

The **Washington State Arts Commission** and **Seattle Repertory Theatre**, in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, 4Culture, and Pacific Northwest Ballet, present:

TATLAB | WASHINGTON STATE TEACHING ARTIST TRAINING LAB

An eight-month professional development program for Washington State teaching artists.

We're looking for our next statewide cohort!
Applications for TAT Lab 2013-2014 are due July 24, 2013.

"The depth of planning and hours to make this a purposeful and quality training was amazing. I cannot say enough about how this will change my arts education practice"

~ TAT Lab graduate, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The Teaching Artist Training (TAT) Lab is a professional development program with a focus on supporting arts education as part of basic education in K-12 schools. This training is appropriate for experienced professional teaching artists looking to enhance or refresh their work, particularly in the areas of assessment strategies and well-articulated learning plans, as well as newer teaching artists seeking foundational knowledge. All participants will benefit from the peer learning and reflection which can be rare in this profession.

TAT Lab is based on the philosophy that reflective practice and thoughtful planning are essential to effective educational experiences – and a key building block for partnering with schools and classroom teachers. The guiding question for the program is: "How can we help teaching artists provide quality educational experiences for all students?"

The TAT Lab cohort will include up to 36 teaching artists, working in all artistic disciplines and regions of Washington State. During the 8-month experience, participants will:

- Attend three in-person training sessions lasting 2-3 days and held in Seattle
 - September 19-21; November 22-23; April 10-12
- Participate in six 90-minute teleconferences facilitated by a teaching artist mentor
- Complete reading assignments
- Develop a written learning plan to be implemented in a K-12 classroom
- Receive ongoing, individualized support from a teaching artist mentor

Attendance at all in-person sessions and teleconferences is mandatory.

Further program details are below and at www.seattlerep.org/programs/education/TAT.

"TAT Lab gave me new perspectives on the learning process, on what it is exactly that I do in a classroom, how to quantify it and how to communicate it effectively to others."

~ TAT Lab graduate, 2012

PROGRAM HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

Since its inception in 2005, TAT Lab has expanded its reach to include more kinds of teaching artists, while engaging its participants on a deeper level for a longer period of time. At first, the majority of participants were theatre practitioners living near Seattle, and annual TAT Labs lasted only two days. Beginning in March 2008, the Rep began working with Puget Sound area dance and visual artists, to broaden the program's reach. Simultaneously, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) took increasing interest in advancing the quality and capacity of teaching artist work across the state. In 2011-12, the combination of these movements led to our first statewide, 8-month TAT Lab, which attracted funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. We've now completed two years of this model of the TAT Lab, with two remarkable cohorts of teaching artists.

We define teaching artists as individuals who are both artists and educators; they are professional artists who are dedicated to arts education as an integral part of their professional practice, and who cultivate skills as educators in concert with their skills as artists. The curriculum for the TAT Lab supports teaching practice in all types of settings, but the focus is on supporting arts education as part of basic education in K-12 public schools, and addressing the particular challenges and opportunities involved in partnering with K-12 students and teachers.

An essential component to these partnerships is the spark that a teaching artist brings by demonstrating their own passion and artistry, and allowing students to experience that art form firsthand. The TAT Lab curriculum is informed by several key questions:

- What are the unique talents and approaches that teaching artists bring to a classroom?
- What are "reflective practice" and "thoughtful planning" and why are they important?
- How can we be mindful of arts learning standards along with higher order thinking skills and habits of mind?
- How do we create safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all students?

With these questions in mind, the TAT Lab will address both philosophical and nuts-and-bolts aspects of teaching artist practice, with a core focus on developing and articulating clear student learning objectives and assessment strategies. We are interested in helping to develop teaching artists' abilities to:

- Create strong and effective learning plans
- Work as collaborative partners with K-12 schools and teachers
- Articulate the values of arts learning, and their role as an arts educator
- Plan, assess, and reflect on their work and the work of their students and partners

A key element of the program is the application of TAT Lab concepts in the classroom. Therefore, each participant will develop a learning plan based on concepts covered in the TAT Lab and implement that learning plan in a K-12 classroom during one of their own workshops or residencies. The final phase of the training will use these learning plans and real-life reflections to deepen participants' understanding of the work.

"I am more grounded, confident and proud to be a teaching artist."

~ TAT Lab graduate, 2012

SCHEDULE & PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants are expected to attend all of the in-person sessions, which will be held in Seattle.

