

The Washington State Arts Commission and Seattle Children's Theatre, in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, 4Culture, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Arts Corps present:

# TATLAB | WASHINGTON STATE TEACHING ARTIST TRAINING LAB

**An eight-month professional development program for  
Washington State teaching artists working in all artistic disciplines.**

**TAT Lab 2014-2015 Application Deadline: July 24, 2014**

## INTRODUCTION

The Teaching Artist Training (TAT) Lab is a professional development program with a focus on supporting arts education as part of basic education in K-12 schools. This training is appropriate for experienced professional teaching artists looking to enhance or refresh their work, particularly in the areas of assessment strategies and well-articulated learning plans, as well as newer teaching artists seeking foundational knowledge. Participants will benefit from peer learning and reflection which can be rare in this profession.

TAT Lab is based on the philosophy that reflective practice and thoughtful planning are essential to effective educational experiences – and a key building block for partnering with schools and classroom teachers. The guiding question for the program is: “How can we help teaching artists provide quality educational experiences for all students?”

The TAT Lab cohort will include up to 36 teaching artists, working in all artistic disciplines and all regions of Washington State. The program runs September 2014 - April 2015. Participants will:

- Attend three in-person training sessions lasting 2-3 days and held in Seattle
  - September 18-20; November 7-8; April 9-11
- Participate in five 90-minute teleconferences facilitated by a teaching artist mentor
- Learn about best practices in arts education through reading assignments and discussion
- Develop a written learning plan to be implemented in a K-12 classroom
- Receive ongoing, individualized support from teaching artist mentors and peers

Attendance at all in-person sessions and teleconferences is mandatory.

Further program details are below and at [www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab](http://www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab)

*“TAT Lab gave me new perspectives on the learning process, on what it is exactly that I do in a classroom, how to quantify it and how to communicate it effectively to others.”*

*~ TAT Lab graduate, 2012*

*“I learned so much about myself and how to be a more prepared, informed, and productive teaching artist.”*

*~ TAT Lab graduate, 2014*

## PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

We define teaching artists as individuals who are both artists and educators; they are professional artists who are dedicated to arts education as an integral part of their professional practice, and who cultivate skills as educators in concert with their skills as artists. The curriculum for the TAT Lab supports teaching practice in all types of settings, but the focus is on supporting arts education as part of basic education in K-12 public schools, and addressing the particular challenges and opportunities involved in partnering with K-12 students and teachers.

An essential component of these partnerships is the spark that a teaching artist brings by demonstrating their own passion and artistry, and allowing students to experience that art form firsthand. The TAT Lab curriculum is informed by several key questions:

- What are the unique talents and methods that teaching artists bring to a classroom?
- What are “reflective practice” and “thoughtful planning” and why are they important?
- How can we be mindful of arts learning standards along with higher order thinking skills and habits of mind?
- How do we create safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all students?

## TAT LAB CURRICULUM

With these questions in mind, the TAT Lab will address both philosophical and nuts-and-bolts aspects of teaching artist practice, with a core focus on developing and articulating clear arts learning objectives and assessment strategies. Join the Lab to:

- Develop strong and effective learning plans
- Increase skills and comfort level with assessing student learning in the arts
- Articulate the values of arts learning and the power of teaching artistry
- Consider the role of social justice within the world of arts education
- Engage with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and Habits of Mind
- Understand collaborative opportunities with K-12 schools and teachers
- Connect with a community of dedicated teaching artists

A key element of the program is the application of TAT Lab concepts in the classroom. Each participant will develop a learning plan based on TAT Lab concepts and implement that learning plan in a K-12 classroom during one of their own workshops or residencies.

*“The depth of planning and hours to make this a purposeful and quality training was amazing. I cannot say enough about how this will change my arts education practice”*

*~ TAT Lab graduate, 2013*

## PROGRAM HISTORY & PARTNERS

We are grateful to the organizations that jointly created the original version of the TAT Lab in 2005: Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Shakespeare Theatre Company in D.C., and the Seattle Repertory Theatre. We are especially grateful to the Seattle Rep for their role in evolving the model to serve all artistic disciplines, and partnering with the Washington State Arts Commission to develop the current statewide program, which was launched in 2011. After three successful years and 100 graduates, Seattle Children’s Theatre is coming on board to host the 2014-2015 program, joining other key arts and education partners: the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Arts Corps. Current faculty bios are available at [www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab](http://www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab).

## SCHEDULE & PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants must attend all of the in-person sessions, which will be held in Seattle.

