Edward P. Gallagher, MT-BC – Director of Education
216.521.2540 x12 | egallagher@beckcenter.org
Ed holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from Cleveland State University and a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Founded Beck Center's Creative Arts Therapies program in 1994. He is co-chair of the Ohio Music Therapy Task Force and has been appointed to serve on the Ohio Arts Council’s Artists with Disabilities Access Program. He is Past President of the Cleveland Arts Education Consortium as well as the Great Lakes Region of the American Music Therapy Association (GLRAMTA) and the Association of Ohio Music Therapists (AOMT). He received the GLR-AMTA 2007 Service Award, the AOMT Past President’s Award in 2012 and has been inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame. He has been recognized by the City of Lakewood for bringing the healing power of music to the community. He is also Director of Operations for the All-Ohio State Fair Band and Youth Choir, two organizations featuring the talents of 400 talented high school instrumentalists and vocalists which are comprised of students from throughout the state.

DANCE EDUCATION

Melanie Szucs – Associate Director of Dance Education
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Melanie has been an instructor in jazz and ballet for over 30 years and serves as the director and choreographer of the Beck Center Dance Workshop. In her early years, she was named Miss Dance Michigan and performed as a soloist with Dance Detroit; she studied with George Zorich and on full scholarship with the School of Cleveland Ballet.

Andrea McCormick - Ballet
Andrea is a native of Cleveland with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Studies, minoring in Vocal Music and Dance from Wright State University. Currently, she teaches dance and theater acting to students of all ages in a variety of theaters and outreach programs, including but not limited to Playhouse Square, Cleveland Play House, DANCEcleveland, and Great Lakes Theatre. She also performs as an actor, dancer, and/or singer around Northeast Ohio. In addition to onstage, Andrea also works backstage as a choreographer, stage manager, or dresser/costume assistant. She has also been awarded 2008 Best Actress in Cleveland and nominated for the same in 2012.

Carrie Brindza – Yoga
Carrie received her RYT-200 certification in 2015 from Open Way Yoga in Huron, Ohio. She has been a yoga practitioner for over 10 years and truly believes in the benefits that yoga can bring into anyone’s life. Along with teaching at Beck Center, Carrie also teaches at two other studios on the west side of Cleveland.
Mimi Schwensen – Tap and Ballet
Mimi was a Radio City Rockette, danced in summer stock, on Broadway, and with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. A dance teacher for competitive figure skaters, she has studied with Tallchief, Bob Audy, Matteo, Luigi, Gennaro, among others.

Rebecca Burcher – Contemporary
Rebecca has a Bachelor of Arts in Dance and a Bachelor of Science in Community Programs for Americans with Disabilities with a specialization in Adapted Physical Activity from Slippery Rock University. She has worked as a teaching artist for outreach programming for Attack Theatre and Dancing Wheels Company and School. Rebecca has performed with Marcia Custer, Kathy Diehl, Amanda Tarr Dance Company, The Movement Project, MegLouise Dance, and Carmen Caceres. Her work has been selected for presentation at SPACES Art Gallery, Cleveland Dance Fest, dotdotdot, and has been commissioned by The Movement Project. She has Production Managed for Heidi Latsky Dance and IDACO Dance Festival. Rebecca is currently the Education and Community Engagement Coordinator for GroundWorks Dance Theater.

Louise (Lou) Hadaway – Jazz, Tap, and Ballet
Lou originated from York, England, a Musical Theater graduate from London’s Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. She relocated to Cleveland in 2010 upon retirement from 20 years of performing, teaching, and hiring dancers for Carnival Cruise Lines. Lou currently teaches for the Dance (Jazz, Tap, Ballet), Theater (Musical Theatre Dance), and Outreach Department at the Beck Center. Lou also teaches Jazz for the Dance Department at Cleveland State University and is a Choreographer for the CSU Vikings Dance Team.

Madi Jackson – Contemporary and Ballet
Madi earned her M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University and obtained her B.F.A in Dance Performance and Choreography from Kent State University. She has been teaching for the past 27 years in many styles in private studios, master classes, charter, and private schools to all ages from 3 years old to adult. Madi is a former company member/choreographer with Full Circle Dance Company, The Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre, Adrian Bolton and Katherine Smith Dance Company, and the Quagmire Dance. In addition, Madi studied and trained in New York with such notables as Sean Curran and David Dorfman.

Jennifer McCarter - Yoga
Jennifer is a Certified Yoga Health Coach and Register Yoga Teacher with The Yoga Alliance. She earned her Bachelor of Education from the University of Oregon in Family and Human Services. Jennifer has worked as a treatment services specialist, a school mentoring program coordinator, and an employment case management specialist. She work with students Westlake and Avon Lake city schools and assists in leading Yoga Teacher Training for new teachers. Jennifer is also also is a yoga instructor/wellness coordinator at Lean In Recovery Center.

Mimi Schwensen – Tap and Ballet
Mimi was a Radio City Rockette, danced in summer stock, on Broadway, and with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. A dance teacher for competitive figure skaters, she has studied with Tallchief, Bob Audy, Matteo, Luigi, Gennaro, among others.
Anna Roberts – Ballet
Anna holds a BFA in Dance from The University of Akron, has danced with Marronprater Dance and Music Co., Dancing Wheels and Verb Ballets. While dancing with Verb, she had the privilege of performing works by Martha Graham, David Parsons, Ulysses Dove, Heinz Poll, Sean Curran, and Paul Taylor. Also a certified Pilates and Zumba instructor. Anna loves taking walks with her chocolate lab, Coco, and curling up with a good book.

Lynda Sackett – Founding Director (Retired)
Lynda has a BS in Education from Baldwin Wallace University. Studied with Dave Morgenstern, Louis Dapron and many dance masters. She is the recipient of the 2000 Ohio Dance Award for Advancement of Dance Education and the 2003 Award for Distinguished Contribution to Arts Education for Northeastern Ohio by the Ohio Arts Education Association. Served in numerous capacities at Beck Center including founding Director of Dance, Director of Outreach and guided educational programs for many years.

