

DR. JENNIFER KATONA

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Norwalk Public Schools

Norwalk, CT

Aug 2019-Present

Visual and Performing Arts Senior Manager

- Oversees all aspects of skill-based arts education content in K-12 school system.
 - Includes supporting 82 arts educators on daily curriculum, instruction and assessment needs and helping them obtain supplies and infrastructure that leads to successful teaching
- Supports Wolfpit Elementary's transition to an Arts Magnet Elementary School
 - Includes providing on-going professional development for all K-5 teachers on arts integration philosophy, models of best practice.
 - Support Arts Integration Coach with her role in school support of arts integration implementation.
 - Provide on-going Professional Development on Arts Integration unit writing with grade level teams
 - Support school administration in writing and design of Arts Magnet application
 - Support the building of new sensory based movement room for newly developed dance curriculum
 - Work with five arts educators to develop scaffolded K-5 skill-based arts curriculum
- Completed full review of arts infrastructure particularly around instrumental shared teacher protocol and provided recommendations for building stronger, sustainable models –including the increase in time spent on strings instruction in each school building.
- Helped district achieve NAFME recognition of Best Community for Music Education 2020
- Chair district committee on the design and development of Norwalk High School Arts Academy
 - Included visiting other models of arts academy's
 - Reviewing research on best models of arts academy's
 - Met regularly with committee of teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, parents and arts-based community leaders
- Help district teachers transition their hands-on arts curriculum to a digital platform during remote learning March 2020-June 2020.
 - Included leading Professional Development for support in adjusting curriculum based on at home learning environment
 - Organized digital showcasing of student work including Virtual City Wide Art Gallery, Neighborhood Art Gallery, District Wide Talent Show
 - Supported arts teachers to provide opportunities to share their student work at the school level including digital art shows, virtual concerts and virtual talent shows
- Working to increase Theatre access in district. Partnered with Disney Musical in our Schools to pilot curriculum program in two elementary schools and the addition of new theatre teacher for one middle school
- Supporting PONUS STEAM Academy development with a focus on the arts integration model
- Support schools in the local hiring of arts staff for their buildings
- Serve on district re-opening committee directly overseeing policy and implementation of extracurricular activities K-12.
- Support teachers on remote learning techniques specifically curriculum design, instruction and assessment in the remote, hybrid and virtual environments.

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The City College of New York, CUNY

New York, NY

2007-2019

Program Director/Professor Graduate Program Educational Theatre

- Hired to develop and start Graduate program in Educational Theatre (one of only ten nationwide)

- Oversaw a graduate program of 85 teacher candidates training to be Theatre teachers for New York State
- Created and field tested full curriculum for Graduate Program (including all 20 courses)
- Taught nine courses a school year including: *Fundamentals of Teaching Theatre; Curriculum Development for Educational Theatre, Content Research Seminar in Educational Theatre & Arts Education in an Urban Context*
- Taught Acting I level courses within Theatre Department (200-2010)
- Worked with full-time School of Education staff on NCATE and other accreditation processes
- Oversaw the hiring and training of adjunct faculty (approximately 35 hired over 10 years)
- Oversaw all syllabi and curriculum development of full-time and adjunct faculty in program
- Served on Curriculum Committee for Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture (which monitors and regulates all curriculum development matters for Dept (2009-2011)
- Oversaw admissions and state certification process of all graduate candidates
- Managed work-study and graduate assistants each semester
- Served as faculty supervisor for Graduate Club - which sponsors fundraisers for program and scholarships, produces productions, hosts annual conference
- Served as Lincoln Center Institute Liaison for School of Education (coordinated all workshops and visits with works of Art through LCE for all faculty in the School of Education approx. 30 a year) 2009-2011
- Served on Ad Hoc Professional Development Committee and facilitated professional development sessions for Dept of Teaching, Learning and Culture on goals for program (2011-2012)
- Supervised Student Teachers through observation; post observation evaluations, weekly seminar, review edTPA submissions
- Supervised Student Teacher advisors (staff of seven)
- Obtained Certificate of Continued Employment (junior faculty tenure based on teaching and service to field) May, 2012
- Served on three national search committees (Chaired one 2007-2001)
- Served on sub-committee for community outreach through University President's initiative for strong community relations – report to and collaborate with V.P. of Urban Affairs (2010-2011)

