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DanceTalks

Conversations of & about Dance

NDEO Conference Recap

October 17, 2016 by [caryn.cooper](#)

Last weekend, I had the honor and privilege to attend the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Annual Conference in Washington DC. This year's theme was SPEAKING WITH OUR FEET: Advocating, Analyzing, and Advancing Dance Education. The conference brought dance educators from across the nation, and provided the opportunity to strategize, share stories to advance the field of dance education in our schools, the community, and the country.



I appreciated the the opportunity to come together with so many individuals from different educational settings from various parts of the country, and come up with ways to improve learning and instruction in dance as a field.

In one of the sessions I attended, led by Jeff Poulin- Arts Education Program Manager for Americans for the Arts and Stephanie Milling- Professor at the University of South Carolina, talked about advocacy for and in dance education.



Jeff talked about a great resourced that the Americans for the Arts has put together called the Arts Education Field Guide. If you are not familiar it is very interesting and useful in that it outlines who are the major players of the game when it comes to influencing arts and cultural policy, what are their roles, and what ways they support arts education. It provides information about each tier from the federal, state, and local levels. If you

haven't read through it, I highly recommend doing so. You are view the document in its entirety [here](#).

In the Spheres of Influence, it is a visual of concentric circles that shows the relationship between the various stakeholders in arts education. Here you can see who is directly

stakeholders. I want to be a resource for the field. I hope that you will join me on this journey to advocate, analyze, and advance dance education.

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What is a Teaching Artist?

March 27, 2016 by [caryn.cooper](#)

Over the past three years, I have seen an increase in the awareness, need and appreciation of teaching artists as individuals and a professional field. And they should get the credit they are way overdue for. But what is a teaching artist?



Eric Booth, Photo Credit: Glenn Ross/National Performing Arts Convention

In an article entitled [The Time Has Come for a National Field of Teaching Artistry](#), Eric Booth, defines a teaching artist as practicing professional artists with complementary skills curiosities and habits of mind of an educator, who can effectively engage a wide range of people in learning experiences in, through, and about the arts. I like this definition because it highlights the diverse skill sets of teaching artists and that they are not limited

to a certain group of people.

The field of teaching artistry is a fairly young profession, only coming about in the 1980s. The word “teaching artist” was first coined by Lincoln Center. This was in response to the Reagan-Era of economics (Reaganomics) that brought about huge cuts in arts education, that led to many arts organizations to send artists out to schools as a way to help fill the gap of the arts in education.

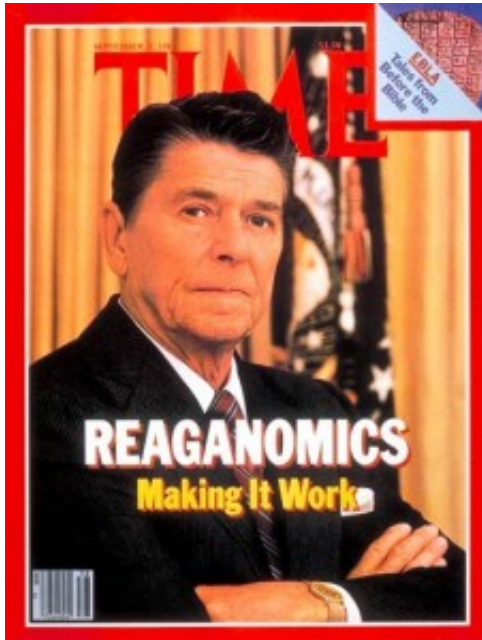


Photo Credit: Time Magazine

Today, over 35 years later, the role of teaching artists has expanded to not only include working in school settings with students in grades PreK-12 and arts and cultural organizations such as museums, theaters, and concert halls, but also senior centers, health and wellness programs, and social services such as the foster care, the homeless, orphans, and the incarcerated just to name a few. Teaching artists are instrumental to “collective impact” initiatives to actively engage learners of all ages, and empower underserved neighborhoods, communities, cities, and nations. They are truly invaluable resources to the arts who bring their expertise as an artist, a professional, and educator to the table.

