

# **THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES** **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Friday, April 17, 2015

## **MORNING** **Conference**

**Brotherhood Synagogue Sanctuary**  
(28 Gramercy Park South between Irving and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave)

8:30 am	Arrival & Sign-in
9:00 am	Welcome and Introduction
9:15 am	First Keynote – David Gersten
10:15 am	Break
10:45 am	Second Keynote – Susan Harris MacKay
11:45 am	Break for Lunch

## **AFTERNOON** **Breakout Sessions**

**Beginnings Nursery School**  
(130 E 16<sup>th</sup> St between Irving and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave)

1:15 – 2:45 pm	Session A
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Session B

**OR**

**14<sup>th</sup> Street Y**  
(14<sup>th</sup> St between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave)

1:15 – 2:45 pm	Session A
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Session B

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**All venues are a leisurely 10 min walk from each other.**

# **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Materials Conference - Friday April 17, 2015

## **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Please note that Breakout Sessions have yet to be assigned for sessions A and B. We will use participant interest to determine time slots and room assignments. You will find out which breakout sessions you are in at registration (8:30-9:00) on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Creating a Materials Center and Its Impact On Teaching Practices in NYC**

**Robin Koo**, *Studio Teacher and Materials Center Coordinator at Beginnings Nursery School; Program Director for Teaching Beyond the Square*

Robin will present a history of the Materials Center at Beginnings Nursery School, and chart its development as a center for collecting and offering found and natural materials. She will also discuss the impact that it has had on teaching practices and children's learning in schools citywide, and the role it will play in the early childhood education of children throughout NYC.

50min | Beginnings

### **The Making Table: Children Taking Charge Of Their Own Creative Processes**

**Shelly Gargus**, *Classroom Teacher at Beginnings Nursery School*

**Yeshnaya Dougherty**, *Classroom Teacher at Beginnings Nursery School*

In this presentation, Shelly will share experiences from her 4/5s classroom's "Making Table," a source of open-ended creativity that is available every day, all year long. It lends itself in a unique way to contagious ideas, peer-to-peer learning/teaching *and* the individual development of artistic style. The materials provided on our "Making Shelf" are a combination of found and recycled materials (which include fabrics, papers, cardboard, foam, plastics, metals, wood, and any material or object that might have found a second or third or fourth life) with tools for combining them, including tape, staplers, wire, a hammer and nail, glue, etc. Our "Curating Wall" is a place to display these works. The children alone decide what goes into their individual space on the wall, all we ask is they consider whether it falls under our classroom's shared understanding of "best work." They can determine whether it is or not by asking themselves, "Am I proud of this?" For the children, this open-ended process and the independence to curate and share the work has led to class-wide studies and the development of individual ideas and techniques. For teachers, it provides rich opportunities for authentic assessment.

50min | Beginnings

### **Balancing Action And Reflection: Exploring Ideas Of Light, Color And Perception**

*Naomi Hudson-Knapp, Atelierista at Evergreen Community School*

Naomi will tell the story of a year-long collaboration between herself, a classroom teacher and a group of four and five year olds who set out to make a sky for their story workshop area, and along the way, find themselves investigating the beauty and nature of light, color and perception. Get an inside look at the working relationship between the atelier and the classroom. Learn more about how a range of materials (colored light, theater gels, watercolor, tempera paint, flower petals, silk paint and Crayola crayons) can support and challenge the ideas, theories and expressive ability of these children.

50min | Beginnings

### **transFORMations: How Both Adult and Child Artists Approach the Use of Found Objects In Their Art**

*Rebecca Kelly, Artist and Teacher*

This presentation provides a comparison of the experiences of both the adult and child artist as they use found objects to develop their artistic creations. There will be a discussion of the impact that adult work has upon the child's process, as well as an exploration of the effect of the adult artist's childhood experiences upon their work. The presentation will include images of the work of the Dumpster Divers of Philadelphia and other artists who use found objects in their work. Images of children's art will also be included.

50min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **World Building, Storytelling And Meaning-Making: Creating Found Object Installations To Play With And Within**

*Kristin Eno and Elisha Georgiou, Co-Founders/Directors of Find & Seek*

Find & Seek empowers children to use materials to connect their imagination and storytelling to the physical world, so that their play can deepen into uncharted yet important territory. At the Red Hook branch of the Brooklyn Public Library and Beam Center in Cobble Hill, among other venues, we have been using found objects as provocations and facilitating large scale space transformation to create environments that are malleable, physically diverse and aesthetically "charged." These worlds are the perfect playground for young children to invent and play out their own stories. In Red Hook we have run a Mommy-and-me program, a weekly playtime inspired by a series of picture books; at Beam we hosted a "cardboard challenge" event where over 15 families collaborated to create a life-sized village. We are working through some fundamental questions: How can we as educators, working in multiple venues, often with one-time participants, create dynamic provocations that enable children to participate in transforming the environment? How can we go the next step to help children strengthen their innate gifts of thoughtful and expressive storytelling?