PS 161 Drama Club –extension of The City College of New York Program in Educational Theatre

Founder/Artistic Director Harlem, NY 2011-present

- Created and built a fully integrated and sustainable afterschool theatre program in neighboring K-8 school in Harlem, NY.
- Built program from 10 student actors and limited budget to 50+ student actors, committed budget line from school leaders, community engagement and commitment to program.
- Contributed to shift in school culture to respect the arts and the performers
- Influenced hiring decisions of fulltime Theatre teachers at school and dedicated theatre space (2015)
- Helped school receive \$250,000 space grant for new lights, sound and curtains (2014)

Arts Education Consulting Experience

iTheatrics New York City, NY January 2017

Adjudicator/Master Teaching Artist

- Served as adjudicator for Junior Theatre Festival offering feedback and critique to student performance groups from around the country
- Taught Master Advanced Acting workshops to 200 students Grade 6-12

Once on this Island (Broadway Revival) New York City, NY 2017

Educational Consultant

- Wrote Study Guide for Broadway Revival of Tony Award Winning *Once on this Island*
- Focus on theatrical process, sustainability and Caribbean culture

Come From Away (Broadway Production) New York City, NY April 2016 -ongoing

Education Consultant

- Served on small consulting team of educators to advise Producers on best educational approaches and outreach to New York City students in preparation for seeing *Come From Away* a show surrounding the events of 9/11

- Contributed to new pilot education program –hiring and overseeing Teaching Artists to work with middle and high school teachers.
- Oversaw Teaching Artists for *I am an Islander* school partnering interview project.
- Created curriculum for the *I am an Islander* project

Broadway Theatre Workshop

New York City, NY

July 2016

Master Teaching Artist

- Taught workshops to 200+ Theatre teachers from across nation and internationally on the skills of curriculum mapping in the theatre classroom.

New York State Department of Education

Albany, NY

2015-2018

Blue Ribbon Arts Commission Member

- Consult on matters related to Arts Education for the State of New York Board of Regents Commencement Exit Projects

Westport Country Playhouse

Westport, CT

2014-2016

Arts Education Consultant

- Developed pilot residency program with local urban school to enrich 5th grade literacy and social studies curriculum (2015)
- Facilitated theatre based family workshops with children ages 3-18 and their families around themes in the production series (2015-2016)
- Developed education programming around Mona Golabek's original autobiographical one woman show the *Pianist of Wisden Lane* (2017)

American Alliance for Theatre & Education

Washington, DC

2015-2021

Board Chair

2019-2021

- Oversee board of directors made up of 12 theatre educators from across the nation
- Manage budget
- Helped with the transition to virtual conference learning
- Maintain strong focus on EDIA as the center of our programming

Director of Programming-Regional Conferences

2015-2016

- Elected as President, term to serve starting in 2019
- Work with current and past president to establish new partnership with EDTA on creating a new advocacy movement Theatre In Our Schools (TIOS)
- Serve on TIOS Taskforce and successfully secured Kelli O'Hara as inaugural spokesperson for advocacy efforts and produced and disseminated 5 advocacy videos.
- Developed new structure for organization conferences (moving from 'mini' to Regional model)
- Work in collaboration to update website to reflect changes to new programming
- Oversee and support all 6 regional conference chairs
- Oversee filming and editing of online social media advocacy campaign with spokesperson Kevin Kline

Webinar Facilitator

- Led a 2-day webinar to teachers nationally on how to develop and create year long curriculum maps for theatre class