Gwendolyn Holden Seckers – Early Childhood Dance, Ballet
Gwendolyn is a graduate of the University of Georgia, she studied theatre and stagecraft at Northwestern University with early training in ballet/pointe, tap, and jazz was with Margaret Holden. She performed with New York City Ballet in Saratoga Springs, NY. A former adjunct faculty member of Middle Tennessee State University and teaching artist for the Cumberland County Playhouse, Mrs. Seckers was the assistant director of the Rutherford County Youth Ballet. She is a certified group fitness instructor, has teaching experience with children and adults in private studios, teaches ballet for athletes and conducts in-school workshops.

Sandi Harsa – Early Childhood Dance, Ballet
has been a dance instructor and choreographer for more than 20 years. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Sam Houston State University. While at SHSU, she was part of the nationally ranked Orange Pride Dance team and Spectrum Dance Co. Upon graduating, she opened her own dance company, Higher Grounds Dance Studio, and became an adjunct instructor at Laredo Community College. Sandi decided to take a new challenge and created four competitive dance teams (ages 7-18) that competed in various competitions throughout the United States. Sandi was recognized as a Top Choreographer and won many Special Judges’ Awards in addition to Outstanding Choreography and Most Entertaining Performances in various categories. Sandi has assisted with theatre productions, and has collaborated with the University of Texas at Austin dance team and La Universidad de Mexico in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Sandi enjoys working with beginners through advanced levels from pre-schoolers to college. Her specialties include Jazz, Ballet, Contemporary- Ballet, Lyrical-Jazz, Drill/Dance and Hip Hop. Living in Avon with her favorite people, her husband and daughter and their 4-legged baby, she feels blessed to be part of such a heartwarming and creative organization.
Rachel Soucie – Ballet
Rachel is a performer, instructor and choreographer currently based in Cleveland. She received extensive training with the Medina Academy of Classical Ballet, Ohio Youth Ballet Company, Dee Hillier Dance, The Joffrey Ballet, South Carolina Dance Conservatory, Cleveland Ballet, Ohio Ballet, and the Alvin Ailey School. She has worked with choreographers and companies including Mia Michaels, Jermaine Browne, Sheila Barker, the Underground Dance Project, Candace Franklin Dance, Clyde Bailey Dance Theater, and as a principal dancer with the Vissi Dance Theater. She has also performed in fashion shows, music videos, and artistic photo shoots. Rachel strives to motivate and inspire her students to learn and grow as both dancers and people, and to nurture the artist within.

Abigail Viscomi – Early Childhood Dance, Ballet
Abby graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and is now working towards a Masters of Arts in Teaching with a dance concentration at Kent State. She grew up in Lakewood and learned to dance here at the Beck Center for the Arts. She is currently student teaching at Firestone High School in Akron while also teaching dance and adapted dance at Beck Center, as well as working with ArtSparks Foundation teaching dance to Cuyahoga Falls third graders. Through her teaching, Abigail aims to bring the job of dance to all who enter her classroom.
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MUSIC EDUCATION

Jessica F. McGrath – Assistant Director of Education overseeing Music Education  |  216.521.2450 x37 | jfiring@beckcenter.org
Jessica is an arts administrator and violinist passionate about education and increasing access to the arts for all. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Science in Arts Administration from Boston University. As an administrator, Jessica has a background in Development & Fundraising, holding positions at Rainey Institute in Cleveland and Powers Music School in the Boston area. Jessica has been teaching violin since 2009, and has also taught through the Suzuki Program at Baldwin Wallace Community Music School in addition to Beck Center. Jessica has completed Suzuki violin teacher training through Book 4 and has attended Mimi Zweig’s teacher training workshop at Jacob’s School of Music. She is an active member of the American String Teachers Association and the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

Sebastian Araya – Percussion and Drum Set
Mr. Araya holds a Master of Music in Percussion Performance from Cleveland State University and completed undergraduate studies at the University of Chile. Mr. Araya has instructed students through his work with the Granja Youth Orchestra, Santa Cecilia Conservatory, and University of Chile. His performance career has led him to multiple international tours, CD appearances, and he currently holds positions with the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra and Cleveland Symphonic Winds. Coming from a family of educators, Mr. Araya is highly dedicated to his students and strongly believes in the benefits of music education for students of all ages and abilities.

Sarah Becker – Violin and Viola (Suzuki Method or Traditional)
Ms. Becker has a Bachelor of Music from Cleveland State University in Violin Performance and studied under Peter Otto, the assistant concertmaster of The Cleveland Orchestra. She has performed with the True North Symphony, LCCC Civic Orchestra ad Cleveland Philharmonic. Ms. Becker works with students of all ages, and has also taught at the Willow Arts and Wellness Center, Aurora School of Music, and volunteered with the El Sistema program at Campus International. She is currently working toward her teacher training in the Suzuki Method.

Bruce Biggin – Oboe and English Horn
Bruce has been playing the oboe and English horn for over 40 years. He plays with the Parma Symphony and Bay Village Community band and has lent his talents to at least a dozen other orchestral groups and community bands. He takes pride in all of his private oboe students, especially the four accepted into the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. Bruce has studied with Loyal Mould and Danna Sundet in addition to master class experiences with John Mack, Frank Rosenwein, Jeff Rathbun, and Scott Hostettler at the John Mack Oboe camp. A member of the International Double Reed Society, Bruce was recently appointed to the sight-reading session committee. He is a retired hospital pharmacist with a 30 year history at Metrohealth Medical Center Hospital.
Andrew Bonnis – Guitar, Banjo, Ukulele, Mandolin, Upright/Electric Bass, and Voice (roots & jazz)
Andrew is a Cleveland based musician with an extensive career in jazz, bluegrass, and American roots music. He toured across the country with the Kent, OH based Indie-folk group The Speedbumps, and in 2011 the band won an Independent Music Award for their song “I Come From a Town.” Later, Andrew continued his career in teaching and performing nationally and internationally after moving to Boulder/Denver, CO. He has performed with several bands, including Long Road Home featuring Pete Wernick. He recently moved back to the Cleveland area to become a valuable member of the roots music scene in his hometown.