50min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **MoMA Art Lab and Material Explorations**

***Elizabeth Margulies***, Director, Family Programs and Initiatives, Department of Education at The Museum of Modern Art

Art Labs at the Museum of Modern Art in New York offer a gateway to the collection, allowing visitors to go beyond looking and talking about works of art to engaging with art in new ways. In these interactive spaces, kids and adults experiment, play, and create as they make connections between their own creative explorations and the ideas, tools, and techniques of modern and contemporary art. Discover how the building blocks of modern art—line, shape and color—combined with simple materials can inspire play and creativity. Elizabeth will share examples from past MoMA Art Labs, then give you a chance to play!

50min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **Reusing Materials To Make Project Based Learning Possible And Sustainable**

***John Cloud Kaiser***, Director of Education at Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs / Founder of art collective Free Style Arts Association

Discover how instruction can be differentiated and art supplies can be made available through Creative Reuse. Learn about the kinds of materials that can be picked up for free at NYC's premier reuse facility, Materials for the Arts, and throughout our communities will be available for participants to make art with. Use hangers, envelopes, boxes, bottles, and more to make projects that relate to your specific needs as an educator.

50min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **Taking Reggio-Inspired Practices Into Public Schools**

***Angie Bendezu***, K/1 Special Education Teacher in an Inclusion Classroom at Castle Bridge School

After spending many years teaching in a private, Reggio-inspired preschool, Angie decided to move into the public realm. Combined with her desire to teach a less privileged population, she found a home teaching at a bilingual school in Washington Heights. Believing that her previous teaching experiences and philosophies did not have to be pushed aside, she incorporated her Reggio-practices into her public school K-1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom. During this presentation, she will talk about the transition she made and how she maintains her Reggio-inspired use of materials inside the public school system.

50min | Beginnings

### **Materials As The Landscape Of Explorative Learning**

*Dr. Naama Zoran, Developmental Psychologist, Educational Systems Consultant*

*Mara Bier, Director Early Childhood Education, Jewish Life and Learning, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington*

*Melissa Williamson, Atelierista, Temple Emanuel ECC, Chevy Chase, MD*

The learning landscape is like a topographic map. The travelers' steps influence the views and the different elements of the topography change the travelers' plans and steps. For our presentation, materials are the topography in the landscape of learning while teachers and children are the explorers. This session will present a model that identifies and defines the meaning and characteristics of the relations between materials, learning processes, and the learners/teachers. An example of a process that was done by a child and an atelierista, showing the journey of the learner in the landscape of materials will support the model, and a demonstration about how one community in Washington DC established and sustains a collaborative learning community inspired by the Reggio Emilia educational approach will connect all the above together.

90min | Beginnings

### **Deconstruction-Construction: Discovering New Meanings And Relationships With Materials And Ideas**

*Jennifer Azzariti, Atelierista*

When we take something apart - disassemble or distort, unravel or unwind - we begin to understand how that object was built and gain a deeper understanding of its essence. What new associations, meanings, and relationships can be formed from taking apart? What new possibilities can be imagined? How can the action of deconstruction and construction contribute to a value of plurality? Participants will engage in discussion, dialogue and hands-on exploration of these concepts.

90min | Beginnings

### **Explore The Process Of Printing With A Cardboard Stamp - See Where It Can Lead!**

*Cathy Topal, Author and Professor at Smith College*

Discover a simple way to print a line with cardboard and paint. Use your lines to create shapes, letters, designs and much more. Experience how the process of reflecting on one's work and sharing discoveries is a way to build confidence, excitement, engagement and more complex work. Continue exploring to discover with fellow participants how to construct buildings, machines, patterns, words, trees, snowflakes and more. Learn strategies for setting up an exploratory environment, for engaging children in this process, and for guiding children to stretch and explore the many possibilities offered by this simple printing process (ideal for children ages 4 and up). Understand how sequencing tools, materials and challenges is key to using materials

effectively. Experience strategies and materials for adding color to further develop printed compositions.

