



Juneau Arts and Humanities Council – Juneau School District
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

2011-2012 TEACHING ARTIST PROFILE and APPLICATION

Name Christy NaMee Eriksen

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Preferred Method for contact: E-mail

I am available to work/teach

1 - 2 week residency period only. I am flexible, could work different times
 can work 1 day/week for a month or more could work part days, different times

Arts Education and Arts Background

Spoken word artist and community organizer since 2004. Headline and special guest performances at an array of venues, including art centers, universities, conferences, and theatres. Currently employed at The Canvas Community Art Studio, planning and coordinating inclusive, arts-related programs, events, classes, and school visits for diverse groups. Co-founder and co-host of Woosh Kinaadeiyi Poetry Slam, a monthly community poetry series now entering its second year. Provided art program and event support for various community organizations, including interning at the award-winning spoken word series, Equilibrium at The Loft Literary Center. Completed the Partners in Education Teaching Artist Training through the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

ART FORM(s) and AGE OF STUDENTS you are interested in working with.

Spoken word (performance-based poetry). 4-12th grade.

What themes, concepts, and experiences do you want to share with students?

I am excited about exploring alternative forms of poetry, and making it accessible to students of all writing levels. I like letting go of poetic structure and rules, and focusing more on being clear about what we think and feel through our verbal expression. I think it's important, especially for our youth, to use our voices and keep them strong. I believe spoken word is excellent practice for "real life," so that students develop the confidence to speak in and out of the creative classroom. In addition to speaking, I believe spoken word is also about listening - about sharing stories and experiences with each other, and building a diverse, inclusive community. As someone who's not a teacher within the district, I also want to connect students to the greater Juneau community, reminding them of the opportunities and people that are here to support them.

Prior Teaching Experiences (apart from residencies)

- At The Canvas (Oct 2010-present):
 - Taught poetry and spoken word workshops to youth and adults, including a collaborative teaching series with the JSD CARES program, a 6-week community spoken word class, a series with group of home-schooled students, and a healing arts workshop for survivors of abuse.
 - Teach various art mediums weekly in our day habilitation program for artists who experience developmental disabilities.
 - Teach various art mediums to youth, student groups, visiting groups, outside presentations, etc.

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- Elsewhere:
 - Spoken Word workshop for Transracial Adoptees at The Loft Literary Center (Sept 2010)
 - Early Childhood and Family Literacy Instructor (Oct 2008-July 2009)
 - Facilitated parent group as a Parent-Child Advocate at Head Start (Aug 2007 – Sept 2008)
 - Facilitated trainings and workshops for university students on various topics, including race, class, and service (Jan 2004-May 2007)
 - Teacher Apprentice for Role of Conflict in Social Change course in Conflict Studies (Jan 2007)
 - Teacher Apprentice for The Asian American Experience course in Social Justice (Spring 2005)

Why do you want to teach the arts in Juneau schools?

I am passionate about the role of arts in empowering and organizing communities. Young students are an incredible force, with lots to say. I'd be honored to work in tandem with the talented, creative teachers in our district to find ways to build strong young voices (and spaces to hear them) out of this dynamic group.

Past Experience with Artist in the Schools residencies:

n/a

Have you been part of the Juneau Teaching Artist workshop series?

Yes, whole series Yes, some of the workshops No, not yet

3 REFERENCES

MK MacNaughton, 907-586-1750, mk@canvasarts.org
 Nancy Seamount, 907-321-5559, nancyseamount@gmail.com
 Colleen Bell, 651-491-6525, cbell@hamline.edu