Beverly Cashin – Piano
Beverly completed her degree at Berklee College of Music in Boston in the late 1980s, and began teaching in the early 90s. She began her study of the piano at an early age, first with traditional classical studies, and later adding chord-based playing and jazz theory. She has performed professionally over the years in various formats, both individually and with bands and choirs. In addition to teaching, Beverly focuses on composing and publishing music for students and other pianists, and on recording music. With over 25 years of experience teaching piano music, Beverly has developed many tools to inspire both young and older players alike. She helps her students to write their own songs, even during the first year of piano study.

Carmen Castaldi – Drum Set and Percussion
Carmen studied at the Berklee School of Music in Boston where he focused on drums, mallets, arranging and composition. He has been a professional drummer and percussionist for over 4 decades. Carmen is an extremely accomplished jazz performer and has played in large and small venues alike in Cleveland, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and on a world tour for Blue Note Records that took him to New York, San Francisco, and Brazil. Carmen has collaborated with world renowned musicians Joe Lovano, Sonny Stitt, Dennis Irwin, Cecil McBee, Kenny Werner, and many others.

Daniel Chen – Piano
Daniel studied piano performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music and previously studied piano at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music. Daniel started playing piano at the age of 7. As a classical performer he has won many competitions, most recently placing 1st in the China-Singapore International Competition. Daniel is also a professional accompanist in the Cleveland area and has the joy of working with church choirs, theatre productions, and accompanying music lessons and recitals. In addition to teaching at Beck, Daniel is also the music director at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cleveland.

Chris DeMarco – Bass (upright & electric)
Mr. DeMarco has a Master of Music in performance from DePaul University, and a Bachelor of Music from Cleveland State University. He has performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Mansfield Symphony, was the Principal Bass with the Cleveland Winds, and has performed in festivals in Massachusetts and New York. He has been teaching for over 9 years and in addition to teaching at Beck, he also teaches at Rainey Institute with their El Sistema Orchestra program.
Christopher Ellicott – Guitar, Electric Bass, and Ukulele
Christopher has a BA in Music from Baldwin-Wallace College and AA in Humanities and Music from County College of Morris in NJ. He performs frequently on Cleveland Classical Guitar Society recitals and around the greater Cleveland area as member of the clarinet/guitar duo Sunday in the Park. He is a member of the Cleveland Guitar Orchestra and the Guitar Foundation of America. He studied under the accomplished guitarist and composer Dr. Loris Chobanian and frequently participates in continuing education workshops at area universities. When he is not teaching or performing, Chris can be found running marathons and cooking up healthy recipes.

Jason Fuh – Voice
Jason Fuh, baritone, holds a DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) from the Ohio State University, as well as a BM, MM, and Artist Diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has performed operas and concerts with Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Cleveland Orchestra, CIM Orchestra, Cleveland State University Orchestra, Brevard Music Festival and Intermezzo Opera. Dr. Fuh was awarded the Elizabeth Stoeckler Stevens Prize in Lieder, the Irvin Bushman Memorial Prize in Vocal Artistry and the First Place of the Darius Milhaud Performance Prize Competition. He regularly gives recitals in the US and has made special appearances in Taiwan. He was twice selected to participate in the Art Song Festival in Cleveland. He has also been invited to perform in the “Chinese Future Stars Recital” held in Carnegie Hall.

Alicia Gallucci – Flute and Piccolo
Alicia Gallucci holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Kent State University and a Master of Music from Cleveland State University. Alicia is currently Adjunct Faculty in Music at Notre Dame College of Ohio, teaching The History of Rock and Roll, and Introduction to Music Theory. She is also head of Woodwind Studies at the University, teaching applied flute lessons and woodwind sectionals. Along with her passion for music education, Alicia is an avid performer in numerous groups throughout Northeast Ohio. Alicia is principal flutist of the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra, The Cleveland Winds, and performs in various chamber ensembles.

Juan Ingram – Trumpet, French Horn, euphonium, trombone and tuba
Juan graduated from Cleveland School of the Arts and attended Baldwin Wallace Conservatory for trumpet performance. He was a trumpet player and duty bugler with the US Navy and has been a music director for the Salvation Army Superior Corps. He has played with Texas Brass, and locally with Near West Theater, and our very own Beck Center stage. He has performed in countless Beck musical theater productions since he began in 2010.

Robert Nicholson – Cello
Mr. Nicholson holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Performance from the Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance from Peabody Institute. He is the Assistant Director and Artist-Faculty at Coda Mountain Academy, a summer institute focusing on string chamber music. In addition to teaching throughout Ohio, Mr. Nicholson performs in local orchestras including the Erie Philharmonic, Mansfield Symphony, Ohio Valley Symphony and Akron Symphony.
Van Parker - French Horn and Mellophone
Van has a BM from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and an MA in Horn Performance and Literature from Northwestern University. A champion of new music, Van has been a member of the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, the Northwestern Contemporary Music Ensemble, and has participated in premieres by Eric Whitacre, Lewis Nielsen, and composer Deborah Phelps from whom he commissioned the piece Cui Bono. Mr. Parker has also performed with Oak Park, River Forest, Waukegan, Lake Shore, and Sherwood Symphonies and currently plays with the Firelands Symphony and Cleveland Winds. Van also appeared in performances with the Akron, Ashland, Mansfield, and Youngstown Symphonies and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. He currently serves as an Assistant Director of the All-Ohio State Fair Band.

Loren Reash-Henz – Voice
Loren holds two BM’s in Music Performance and Music Education from Miami University located in Oxford, OH. While at Miami, Loren was extensively involved in the Opera Theatre and the Student Teachers of Singing. A Cleveland native, Loren has sung with Resonanz Opera as a soloist for their inaugural season of operas and concerts, performed with the Baldwin-Wallace Men’s Chorus, as well as a soloist for St. Paul’s Lutheran in Berea. Loren can be found in the box office at Apollo’s Fire as the Patron Services Coordinator. He excels at production and introducing others to new art forms through recitals and intimate music productions. Loren has a dedication to productive teaching at all levels, and loves working with singers of all types!

