



**United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County**  
**Contact: Karla Heinen**  
**Communications Coordinator**  
**(919) 839-1498, ext. 211**  
[kheinen@unitedarts.org](mailto:kheinen@unitedarts.org)  
[Unitedarts.org](http://Unitedarts.org)  
[@UnitedArtsCounc](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 7, 2017**

**Arts Integration Institute: A Hands-on Opportunity for  
Wake County Elementary School Teachers To Get Inspired, Work with Teaching Artists**

[Raleigh, N.C.] —At the Arts Integration Institute presented by United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County from June 19-23, 34 teachers from 11 Wake County elementary schools will gain knowledge and inspiration about ways to weave the arts into all subject areas in order to create a richer and more lasting learning experience for their students. This year's program is co-sponsored by Cary Arts Center, where it will be held.

The [Arts Integration Institute](#) is a professional development program for teams composed of classroom and arts teachers from Wake County elementary schools. Master teaching artists lead teams to incorporate arts integration into their teaching. Classroom and arts teachers (music, dance, drama, and visual art) collaborate to develop arts integrated curriculum. They also receive individualized coaching and participate in periodic meetings during the school year to share best practices and brainstorm ways to deepen arts integration within their schools. In addition, by attending the week-long institute, teachers may earn up to 3.0 renewal credits. United Arts Council also offers Saturday [arts integration workshops](#) throughout the school year.

Arts integration can be present in one classroom, but works best as a school wide initiative with teachers working together— a main focus at the Arts Integration Institute. In a school committed to arts integration, you may have a science class with students choreographing a dance using the law of inertia or the water cycle. And in language arts, classroom teachers work with arts teachers to create poetry through an original painting.

Since 2006 the Arts Integration Institute has given participants a hands-on opportunity to work with some of the finest teaching artists in the country to invigorate their classroom through arts integration. Writer Mimi Herman and the staff at United Arts Council lead this successful and popular week-long workshop, which also fulfills one of the requirements of membership with the Partners in Education program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in

Washington, D.C. United Arts Council and Wake County Public School System have been Partners in Education members since 1993.

According to United Arts Council Board Immediate Past Chair Elizabeth Grimes Droessler, “The Arts Integration Institute gives our teachers the resources to incorporate the arts into the curriculum in a meaningful way and inspire lifelong learners through the arts.”

One past participant said, “Arts integration can take our students from a world of doing worksheets to a world of applying concepts.”

Another past participant explained, “During my time at the institute I planned a butterfly unit with my colleagues. As we worked, we began to realize how all of our subject areas overlapped and how our lessons were now deeper and more meaningful.”

Workshop presenters for this year include: Martha Connerton, movement; Mimi Herman, poetry; Dan Johnson, music; September Krueger, visual art; and Jef Lambdin, theater.

**2017 Arts Integration Institute presented by  
United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County  
June 19-23, 2017  
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Cary Arts Center  
101 Dry Ave Cary, NC 27511**

Contact Ragen Carlile at [rcarlile@unitedarts.org](mailto:rcarlile@unitedarts.org) or at 919-839-1498 x209 for more information about the Institute.

*The United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, based in Raleigh, NC, was incorporated in 1990. Our mission is to build better communities through the support and advocacy of the arts. For the 2016/17 school year United Arts helped bring in teaching artists to 142 schools in Wake County through its Artists in Schools program. The United Arts Council also offers grants to organizations, communities and individual artists and provides services to the community such as advocacy, resource development, professional/leadership development and special projects. The grants, programs and services of United Arts reach over 1.2 million people annually in Wake County.*

###