However, if we are now recognizing teaching artists as a professional field, what is being

done to support the field?

Teaching Artist Guild



The Teaching Artist Guild (TAG) is a member-driven organization committed to the professionalization and visibility of artists who teach. Now under the direction of Jean Johnstone, TAG works to advocate for a deeper understanding of the field, honor the work teaching artists bring to communities, support teaching artists with benefits and services such as discounts on health care, financial planning tools, and an active job board, and serve as a site of online and in-person meetings and

conversations. To learn more about TAG, please visit their website [here!](#)

Lincoln Center Education Summer Forum

Lincoln Center Education hosts a three-week professional development program exclusively for the training of teaching artists. Programs include interactive workshops, live

performances, keynote speakers, plenary sessions, and networking opportunities. The 2016 Summer Forum will take place on July 11-29 featuring topics on an inquiry approach to artistic creation, how the arts can foster change in the classroom, and using the arts with children on the autism spectrum. Registration is now open. Register by April 15th, and get a 15% discount! For more information, please visit the Lincoln Center Education website [here](#).



National/Regional Arts Recognition



National and Regional Arts organizations such as the National Guild for Community Arts Education, National Dance Education Organization, and New York City Arts in Education Roundtable are now including special sessions at meet-ups and conferences geared towards teaching artists to provide access to resources, training, and networking opportunities. Each organization has a conference coming up soon! Please check out their respective websites for more information.

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Happy New Year: Dance Events in 2016

January 4, 2016 by [caryn.cooper](#)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

As we welcome in 2016, I hope you all are looking forward to what the new year has to offer. Here is a list of some dance events and conferences that are happening in the weeks and months to come across the country:



Jazz Dance: Roots and Branches in

Practice: Join the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) for a special topic conference on Jazz dance! This conference will look at jazz dance broadly through movement workshops, conversations, and inviting dialogue that connects the past, present, and future of jazz

while recognizing that jazz in its many manifestations is a truly American art form that is deeply ingrained and ever-present in our culture.

July 31-August 3, 2016- Newport, RI

Click [here](#) for more information!

SPEAKING WITH OUR FEET- Advocating, Analyzing, and Advancing Dance

Education: For its 18th annual conference, this is a chance to raise our voices and move the field of dance education. Strategize and share ways to advocate for, analyze, and advance dance education in our schools, communities, states, and country. Taking place at our nation's capital, the home of renowned artistic and cultural institutions, major university dance programs, a flourishing arts education policy and advocacy scene, and a network of dance companies and community programs, the DMV (as locals refer to the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region) provides opportunities to see and be seen, to hear and be heard, and to move and be moved just weeks before the 2016 U.S. Presidential and Congressional Elections.

October 6-10, 2016- Washington DC Metro Area

Click [here](#) for more information!

Dance/NYC 2016 Symposium: As the only full-day gathering of the dance community in the NYC metropolitan area, the Dance/NYC's 2016 Symposium will invite participants to consider connections between the art form of dance and New York City, and explore urgent questions of cultural planning, affordability, equity and inclusion, public-private partnerships, and the future of technology.



Sunday, February 28, 2016- New York City, NY

Click [here](#) for more information!



Dance/USA Forum- Connections: In Dance Touring and Performance Opportunities: Come explore how we can pro-actively increase performance opportunities through the relationships between multiple stakeholders that make performance opportunities possible- the

artist, dance company manager, agent, presenter, service organization, and more. Join the dynamic combination of large and small group conversations, coffee, and time to network with dance industry colleagues.

Friday, January 15, 2016- New York City, NY

Click [here](#) for more information!

Dance/USA 2016 National Conference: From executive directors and emerging arts leaders to managers and presenters, agents and artists, join nearly 500 individuals associated with the professional dance field for networking, creative conversation, enriching training sessions, discussions on important issues facing the field, and

performances.

