



Learning Through The Arts:

Promoting Cultural Awareness Through Arts in Education

The African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) *Learning Through the Arts* program offers participants an opportunity to interact with visual and performing artists, express their ideas through lively discussions and participation, and gain cultural literacy as well as important communication and critical thinking skills.

Workshops can be offered on-site at AAMP as stand-alone hour-long activities, but are most often paired with a docent-led one-hour tour of the Museum to provide a deeper and broader experience of the African Diaspora. Through our ***AAMP on the Go!*** program, these workshops can also be brought directly to you, and are perfect either as a stand-alone enrichment opportunity or as a pre- or post-visit experience.

The AAMP *Learning Through the Arts* program offers a menu of workshop options including West African Dance and Drum, Colonial Dance, Historical Re-Enactments, Mlanjeni Magical Theatre, Storytelling & Folktales, and Hip-Hop Jazz Musicology. Additional special programming may be available upon request.

- ❖ **Early American Dance** – Step back in time and learn the colonial dances performed by transplanted Africans and early African Americans at festivals, Congo Square gatherings, and balls. Participants will learn how these individuals kept hold of African traditions while adapting to a new land and culture, trying such dances as the Cake Walk (festival dance), Colonial Child Groove (folk dance), Ring Shout dances and more.
(Pre-K to Grade 12)
- ❖ **Drum Circle** – This hands-on interactive workshop will have its participants grooving along to the beats while learning about the vast world of drums and percussion instruments as used in various African cultures. The Drum Circle opens up the world of “The Beat” to anyone who joins.
(Grades 3 to 12)
- ❖ **Hip-Hop Jazz Musicology** – *Hip-hop Jazz Musicology* teaches participants about the social, historical, and musical influences on Hip-hop music and how it relates to other genres within African American traditions. Excellent for students, teachers, and parents, *Hip-hop Jazz Musicology* creates a forum to bridge our collective understanding of how Hip-hop relates to its predecessors. Each participant contributes to the workshop and is able to walk away enjoying a deeper connection to the story, music, and history that is the African American experience. (Grades 6 to 12)

- ❖ **Historical Re-enactments** – History comes alive with interactive dramatic presentations of African American men and women who shaped the nation from the Colonial Era to the Civil Rights Movement. Living history performances include Edward “Ned” Hector, Frederick Douglass, Nat Turner, Octavius Catto, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Phyllis Wheatley, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dinah, Martin Delaney and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Grades 3 to 12)
- ❖ **History of the Blues** – This is a one-hour musical and interactive program. Joe Becton plays traditional musical instruments and sings along as he takes the participants on a walk through the history of the Blues. Group participation encouraged. (Grades 4 to 12)
- ❖ **Jazz Appreciation** – Learn about the history and origins of jazz, and enjoy performances by local master musicians! The presenter, backed by a combo of professional musicians, explores the African and southern roots of the art form and its relationships with blues, swing, bebop, R & B, up to and including the Motown sound. This spirited workshop is as effective in educating new jazz audiences as they are at inspiring a new generation of jazz musicians. (Grades 3 to 12)
- ❖ **Mlanjeni Magical Theatre** – Introduce your little ones to the traditional African theatre style called Mungamano, an interactive performance that includes storytelling, folk music, conjuring, puppets and masks. Participants sing, dance, chant and chat with characters throughout the performance. (Pre-K to Grade 3)
- ❖ **Storytelling & Folktales** – Learn about the art of traditional African and African American storytelling from a modern griot (storyteller). (Pre-K to Grade 12)
- ❖ **West African Dance and Drum** – Students will get up and get moving in this interactive workshop exploring the use of drums as tools for communication in West African cultures, as well as the role – and meaning – of dance in celebrating important moments in the life of the community. (Pre-K to Grade 12)

Interested in booking a workshop for your group?

Contact Shirley Flowers at 215-574-0380 x. 225 or sflowers@aampmuseum.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!