Justin Rowan – Trumpet, Coronet, French Horn, Trombone, and Tuba
Justin completed his B.M. in Music Performance at Kennesaw State University in 2014 and completed his Master of Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2017. A passionate performer, Justin has cultivated a career performing with orchestras and chamber ensembles in the Atlanta area and in the Midwest. Justin holds the 2017 Summit Foundation Chair in the National Repertory Orchestra, and was twice selected as a fellow for the Texas Festival Orchestra and Round Top Festival Institute. He has was a featured soloist with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra. Justin co-founded “Spectacle Brass”, a group performing and presenting educational clinics across several southeastern states. An avid educator, in 2015 Justin joined the brass instructional staff of the seven-time World Champion Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps and is also an adjunct faculty member at Notre Dame College of Ohio.

Michael Simile – Guitar and Electric Bass
Michael earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from Baldwin Wallace University in May of 2016. His musical interests include rock, metal, punk, along with classical music. Michael works as a bass section leader for the Dover Congregational UCC Chancel Choir in Westlake, and he can be found playing guitar for pit orchestras at Beck Center, Playhouse Square, and other venues throughout the greater Cleveland area. Michael may also be seen at Beck Center in the Creative Arts Therapies department as a music therapist.

Chuck Smolko – Guitar, Electric Bass, and Piano
Chuck is a professional musician and teacher who studied jazz at Cleveland State University. Currently, he teaches guitar, bass, ukulele and piano to students of all ages and experience. Incorporating music theory and using a variety of teaching styles, his instructional approach is customized to each student based on their interests and learning objectives. Chuck also performs in a variety of bands, including jazz, classical, rock, Motown and folk music, specifically bass with The Bottom Line Band and bass/guitar/piano with award-winning singer/songwriter Anne E. DeChant. Chuck also performs solo guitar and piano, and enjoys collaborating with other musicians and artists.
BECK CENTER EDUCATION FACULTY

Tess Snyder – Voice and Piano
Tess Snyder holds a BM in Opera Performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. She appeared with companies such as Mississippi Opera, Berkshire Opera (MA), Young Artists’ Opera Theatre (NC), The Composer's Chamber Theatre (NYC), and many others. Her favorite traditional roles include the Mother Abbess (The Sound of Music), Contessa Almaviva (The Marriage of Figaro), and Desdemona (Otello). Tess is a licensed Music Educator with over 10 years of experience. Tess works with students of all ages to uncover the natural voice and develop it into an expressive, healthy instrument. Her students have gone on to participate in NBC’s “The Voice,” win college scholarships, place in national and regional competitions, and pursue careers in pop, rock, musical theater, opera, and music education.

Andrew Stefaniak - Clarinet, Woodwinds, and Piano
Andrew holds a BM and MM in music performance from the University of Cincinnati’s College Conservatory of Music where he studied with Carmine Campione and Jonathan Gunn. In addition to his experience on clarinet, Andrew is also a proficient pianist with over twenty years of experience and has studied as an honors secondary piano student at the University of Cincinnati. He is currently an active teacher and freelance clarinetist in Northeast Ohio, where he has performed several times with the Canton Symphony and serves as an alternate musician for both the Akron Symphony and Erie Philharmonic.

Rosalima Valdez Pham – Piano
Rosalima holds a MM in Piano Performance from Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University, and a BM in Piano Performance from Mount Union College. She taught at Mount Union College preparatory division where she also served as a Collaborative Pianist. She has performed as a collaborative pianist for recitals at various colleges and universities, as well as at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Rosalima has taught students from ages 6-76 and her students have been involved in ensembles such as the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, as well as Cleveland’s Contemporary Youth Orchestra. She is the pianist for Bay High School's choirs and is the President of Cleveland Piano Teachers' Organization. She is also part of Beck Center's 10 Year Club!

Liz Baumgartner – Voice
Liz Baumgartner is a graduate of Otterbein University where she earned a BA in Vocal Music and a minor in Dance. After college she worked professionally in NYC musical theater for ten years. Favorite credits include two seasons with the National Tour of How The Grinch Stole Christmas, Amore Opera NYC's The Merry Widow, four years with the National/ International tour of In the Mood and the International Broadway tour of 42nd Street in China and South Korea. She has served as a music, dance, and gymnastics instructor. As a recent CLE transplant, teaching voice at the Beck Center is an outstanding opportunity to impress the importance of vocal health for her students while helping them find their artistry and confidence in performing.

Dan Wenninger – Saxophone
Dan holds a B.A. from the University of Toledo and an Associate's Degree in Jazz Studies from Cuyahoga Community College. He maintains an active private lesson studio and has over 17 years of teaching experience. Dan is a Cleveland based saxophonist and veteran of NE Ohio's jazz and experimental sound scenes. He currently performs with the Revolution Brass Band, Togishi, Oblique Orchestra, Nitebridge, Hexapod, Trepansing Trio, Beans (AntiPop Consortium), and Broken Ornaments. Dan also curates the music at t1Way, a monthly new/free music showcase which presents and documents local experimental, new, and free music. He also organizes a monthly free improvisation session called OutLab: Experiments in Improvised Music that takes place at The Bop Stop.
Amy Wooley, Ph.D. – Guitar, Ukulele, Voice, Fiddle, Piano, Dulcimer, & Tin Whistle
Ms. Wooley holds a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from UCLA, where she also completed a M.A. in Ethnomusicology and a B.A. in Music Composition. She got her start in music through singing/songwriting country music and was nominated Best New Female Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music. She has more than 20 years of teaching experience with all ages in private lesson and group settings, and is certified in Orff music instruction and AKOM (All Kinds of Minds). Ms. Wooley has taught music in choir and instrumental music at schools in California, Washington DC, and Maryland. Ms. Wooley also has extensive experience in musical theater and was the arranger/orchestrator and music director for productions of Cabaret, Hairspray, The Drowsy Chaperone, Guys and Dolls, Oklahoma!, West Side Story, Little Shop of Horrors, Godspell, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and The Wiz. Ms. Wooley believes in brain-based learning for her students and encourages her students of any instrument to explore music in every genre: world, pop, folk, classical, musical theater, and more.