### September 2014

- Thursday, September 18, 4-7pm
- Friday, September 19, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, September 20, 9am-3pm

### November 2014

- Friday, November 7, 1-5pm
- Saturday, November 8, 9am-5pm

### April 2015

- Thursday, April 9, 3-7pm
- Friday, April 10, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, April 11, 9am-3pm

In addition to attending these in-person sessions, participants will be assigned to a smaller group for monthly 90-minute teleconferences facilitated by a teaching artist mentor. There will be readings assigned as preparation for both in-person and teleconference sessions, and all participants will be required to develop a written learning plan, and implement it in a K-12 classroom during the winter/spring of 2015. *Attendance at all in-person sessions and teleconferences is mandatory.*

## TUITION, SCHOLARSHIPS, & SPONSORSHIPS

Tuition for the entire 8-month program is \$600, which represents a significant reduction in the actual cost, thanks to our public funders. In addition to the workshops and teleconferences, tuition covers a resource notebook, and meals at the in-person trainings. Scholarship assistance is available, though we do not provide full scholarships, and generally expect all participants will pay a minimum of \$300 towards tuition. Scholarship decisions are based on a variety of factors, including demographic variables, the applicant's suitability for the program, and the applicant's resources.

Separate from program scholarships, we encourage arts and education organizations to support the professional development of their teaching artists by covering a portion of their TAT Lab tuition. Sponsorship forms are available on the [www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab](http://www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab); sponsorship forms received by July 24 will serve as a positive supplement to other application materials.

## TRAVEL SUPPORT

We encourage applications from all parts of Washington State; travel support is available for participants commuting to in-person sessions from outside King County. Participants may request reimbursement for expenses such as lodging and transportation (including airplane, bus, and ferry tickets, car mileage, and tolls). We will coordinate hotel reservations when needed. We strive to devote as much of our budget to programming as we can, and will minimize travel expenses by asking participants to share hotel rooms, carpool as possible, etc.

*"I am so glad that I was able to connect with so many teaching artists across so many disciplines - seeing teaching through another art form really helped me see how I could expand my own teaching."*

*~ TAT Lab graduate, 2014*

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Teaching Artists interested in applying should complete the [online information form](http://www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab/Request-Information) at <http://www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab/Request-Information>. After completing this form, you will receive an email with a link to the full online application.

Step 2: The [full online application](#) includes questions about teaching artist background and experience, as well as three short-answer (100-200 words) narrative questions. You may wish to consider these questions in advance of filling out the survey:

- *Briefly describe your history and current practice as a Teaching Artist. How/why did you become a TA? Why do you pursue this work?*
- *Tell us about a successful teaching artist experience that you've had -- was there a moment where things just clicked? What was the setting (location, grade levels), and what was the outcome of this successful experience for you and/or for your students?*
- *Why are you drawn to this professional development opportunity at this time? What do you hope to get out of it?*

Step 3: In addition to the online application form, applicants must submit a [resume](#) and a [sample lesson plan](#). The resume should address training and experience both as an artist and as a teaching artist. The lesson plan (no more than 2-3 pages) should reflect a typical workshop or residency for a K-12 public school. Lesson plans should include arts learning goals, the age group, length of time, and how you incorporate reflection and/or assessment strategies. These items must be emailed as attachments, either as a Word document or as a PDF, to [TATLab@sct.org](mailto:TATLab@sct.org) with the subject line "TAT Lab Application."

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, July 24, 2014.** All application elements (online application, resume, and sample lesson plan) must be received by this date. Participants will be notified by August 4 of their status. First tuition payment will be due by September 2.

In reviewing the applications, the following factors will be taken into consideration for building a diverse and dynamic cohort:

- Geographic diversity and racial/ethnic diversity: teaching artists outside the Puget Sound region and teaching artists of color are encouraged to apply
- Diversity of experience, including emerging teaching artists (1 to 2 years paid experience), early career (2 to 8 years) and experienced (9+ years)
- Varied artistic disciplines
- Overall teaching artist background, experience, and lesson planning abilities
- Applicant's clarity of purpose about their work and professional development goals

Basic eligibility requirements: applicants must live in Washington State, and have at least one full year of paid experience as a teaching artist; that experience must include work in K-12 settings. Certified K-12 teachers, particularly arts specialists, may also apply to participate in the TAT Lab.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & APPLICATION LINKS:

More information and Application Links are at [www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab](http://www.sct.org/For-Educators/TAT-Lab)

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact Karen Sharp ([karens@sct.org](mailto:karens@sct.org); 206-443-0807) or Lisa Jaret ([lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov); 360-586-2418).

*"I am more grounded, confident and proud to be a teaching artist."*

*~ TAT Lab graduate, 2012*