90min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **Arrangements With Found Objects: The Educational Impact Of Design Work**

*Amy Miller, Studio Teacher*

*Angie Bendezu, former Classroom Teacher*

*Kim Turnbull, Classroom Teacher, at Beginnings Nursery School*

In this collaborative presentation, two head teachers and a Studio teacher at Beginnings Nursery School will use examples of design work done by the children in the AM Young 3s classes over the past 5 years to discuss the educational impact of working with found objects with young children. By participating in this kind of work, children learn about the materials themselves as well as bolster literary, math and social skills. After the lecture, participants will have the opportunity to experiment with designing their own arrangement with found objects. A Q&A discussion will wrap up the presentation.

90min | Beginnings

### **Reinventing The Loom: A Non-Traditional Approach To Weaving**

*Naomi Hudson-Knapp, Atelierista at Evergreen Community School*

For centuries weaving has connected the creative impulse with a sense of place - looms and fibers came from local plants and animal and the products served as functional and decorative elements of daily life. In this workshop, participants will design and build unique looms using locally sourced and re-imagined materials - a stick, a stairwell, a laundry detergent container, a cardboard pizza insert might all become a loom. The items used to weave might be anything from repurposed plastics and fabrics to paper. Participants will leave the workshop with a new set of skills, a sense of efficacy and a beautiful tapestry that reflects our contemporary culture as well as your creative potential.

90min | Beginnings

### **Putting Together The Bits And Pieces Of New York City: Small-Scale Sculptures From Found Materials**

*Robin Koo, Studio Teacher and Materials Center Coordinator at Beginnings Nursery School; Program Director for Teaching Beyond the Square*

In this hands-on workshop based entirely on using 'found' materials from The Materials Center, Robin will guide the group in making their own small- to medium-scale tabletop sculptures. Creating the skeletal base from wire and cardboard, participants will use methyl cellulose (a type of adhesive that is a non-toxic and non-allergenic cousin of paper mache) with many kinds of paper to give their skeletons form and color. Inspiration for the sculptures will come from preliminary exercises in observational

drawing. Participants will experience the process of looking and examining objects from our surroundings (natural and manmade), translating our visual experience into a two-dimensional drawing, and then re-creating those experiences into the third-dimension using a variety of materials. Inspiration for the sculptures will also come from discussion about the concepts of interior vs. exterior, scale, architecture, and city environment.

90min | Beginnings

### **Get Off the Table! - Exploring Paper in 3 Dimensions**

***Lauren Monaco, Second Grade Teacher at P.S. 770***

This workshop will inspire adult participants in their own work and help to begin a dialogue about how to use paper as a tool for thinking. The focus will be on making, exploring, and documenting our experience. Lauren will lead the group in creating a context for understanding how materials can become a language through meaningful conversations about the power of children's ideas and how to build upon those ideas. Teachers will gain strategies for using simple materials, such as paper, to create dynamic sculptures, mobiles, and collages. Through this work, they will make curricular connections to history, science, and engineering.

90min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **Building Basics: Exploring Structure In Architecture**

***Catherine Teegarden, Director of Education***

***Tim Hayduk, Lead Design Educator, at The Center for Architecture Foundation***

Join Center for Architecture Foundation education staff to explore the fundamentals of building structure in this hands-on session. Using simple materials and our own bodies, we'll investigate the forces that act on buildings and other structures and how they, in turn, resist these forces in order to stand up and carry weight. Examples of student work from our early childhood architecture and design programs will show possibilities for integrating these activities into the classroom.

90min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

### **In Dialogue With Light**

***Brigid McGinn, Atelierista***

During this hands-on workshop, participants will be invited to collaborate at workstations using the possibilities of 'light & shadow' as a medium for making thinking visible across the curriculum. It will focus on how these experiences can be applied to work that is not specific to light & shadow research but to applications that support work in other classroom domains. The phenomenon of 'light & shadow' will be explored specifically to stimulate inquiry, asking new questions and forming new theories about

the role that the medium of light can play across the boundaries of traditional classroom disciplines.

90min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y

**The Craft Of Papermaking: Pulp Under Pressure**

***Eve Chwast, Studio Teacher at the 14th Street Y***

For almost two thousand years people have been making paper from locally sourced fibers and botanicals. Although a piece of handmade paper is a thing of beauty, the process of papermaking incorporates elements not only of art but also of math, science, and conservation. Participants in this workshop will make their own piece of paper using paper pulp infused with a variety of materials, including recycled fabrics, metallic paper, candy wrappers, flowers, seeds, and leaves.

90min | 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y