Kimberly Zaleski – Flute and Piccolo
Kimberly holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Institute in Baltimore and a Master’s degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with the Principal flutist of the Cleveland Orchestra, Joshua Smith. Before pursuing her degrees she was a student of the Juilliard School. While in Baltimore, she was a recipient of both the 2010 Britton Johnson Memorial Prize and the Richard Franko Goldman Scholarship. She has performed with Opera per Tutti, the New World Symphony, and the TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra, and is a regular substitute with the Canton Symphony. She has also coached woodwind sectionals for the Canton Symphony Youth Orchestra. She currently performs with In2ative, a high energy flute and cello duo that specializes in everything from alternative pop to improvisatory jazz. Kimberly holds the distinction of being the first piccoloist ever to be featured on the nationally broadcast radio show “From the Top.”
THEATER EDUCATION

Sarah Clare – Associate Director of Theater Education
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Sarah has a Bachelor’s degree in Dramatic Arts from Cleveland State University with an emphasis on performance and directing. She is currently working on her Master’s Degree in Education and license to teach Language Arts. Sarah serves as the resident choreographer for Lake Catholic High School, and works on Rocky River Middle School’s spring musical. She has worked throughout the Cleveland area as a performer, director, choreographer, and teacher. Sarah loves to bake, craft, spend time with her pets, and desires to be a pirate.

Matthew Dolan – Voice, Musical Theater
Matthew has a MM in Choral Conducting and BM in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Akron. Currently is the Director of Music at Peace Lutheran Church in Canton. Over 10 years of experience working as Creative and Musical Director for many area theater productions. Current Musical Director for the Hudson Theater Camp. Matthew has also appeared as a clinician and accompanist for many area school choirs. An active composer and arranger his works have been performed across northeast Ohio. Matthew is also a cast member of Something Dada.

Dana Hart – Acting
Mr. Hart has taught theatre at University of Alaska Fairbanks, Sheldon Jackson College, Case, Lake Ridge Academy & Laurel School. He has appeared at Beck Center: from Annie (Daddy Warbucks) to David Mamet’s Oleanna, including Romeo and Juliet, Bent, The History Boys, Jekyll and Hyde, By Jeeves, 33 Variations, My Fair Lady and the Pitmen Painters. Off-Broadway credits include Holy Ghosts, Twelfth Night, The Mousetrap, and Molly Bloom. He has acted with Alaska Repertory Theatre, San Diego Rep, Milwaukee Rep, Seattle’s Evergreen Theater and Baltimore’s CenterStage; In Cleveland with Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theatre Fest, Ensemble Theatre, Actors' Summit, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cesear’s Forum, Clague Playhouse, Dobama & directing for Cleveland Shakespeare Fest. He was voted Best Actor by Scene Magazine (2012) for St. Nicholas by Connor McPhearson -now available for touring.

Inés Joris – Acting
Inés Joris is a graduate of Drama Studio London and has worked in theater, film, TV, commercials, and voice overs in Spain, U.K. & the U.S. Cleveland credits include Water by the Spoonful (Odessa), Angels in America, Part One and Part Two (Angel) at Ensemble Theatre, Bonnie & Clyde (Governor Ferguson) at French Creek Theatre, City of Angels (Margie) at Beck Center, and Vagina Monologues at The Brecksville Theatre. She directed America Yo Soy for Teatro Público de Cleveland, Cleveland Public Theatre's Latino Branch, for Station Hope and La Cueva de Salamanca for LatinUs Theater Company, performed at CSU and KSU to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. She has worked as a Drama Instructor at CPH Theatre Academy & she’s a full time Teaching Artist for the CPH C.A.R.E. program. Inés is an early education Drama Instructor at Beck Center where she teaches Acting Adventures & Little Folks I & II (ages 4-7).
John Krol – Voice, Musical Theater
John holds a MA in Composition from Cleveland Institute of Music and MA in Conducting from Southern Methodist University. Career includes full-time instrumental, choral and general music teacher; has freelanced in directing, music directing, choral conducting, teaching theater, and vocal coaching. John lives with his family in South Euclid.

Jenna Messina – Acting
Jenna has been performing, directing and teaching theatre arts in northeast Ohio for over twenty years. As a writer, she has had plays produced at Dobama Theatre (Night Kitchen) and Cleveland Public Theatre (Little Box Series). She attends Baldwin-Wallace University, where she will complete her B.A. in Acting and Directing (Psychology minor) in April '20. In addition to teaching and performing, Jenna loves to watch Cleveland sports and spend time with her 14 nieces and nephews.

Aaron Patterson – Improvisation
Aaron was trained at the Second City Conservatory Program, which helped earn a spot as a cast member in Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding at PlayhouseSquare and Flanagan’s Wake simultaneously. Co-founded the “Other Theater Project” in 2004. Acting instructor at Hudson Theater Camp and various afterschool programs since 2002. Aaron is a cast member of the improvisation group, Something Dada.

Rachel Spence – Associate Director of Outreach Education, Acting, Playwriting
In addition to being the Associate Director of Outreach Education at Beck Center, she also directs youth theater productions. Over 20 years of early childhood education experience. Former theater instructor with the Strongsville City Schools and director of the Children’s Theater with the Royalton Players. As a playwright has written over 2,000 speaking roles for Beck Center and area school productions. She is also an award-winning actress with an extensive resume in television and theater. Rachel enjoys reading her Kindle, rocking out to obscure bands, and snuggling with her Shih Tzu.

Russel Stich – Acting, Improvisation
Russ is the Artistic Director and founding member of Something Dada Improvisational Comedy Co. Has over sixteen years of improvisational performance experience including playing the Best Man in Tony ‘n Tina’s Wedding. Directs for Olmsted Falls High School and served as Camp Director at Hudson Theater Camp for sixteen years.
Brenna MC – Acting
Brenna MC is a local comedian, improviser, and variety arts performer. Originally from Lakewood, she studied at Capital University and Second City Chicago, specializing in musical theatre, improvisation and sketch comedy. She is the founder of Angry Ladies of Improv, Ohio’s oldest all female improvisation comedy troupe. She toured with CLIMB Theatre of Minnesota, teaching K-12 students respect, responsibility, and bullying and harassment prevention. Locally, she has worked with Near West Theatre, Fine Arts Association, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival and many more. She also produces events for local charities and is the mother of world’s most amazing kiddo, Lily.

