



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Kennedy Center Seeks Applications for 16th Partners in Education Institute

**Institute to Take Place April 23–26, 2018
at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.**

Institute promotes partnerships between School Districts and Arts Organizations

(WASHINGTON)—From April 23 to April 26, 2018, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will host the 16th Partners in Education Institute. The four-day intensive is designed for arts organizations and school districts interested in partnering together to initiate or expand professional learning programs for teachers. The Kennedy Center will select up to 10 two-person teams from around the country, each consisting of an administrator from an arts organization and an administrator from a neighboring school district. The Institute is the entry point for new Partnership Teams joining the Partners in Education national network, consisting of 96 Partnership Teams in 39 states. Partners in Education is based on the belief that the professional development of teachers is an essential component of efforts to include the arts in education for young people. The Kennedy Center has dedicated more than forty years to professional learning for teachers.

While at the Kennedy Center, each team develops a plan specific to their community for how the partners will work together to establish or expand arts-based professional learning programs for area teachers. Teams receive a detailed planning guide to assist them in the development of their program, attend performances, and meet with national education leaders and guest artists while at the Kennedy Center.

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Presenters will include dance educator Randy Barron and musicians Kim and Reggie Harris. The presenters will demonstrate innovative and imaginative approaches to educating students. Randy Barron will provide strategies to increase student achievement in science through dance. Kim and Reggie Harris will teach songwriting strategies to update period songs and compose new songs on freedom themes. Further information can be found on the following pages.

The Partners in Education Institute examines program models and planning strategies for establishing and expanding professional learning programs in the arts for all teachers, and developing partnerships between arts organizations and their neighboring school systems. The information learned at the Institute has proven invaluable to past participants who leave the Kennedy Center with more confidence in their ability to develop their own professional learning programs for teachers.

Application Information

Teams of one school district and one arts organization interested in applying for the Institute should download the application at kennedy-center.org/education/partners and submit it with letters of commitment from both the arts organization and school system. Applications must be postmarked by **October 31, 2017**.

For questions about participation contact:

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Workshop and Artist Information

Scientific Thought in Motion with Randy Barron

Everything in the universe is in motion, making science a powerful source of dance inspiration. In this workshop, explore the elements of dance, how those elements relate to scientific content, and how to assess student learning through a creative process. Using the water cycle as an example, learn to increase student achievement in science and develop skills crucial for success in the 21st century.

Randy Barron has been a Kennedy Center Teaching Artist since 1995. For more than 30 years, he has designed and led arts-integrated residencies for students, and has led more than 300 professional development events for teachers and teaching artists across 38 states and Singapore. Mr. Barron has danced and choreographed professionally with ballet and modern dance companies across the United States and was the Executive Artistic Director of City in Motion Dance Theater in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Barron has a wide range of experience in education. He has been a charter high school director, a charter school founder, a curriculum writer, and even a school bus driver. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Rockhurst University and is a former volunteer firefighter/EMT.

Sing To Freedom: Music of the Underground Railroad with Kim and Reggie Harris

“Following The Drinking Gourd” is one of the many secret code songs used by runaways from slavery and their allies during the time of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. In this participatory workshop, learn to decode and sing this song and other traditional songs of the Freedom Train. In addition, learn songwriting strategies to update period songs and compose new songs on freedom themes.

Kim and Reggie Harris are performers, musicians, and composers who reside in New York. They tour colleges, universities, and concert and performing venues throughout the world, averaging more than 300 performances a year. Their recording, *Steal Away – Songs of the Underground Railroad*, is included in many museum and library collections. They are featured performers in the 1988 textbook series *World of Music* and have released an Underground Railroad video and game for use by teachers and families. The Harrises have performed at such venues as the Smithsonian Institution, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Pike’s Peak Center, and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

About Education at the Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is the national champion for arts learning and creativity. Committed to increasing opportunities for all people to participate in, learn about, and understand the arts, Education at the Kennedy Center offers programs and events that strive to reflect the nation and communities, and that are accessible and inclusive for all. From performances and exhibits on the Center’s stages and in the community, to classroom and community partnerships, including the recent addition of the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities Turnaround Arts initiative, to online resources accessible nearly everywhere, the Center serves the burgeoning artist, the exploring student of any age, the teacher and teaching artist, and even the local and national infrastructure – any person interested in arts learning and utilizing the arts for positive change. As an essential component of the living memorial for President Kennedy, the Center’s Education Division utilizes the arts to embrace the ideals of service, justice, freedom, courage, and gratitude, and to activate and support the Citizen Artists in all our audiences. For more information, please visit kennedy-center.org/education/.

About Partners in Education

Partners in Education is based on the belief that the professional development of teachers is an essential component of efforts to include the arts in education for young people. Partners in Education currently works with 96 teams of arts organizations and school systems in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Through this program, more than 600 professional development workshops are presented annually by Partnership Teams around the country, and nearly 35,000 teachers attend those workshops each year.

FUNDING CREDITS:

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For more information about the Kennedy Center visit www.kennedy-center.org.

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