emotional skills—discipline, community, and leadership. The program has supported more than 4,000 young people from New York City, Denver, and Madison, Wisconsin to date. Lashley, who also provides professional development, created the Relationships First framework for building and maintaining healthy classroom culture, fully integrating academic content with social-emotional learning. Yorel is also a trained musician who trained with the Kankouran West African Dance Company in Washington, DC and the Harbor Conservatory for the performing arts in Spanish Harlem and led bands in New York City.

Guest Speakers

As the Director of Artist Programs at Arts for Learning Indiana, **Clockwork Janz** manages a roster of 50 teaching artists and ensembles. Before joining Arts for Learning, Clockwork accrued nearly 10 years of experience as a teaching artist working primarily in music and culinary media. Arts for Learning Indiana has been Indiana's premier provider of Arts Integrated learning for the past 60 years, partnering with communities across the state to serve students wherever they are at. In 2020, Art for Learning launched the "Artist Building Community Fellowship," an initiative intended to disrupt the power structure of the traditional non-profit model, supporting greater agency in the people being served.



Kenneth L. Woods, AKA "KennyFresh," is a spoken word artist, writer, poet and author. He has performed in the Midwest as well as various states throughout the country. His work has been shown at an international conference in Athens, Greece and he's performed on live television. Kenneth loves to perform on stage and translates his voice onto the page for readers to enjoy. On April 03, 2020, Kenneth released his debut poetry chapbook 'Equilibrium.' In August of 2021, three of his poems "Meticulous," "How Are You Really?," and "Art Makes Home," were accepted into the Indiana digital poetry archive, INverse, an archive curated by the Indiana Poet Laureate, the Indiana State Library, and the Indiana Arts Commission.

Josiah McCruiston is a regional actor, teaching artist, and youth pastor/director who believes in the power of the creative spirit. He has performed across the nation, has worked in museum theatre, and has worked in arts education for over eight years. He is currently working on a master's in art education at IUPUI. He works as the program director and youth pastor of Witherspoon Presbyterian Church and believes in community partnerships and responsibility. This past year, he has created art programs for Indianapolis near-west and east side with free piano lessons and visual artist programs. In both programs, students were able to work under accomplished artists, bond with a cohort of their peers, and showcase their work because of their efforts.



Julie Leidner is Leader of Exhibition Development and Education at the Carnegie Center for Art & History in New Albany, Indiana, where she has worked for over three years designing and steering an arts and history-based youth education program. Additionally, Leidner has been an artist, curator, and educator in the Louisville region for over a decade. She received a BFA from the University of Louisville in 2006 and an MFA from Rhode Island School of Design in 2010. She founded and curated the experimental exhibition space Scheherazade in Louisville and is a recipient of awards from the Kentucky Foundation for Women, LVA, the Community Foundation of Louisville and Great Meadows Foundation.

Guest Speakers



After graduating from Indiana University, **Shawn Charlton** began working as an educator in secure detention at the Bartholomew County Youth Services Center in Columbus, Indiana. He is beginning his 15th year in that role and continues to enjoy working in this unique classroom setting. Shawn also owns and manages his own entertainment company that provides live musicians, DJ's, and event production all across Indiana and multiple other states. Along with his wife and two children, Shawn supports and participates in live theatre productions for a few different community theatre groups. He has served as a coach for several youth sports and continues to volunteer for events benefitting organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Mental Health America of Jackson County, and the Jackson County Young Professionals.

Martha Beckort, media specialist at Lanesville Community Schools in Harrison County. Martha earned a BA in Secondary Education Social Studies with a minor in Library Science for the University of Southern Indiana. She also holds Master degrees from Purdue, Social Studies Education, and Indiana University, Library Science. She has been at Lanesville Schools for 24 years, serving students and staff K-12. She has administered nine Art Commission Program Support grants for the school.



Robert T. Townsend is a professor in the School of Educational Leadership at Indiana Wesleyan University. He has a Bachelor of Music Degree from Western Michigan University, Master of Music Education degree from Indiana University-Bloomington, and completed the Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. Dr. Townsend has 15 years of public and private school music teaching experience and over 18 years of university teaching and administration experience having held positions at IUPUI, Northern Illinois and Wayne State universities as well as a teaching assistant position at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana. In addition, he serves as executive producer/conductor for the Philharmonic Orchestra of Indianapolis' Annual Gospel Concert. He also serves as Founder/board member of The Performing Arts Conservatory; an after-school program helping youth to perfect their gifts and talents in the performing arts.