Mileena Norman – Acting
Mileena received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Management with a minor in Technical and Design Theater from Cleveland State University in 2018. She has worked as a Stage Manager for the Red Barn Youth Theatre at Clague Playhouse, Sandstone Summer Theatre and several Collegiate productions. She also works as the Assistant Stage Manager for Playhouse Square’s Disney Musicals in Schools: Student Share and is the Production Assistant for the Dazzle Awards. Other projects have included Spot Operation for Great Lakes Theater, Lighting Design for special projects at The Fine Arts Association in Willoughby and a Technician for Halloweekends at Cedar Point. Her assistance in Scenic Design for a production of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella led to a nomination for the 2016 Playhouse Square Dazzle Award. Mileena is currently a substitute teacher for Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties, while also teaching youth theatre classes at Beck Center for the Arts. For Dad, always.
Jessica F. McGrath – Assistant Director of Education overseeing Visual Arts Education | 216.521.2450 x37 | jfiring@beckcenter.org
Jessica is an arts administrator and violinist passionate about education and increasing access to the arts for all. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Science in Arts Administration from Boston University. As an administrator, Jessica has a background in Development & Fundraising, holding positions at Rainey Institute in Cleveland and Powers Music School in the Boston area. Jessica has been teaching violin since 2009, and has also taught through the Suzuki Program at Baldwin Wallace Community Music School in addition to Beck Center. Jessica has completed Suzuki violin teacher training through Book 4 and has attended Mimi Zweig’s teacher training workshop at Jacob’s School of Music. She is an active member of the American String Teachers Association and the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

Suzanne Ambro – Pottery
Susan holds a BA in Art History from Ohio University and longtime pottery instructor at Beck Center and other community education programs in the Cleveland area. Her pottery pieces have been exhibited in the Beck Center annual Faculty Exhibition.

Allison Bogard Hall – Mixed Media, Printmaking
Allison holds a BFA in Painting and Literary Studies from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Maryland. Two years’ experience working in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District teaching various art forms in STEM programs to children grades K through 8, as well as teens and adults in the Cuyahoga County Library district. Allison’s work is primarily mixed-media, ranging from traditional oil painting to sculptural installation art. She is heavily influenced by the land and cityscape, and is constantly experimenting with new mediums and forms of expression. Allison is currently showing artwork throughout the Cleveland area. Learn more about Allison’s work at www.cargocollective.com/allisonbogard.

Bernie D’Ettoore – Watercolor
Bernie’s greatest influences came from Diane Boldman, Cathy Welner, Bob Moyer as well as Tom Lynch and other Ohio Watercolor Society workshops. She has participated in one woman shows as well as juried events, winning Best of Show, Lakewood Art League, two consecutive years as well as other awards throughout the area. She is a signature member of the Ohio Watercolor Society and her work has been displayed at Grand River Gallery in Rocky River, Blue Moon Gallery in Chagrin Falls, Mosaic Gallery in Cleveland, and Local Girl Gallery in Lakewood, as well as corporate centers, and private collections throughout Ohio, California, and England.
Danielle Doré – Pottery Studio Manager, Visual Art Faculty Liaison
Danielle holds a BFA in Ceramics from Cleveland Institute of Art, with additional focus in Drawing and Print. She has also been the co-manager of the ceramics department at the Brecksville Center for the Arts. Danielle freelances as a ceramic and portrait artist and exhibits and sells her work through local studios and galleries. A Lakewood resident most of her life, she has more than 24 years of experience working with children. Learn more about Danielle’s work at www.doreceramics.com

Ryan Finley – Cartooning, Drawing, Multi-media
Ryan Finley is a Topps sketch card artist, freelance artist/cartoonist, teaching artist, father, husband and nerd from Cleveland. He has a huge love for pop culture and comics that shows through in his work and the classes he teaches for children. His art has helped raise money for local charities and has been displayed in several local galleries, along with his sketch cards being found in multiple Star Wars card sets. Learn more about Ryan’s work at www.RyanPFinley.com

Paul Passano – Watercolors
Mr. Passano holds a BFA from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and a Teaching Certification from Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. He has been a classroom teacher where the history and practice of art were always features of his classes. He continued his artistic training through studies with several successful Cleveland area artists, including John Carlson, Patricia Sigmier, and Richard Treaster. He is inspired by the works of Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Jackson Pollock, Andrew Wyeth, and Vermeer. His artwork has been exhibited in shows in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and especially Maryland where he spent a great deal of time drawing inspiration from sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Although he primarily works in watercolors, other mediums used in his work include oil, colored pencil, charcoal, and pen and ink.

Douglas Laubacher – Cartooning and Drawing
Douglas Laubacher holds a BA in fine art with a concentration in pen and ink from the University of Mount Union. He is a member of the National Cartoonist Society and makes his studio home at Mr. McGillicutty’s in Dover Ohio. His comic strip, “Unbound,” can be read in the Tuscarawas County Bargain Hunter and the Wooster Weekly News. He is an adjunct professor at Malone University and can often be found traversing the land teaching the mysterious craft of cartooning in various art centers and libraries throughout the region. Learn more about Doug’s work at www.iNKWiTs.com

Megan Young – Pottery and multi-media
Megan Young is a sculpture, fibers, and ceramic artist from Akron, Ohio. She is working toward her Bachelor of Fine Art from The Cleveland Institute of Art. She majors in sculpture and expanded media with an emphasis in ceramics and a creative writing concentration. Her work draws inspiration from gestural movement, nature, and playful exploration. Megan is inclined to make art that has use-value and is conscious of material waste and environmental impact. Her experience includes interning with Spaces Gallery and the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory, along with being a Fine Art Collection Management Assistant at the Cleveland Clinic. She is currently a studio assistant with Gina Desantis Ceramics along with teaching pottery and multi-media classes for children throughout Northeast Ohio. Learn more about Megan’s work at www.notmeganmakes.com.
Linda Merchant Pearce – Life Drawing and Oil Painting
Linda holds an M.S. in Special Education from National University and a B.A. in Anthropology with a minor in Chinese from Youngstown State University. With a focus on historical and archaeological research, Linda dedicates herself to learning and teaching traditional painting techniques, including pigment-making, spinning with drop spindle and spinning wheel, weaving, inkle loom, card weaving, lucet, calligraphy and illumination. Her paintings have won many Best in Show awards, and she has also exhibited in national juried shows. She teaches throughout Northeast Ohio at many arts centers and is also Beck Center’s Gallery Coordinator. Learn more about Linda’s work at www.lamgallery.com