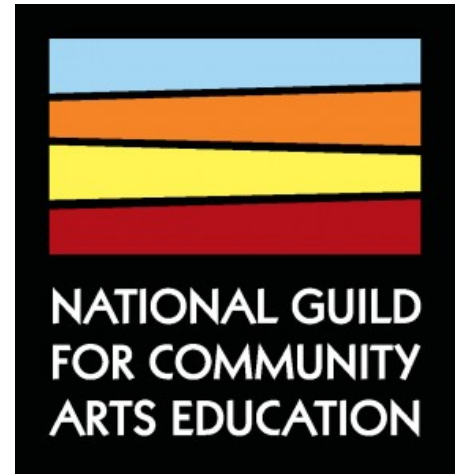
June 8-11, 2016- Austin, TX

Click [here](#) for more information!

The **Conference for Community Arts Education** is headed back to Chicago for 2016. Join in to explore innovative ideas and practical strategies for growing programs, increasing impact and participation, securing financial support, and ensuring equity.

November 2-5, 2016- Chicago, IL

Click [here](#) for more information!



Americans for the Arts 2016 Annual Convention: The Arts and culture in America is at a crossroads. Just like the rest of this country, we must celebrate what has come before and prepare ourselves to be a part of the great changes to come. Let's come together to reflect on where we came from and map out where we're going as we march towards healthier, more vibrant, more equitable communities through the arts.

June 17-19, 2016- Boston, MA

Click [here](#) for more information!

American Dance Therapy Association ADTA

Annual Conference: Join the gathering for its 51st ADTA Annual Conference at our nation's capital, just weeks before the U.S Presidential and Congressional elections, to further advance the field of dance/movement therapy.



October 20-23, 2016- Washington DC Metro Area

Click [here](#) for more information!



The **American College Dance Association (ACDA)**- formerly the American College Dance Festival Association, exists to support and affirm dance in higher education through regional conferences, the adjudication process, and national festivals. The educational mission of the Association is to foster creative potential, to honor multiple approaches to scholarly and creative research and activity, to promote excellence in choreography and/or performance, and to give presence and value to diversity in dance.

Various Locations & Dates

Click [here](#) for more information for a conference near you!



Jacob's Pillow Dance 2016 Festival: A National Historic Landmark and National Medal of Arts recipient, Jacob's Pillow is home to America's longest-running dance festival, located in the beautiful Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. With more than 50 dance companies and 350 ticketed and free performances, talks, and events featuring dance styles from ballet and

contemporary to tap, hip-hop, flamenco, and beyond, discover exciting new dance companies from Argentina, Korea, Germany, Algeria, and all across the United States, this is an event not to miss!

June 18-August 28, 2016- Becket, MA

Click [here](#) for more information!



Summer Somatics: Dynamic Embodiment™ with Martha Eddy: Designed for the dance educator and movement practitioner interested in increasing their somatic-awareness, Dr. Martha Eddy addresses a broad spectrum of somatic methods and applications including the somatic approaches to Perceptual Motor Development as taught in Bartenieff Fundamentals and Body-Mind Centering®. This intensive hands-on course provides skills and strategies for bridging somatic practice and dance education. Teachers and practitioners will have time to build their own explorations or lessons to address their choice of affective, cognitive, perceptual, kinesthetic, aesthetic objectives through movement.

June 13-18, 2016- Greensboro, NC

Click [here](#) for more information!

International Association of Blacks in Dance Annual Conference (IABD): Black Dance Rising: will present its 28th annual conference and festival to celebrate dance from the African Diaspora. Hosted by **Cleo Parker Robinson Dance**, an impressive lineup of speakers including keynote **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**, founder and Artistic Director of Urban Bush Women, over 30+ performances from companies such as **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, **Dallas Black Dance Theatre** and **Philadanco!** all come together for 5 days of dance master classes, development workshops, panel sessions, lecture demonstrations and networking for dance pre-professionals and professionals alike.



January 20-24, 2016- Denver, CO

Click [here](#) for more information!

This is not meant to be a complete list, but I did want showcase a few events that are of interest to me. If there is something that is not on my list that you want to share, please feel free to comment below.

I hope to see you at one or more of these dance events in 2016!

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dance/NYC, dance/USA, dynamic embodiment, international association of blacks in dance, jacob's pillow, national dance education organization, national guild for community arts education

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