September 2013:

- Thursday, September 19, 4-7pm
- Friday, September 20, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, September 21, 9am-3pm

November 2013:

- Friday, November 22, 1-5pm
- Saturday, November 23, 9am-5pm

April 2014

- Thursday, April 10, 3-7pm
- Friday, April 11, 9am-5pm
- Saturday, April 12, 9am-3pm

In addition to attending these in-person sessions, participants will be assigned to a smaller group for monthly 90-minute teleconferences facilitated by a teaching artist mentor. There will be readings assigned as preparation for both in-person and teleconference sessions, and all participants will be required to develop a written learning plan and implement in a K-12 classroom during the winter/spring of 2014. *Attendance at all in-person sessions and teleconferences is mandatory.*

TUITION, SCHOLARSHIPS, & TRAVEL SUPPORT

Tuition for the entire 8-month program is \$600. In addition to the workshops and teleconferences, tuition covers a resource notebook, and meals at the in-person trainings. Scholarship assistance is available through sliding scale tuition fees. We expect all participants to pay a minimum of \$300 towards tuition. Scholarship decisions are based on a variety of factors, including demographic variables, the applicant's suitability for the program, and the applicant's indicated ability to pay. Please note that we will not provide full scholarships.

We encourage arts organizations to support the professional development of their teaching artists by covering a portion of their TAT Lab tuition. Sponsorship forms are available on the Seattle Repertory Theatre website, and should be submitted no later than July 24.

We can provide limited support for travel-related expenses for TAT Lab participants commuting to in-person sessions from outside Seattle. Participants may request reimbursement for expenses such as lodging and transportation (including airplane, bus, and ferry tickets, car mileage, and tolls). We will coordinate hotel reservations when needed. Please be mindful that we strive to devote as much of our budget to programming as possible, and we will look to cut costs by asking participants to share hotel rooms, encouraging carpooling, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Teaching Artists interested in applying should complete the *online information form* at http://www.seattlerep.org/Programs/Education/TAT/Tat_moreinfo.aspx. After completing this form, you will receive an email with a link to the full online application.

The full online application includes questions about teaching artist background and experience as well as three short-answer narrative questions. You may wish to consider these questions in advance of filling out the survey:

- *Briefly describe your history and current practice as a Teaching Artist. How/why did you become a TA? Why do you pursue this work?*
- *What age groups and teaching/learning environments are you most drawn to, and why?*
- *Why are you drawn to this professional development opportunity at this time? What do you hope to get out of it?*

Responses to these questions should be about 100-200 words long.

In addition to the online application form, applicants must submit a resume and a sample lesson plan. The resume should address training and experience both as an artist and as a teaching artist. The lesson plan (no more than 2-3 pages) should reflect a typical workshop or residency for a K-12 public school. Lesson plans should include arts learning goals, the age group, length of time, and how you incorporate reflection and/or assessment strategies. These items must be emailed as attachments, either as a Word document or as a PDF, to TATLab@seattlerep.org with the subject line "TAT Lab Application."

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, July 24, 2013. All application elements (online application, resume, and sample lesson plan) must be received by this date. Participants will be notified by August 2 of their status. First tuition payment will be due by September 5.

In reviewing the applications, the following factors will be taken into consideration for building a diverse and dynamic cohort:

- Geographic diversity (seeking teaching artists from outside Puget Sound region)
- Diversity of experience, including emerging Teaching Artists (1 to 2 years paid experience), early career (2 to 8 years) and experienced (9+ years)
- Varied artistic disciplines
- Overall teaching artist background, experience, and lesson planning abilities
- Applicant's clarity of purpose about their work and professional development needs

Basic eligibility requirements: applicants must be a resident of Washington State, at least 18 years of age, and have at least one full year of paid experience as a teaching artist. All applicants must have a minimum of one-year of paid experience as a teaching artist, and that experience must include work in K-12 settings. Certified K-12 teachers, particularly arts specialists, may also apply to participate in the TAT Lab.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & APPLICATION LINKS:

www.seattlerep.org/Programs/Education/TAT/About

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Scott Koh (scottk@seattlerep.org; 206-443-2202 ext. 1043) or Lisa Jaret (lisa.jaret@arts.wa.gov; 360-586-2418) with any questions about the TAT Lab program, tuition, scholarship information, or the application process.

"I feel that I am the most creative, engaged, and challenged that I have been in a very long time.

Thank you for providing this incredible opportunity."

~ TAT Lab graduate, 2013