Samantha Reveley – Cartooning
Sam is a freelance cartoonist and art educator who resides in Lakewood, Ohio. She graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2013 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sequential Art, a degree that emphasizes visual storytelling, creative writing, and comic illustration. Sam Reveley has been exhibited internationally as a sequential artist, co-created numerous independently-published comic books, and has served as a public art educator since 2010 for the Museum of Contemporary Art: Cleveland, the SCAD Museum of Art, and the Center for Art-Inspired Learning. Her aspiration is to start-up the first independent digital comics focused publishing house in Cleveland. Co-creator credits include “Steelfoot Fin and the Last Oil Well” (published digitally), “Seeds of Valor” (in print by the Transitions Comic Anthology), and “Calavera De La Justicia” (print & online by On Target Network LLC and ComiXology.)

Regina Scicchitano – Fundamentals of Drawing, Intermediate/Advanced Drawing
Regina has a BFA from Cleveland Institute of Art. She has been pursuing a freelance career since graduation, which includes many corporate and private clients. She taught evening art classes at Polaris Career Center in the Continuing Education Department from 1997 to 2010 and with Beck Center since 2004. She enjoys spending time in Marblehead and the Lake Erie Islands area with family and friends.

Patricia Sigmier - Watercolor, Drawing
Patricia holds a BFA from Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She is a signature member of the Ohio Watercolor Society. She instructs Watercolor Painting, Color Theory in Watercolor, Botanical Painting, and Portrait Painting in Watercolor. Patricia also teaches Plein air painting for the Case Western Reserve University’s Continuing Education Department. She enjoys teaching art classes for local private groups and has exhibited in numerous juried shows.

Alastair Stockdale – Cartooning, Painting
Alastair has a BA in Arts Education from Cleveland State University and a graduate with Summa Cum Laude honors. He recently received his teaching license and has done collaborative work with the Cleveland Artists Foundation, Cleveland Museum of Art, and Beck Center along with various school districts such as Fairview, Berea, Parma, and the Cleveland Municipal School District. Here at Beck Center has worked in the areas of visual arts education, outreach education, and creative art therapies. His artwork continues to be exhibited and was last seen in the most recent faculty art show. Al has been moving chairs and unlocking doors at the Beck Center since 2005 while working behind the scenes at virtually every major event. Learn more about Alastair’s work at www.misteral.org.
Matthew Sweeney - Drawing and Illustration
Matthew received his Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Art. He is a freelance illustrator and fine artist and has also been a creative specialist for American Greetings. His work has included animation, storyboards, comic book illustration, soft pencil drawings, and murals, one of which may be seen at the L.A.N.D Studio in Gordon Square Arts District. Matthew is the author and illustrator of Artfart, a book that encourages children to explore the world of art. Learn more about Matthew’s work at www.msweeneyart.com.

Shannon Timura – Painting, Multi-media, Pottery
Shannon Timura is a mixed media artist who specializes in public art. She has created numerous murals and sculptures for homes, businesses and cities. Notably she was named a “Fearless Female Artist” in the 2018 December issue of O Magazine for her sculpture work for Proctor and Gamble. In addition to creating, she is also an enthusiastic arts educator who has taught classes throughout Northeast Ohio for nearly 20 years. Shannon lives near the Metroparks with her husband of 30 years. She loves her 4 college kids, coffee, children’s books, and power tools. Learn more about Shannon’s work at www.saatchiart.com/shannontimura.
Lauren Travillian MT-BC – Associate Director of Creative Arts Therapies  
216.521.2540 x34 | ltravillian@beckcenter.org  
Lauren graduated from the University of Dayton with a degree in Music Therapy and Psychology where she worked with children of all ages with special needs, women diagnosed with substance abuse disorder, and older adults on a memory support unit. She completed her music therapy internship at UH Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital where she worked with hospitalized children, adolescents, and their families to help provide relaxation and self-expression. Lauren first fell in love with the therapeutic power of music while growing up in Dayton, OH, and hopes to share that power with others in Cleveland.

Edward P. Gallagher, MT-BC – Music Therapist, Director of Education  
Ed holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from Cleveland State University and a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Founded Beck Center’s Creative Arts Therapies program in 1994. He is co-chair of the Ohio Music Therapy Task Force and has been appointed to serve on the Ohio Arts Council’s Artists with Disabilities Access Program. He received the GLR-AMTA 2007 Service Award, the AOMT Past President’s Award in 2012 and has been inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame. He has been recognized by the City of Lakewood for bringing the healing power of music to the community.

Marisa Corigliano, MT-BC – Music Therapy  
Marisa is originally from Egg Harbor Twp., NJ. Marisa acquired her bachelor’s in music therapy from Temple University’s Boyer School of Music. During this training she completed a 1000-hour internship at the progressive Rebecca School in NYC, a program for children ages 4-20 with developmental delays. Here Marisa learned how to implement improvisational styles of music making to meet students where they are developmentally and support growth in such areas as emotional processing, problem solving, and social skills. Marisa continued to work in NYC for SNACK* (Special Needs Activity Center for Kids (*and adults)), a structured recreational program that provides positive social activities for individuals with various needs. After relocating to Ohio, she is very excited to join the team of music therapists at Beck Center.

Madelyn Hasebein, MT-BC – Music Therapy  
Madelyn is also trained in Neurologic Music Therapy [NMT]. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy and Vocal Performance (with a minor in Psychology) from Cleveland State University in 2018. She currently works as a music therapy independent contractor and voice and piano instructor at Willow Arts & Wellness Center in Westlake, OH, Royalton Music Center in North Royalton, OH, and as a Lower School Piano teacher at University Schools in Cleveland Heights, OH. Madelyn also performs as a freelance classical vocalist. She is a soloist and section leader at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights, and has worked with the Cleveland Chamber Choir, City Music Cleveland, and other various choral groups in the Greater Cleveland area. Madelyn enjoys to compose and arrange instrumental and vocal works.
Sarah Link – Music Specialist
Sarah has a BM in Music Therapy from the University of Dayton. Practiced music therapy at Riverside Academy of Music for four years and The Far Conservatory in Birmingham, MI for three years. Early childhood music instructor at the Beck Center since 2005. Enjoys spending time with her two daughters and husband.

Katie Malone, MA, LPC – Art Therapist
Katie graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Painting, and obtained her Master of Arts in Counseling and Art Therapy from Ursuline College. She spent her clinical experiences at UH Rainbow Babies and Children’s hospital in Cleveland, Ohio where she found her passion working with kids and teens to provide art therapy to patients with hematology/oncology, trauma, and a variety of other emotional struggles. She has counseled in a school-setting where she worked with children to achieve behavioral and social goals. Katie has spent the past year working as an Intensive Trauma Therapist to children and adults.

Sarah Menser – Adapted Dance
Sarah is a native Clevelander who holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Dance from Baldwin Wallace University and is currently working towards her Master’s as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with a Specialization in Dance/Movement Therapy at Lesley University. Sarah has been trained in multiple dance forms for the past seventeen years and loves to share her passion with others. Sarah also choreographs at local community theaters and well as St. Edward High School, while still finding time to perform for herself.

Amanda Dunn, MT-BC, NMT – Music Therapy
Amanda is originally from Findlay, OH, and has been actively involved with music throughout her whole life. Amanda acquired her bachelor’s in music therapy from Ohio University where she worked with a variety of individuals including children with special needs, adults with developmental disabilities, and children in a hospital. After graduation, she moved to Cleveland for a job working with adolescents in a hospitalized behavioral health unit. Amanda now looks forward to making a life in Cleveland with her fiance and is excited to join the team at the Beck Center.

Michael Simile, MT-BC – Music Therapist
Michael earned his Bachelor’s of Music in Music Therapy from the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in May of 2016. Following graduation, Michael completed a 6-month music therapy internship at Laurel Lake Retirement Community in Hudson, Ohio, where he served primarily in the skilled nursing and hospice unit. He has been on faculty at Beck Center for the Arts since January 2018, and teaches guitar there in addition to his duties as a music therapist. Michael is also employed by the Dover Congregational United Church of Christ Chancel Choir in Westlake. He maintains an active performance schedule with regional pit orchestras and with his two bands, The Branches and Flight 619.
Anthony Steward, MT-BC – Music Therapy
Anthony received his Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy at Baldwin Wallace University where he focused on voice with a minor in psychology. He has the distinction of being Beck Center’s first music therapy intern. When not working at Beck, Anthony enjoys singing in multiple choirs and maintains an active performance schedule.

Abigail Viscomi – Adapted Dance
Abby graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and is now working towards a Masters of Arts in Teaching with a dance concentration at Kent State. She grew up in Lakewood and learned to dance here at the Beck Center for the Arts. She is currently student teaching at Firestone High School in Akron while also teaching dance and adapted dance at Beck Center, as well as working with ArtSparks Foundation teaching dance to Cuyahoga Falls third graders. Through her teaching, Abigail aims to bring the job of dance to all who enter her classroom.

Beth Friedman-Romell, MT-BC  Adapted Theater Specialist & Music Therapist
Beth is excited to be able to blend her years of experience in theater, music, and teaching in her position at the Beck Center. Beth grew up playing piano, acting, and singing. She holds a BA in Theater from University of Pennsylvania, an MA in Directing from University of London, and a PhD in Theater History from Northwestern University. Beth has worked in many professional and community arts venues in Northeast Ohio. More recently, she trained as a music therapist at Cleveland State University (major instrument: guitar), and completed her internship at MetroHealth Medical Center. Beth enjoys working with clients of all ages and abilities. She often uses improvisation to foster self-expression, creativity, and confidence in her clients. Beth has also served for nearly two decades as Cantor and Spiritual Leader of Knesseth Israel Temple in Wooster, OH. When she is not making music, she is hiking, cooking, or playing board games with her family.

Emily Zeitz – MT-BC
Emily completed her Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy at Cleveland State University and internship at The Groovy Garfoose, LLC. Emily graduated as Valedictorian of The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at CSU. She also completed her Neurologic Music Therapy training. Emily has experience working with people of varying ages and abilities including veterans, teens and adults with developmental disabilities, adults in hospices and nursing homes, private clients, hospital patients, and IEP students. Emily is grateful to continue growing and sharing music therapy with Northeast Ohio.
Rachel Spence – Associate Director of Outreach Education  
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In addition to being the Associate Director of Outreach Education at Beck Center, she also directs youth theater productions. Over 20 years of early childhood education experience. Former theater instructor with the Strongsville City Schools and director of the Children’s Theater with the Royalton Players. As a playwright has written over 2,000 speaking roles for Beck Center and area school productions. She is also an award-winning actress with an extensive resume in television and theater. Rachel enjoys reading her Kindle, rocking out to obscure bands, and snuggling with her Shih Tzu.

Linda Merchant Pearce – Gallery Coordinator  
lmerchant@beckcenter.org  
Linda holds an M.S. in Special Education from National University and a B.A. in Anthropology with a minor in Chinese from Youngstown State University. With a focus on historical and archaeological research, Linda dedicates herself to learning and teaching traditional painting techniques, including pigment-making, spinning with drop spindle and spinning wheel, weaving, inkle loom, card weaving, lucet, calligraphy and illumination. Her paintings have won many Best in Show awards, and she has also exhibited in national juried shows. She teaches throughout Northeast Ohio at many arts centers and is also Beck Center’s Gallery Coordinator. Learn more about Linda’s work at www.lamgallery.com.