NYC Department of Education

New York, NY

2013-Present

Professional Development Facilitator –Theatre

- Led New York City Theatre teachers through the process of Curriculum Mapping –exploring macro and micro nuances of curriculum writing.
- Facilitated workshops on assessment in the arts, writing, creating and implementing rubrics in a learner centered classroom
- Served as Master Teaching Artist in the SY 2015-2016 year and continued work on lesson planning in the Arts

- NYC Department of Education** New York, NY 2009-Dec 2012
 Arts Advocacy Committee Member
- Selected by NYC Department of Education Office of Arts and Special Projects to serve on State mandated Arts Advisory Council, which reports suggestions to the PEP/Chancellor on Arts Education Policy reform.
 - Served on writing sub-committee to prepare document to be shared with Chancellor on committees suggestions for strengthening Arts Education throughout New York City
- Contributing Writing/Field Tester Blueprint for Theatre Curriculum New York, NY 2005-2006/2015
- Collaborated with theatre professionals throughout NYC to create a comprehensive and scaffolded approach to Theatre Education
 - Field-tested, activities for the Blueprint in my middle school classroom. Worked on the Middle School Writing Team- specifically on the sections of the Blueprint entitled 'Making Theatre', 'Design' and 'Production'
 - Consulted and contributed to revised 10 year version of the Blueprint –specifically adding information on Curriculum mapping.
- Disney Theatrical Group** New York, NY February 2014
 Curriculum Development Consultant
- Worked with members of the DTG Education office to strengthen and advise on the curriculum they are developing to accompany a new major national Initiative.
 - Supported the writing of the Lion King Experience curriculum
- National Endowment for the Arts** Brooklyn, NY 2009-2011
 Evaluator
- Evaluated TADA! Musical Theatre residency at P.S. 132 & PS 10
 - Visited residency once a month from Nov-March to observe progress of the production, interviewed teachers, teaching artists, administrators and students and prepare report for NEA.
- TADA!** New York, NY January 2013
 Professional Development Facilitator
- Lead workshop with Teaching Artists on play-building techniques to enhance the musical theatre writing workshop experience
- Urban Community Teachers Project** Brooklyn, NY 2009-2010
 Professional Development Facilitator
- Created and activated Pre and Post workshops for Broadway production *Fela*
- Globe School** Queens, NY January, 2009
 Professional Development Facilitator
- Created and led workshop on the use of dramatic activity in a literacy classroom and explored the power of writing in role
 - Took middle school ELA teachers through a pre-reading process drama around Edwidge Danticat's *Krik Krak*
- The Korean Language Initiative** New York, NY Spring, 2008
 Professional Development Facilitator
- Collaborated with in developing a professional development program geared toward familiarizing Korean teachers with American educational strategies, namely the use of dramatic activity in the literacy classroom.
- Guggenheim Museum Education Department** New York, NY Nov 2005& 2006
 Professional Development Teaching Artist
- Facilitated professional development for K-5 teachers on the use of Theatre/Dramatic Activities in the Classroom to enhance Literacy Curriculum

- Activities included Communication skills (voice projection/articulation) Use of Body (face/voice/gesture/movement); introduction to improvisation to be used to stimulate the creative writing; use of tableaux to discuss character; other activities included: Role-On-The-Wall; Anonym Name Game; Parts of Speech Scene work and Story Sequencing Activities

PRE K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Various Cultural Organizations	New York, NY	1999-2007
Teaching Artist		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arts Connection</i>: Participated in on-going dialogue with other teaching artists on the positive correlation between arts and language acquisition Collaborated with MTI/DOE in a grant to bring musicals into the public after-school programs acting as an advisor throughout the rehearsal and production process • <i>New Victory Theatre/ Education in the Classroom</i>: Facilitated and collaborated on creating pre/post show workshops Using Creative Dramatic Activities in classroom help students discuss and explore the themes discussed in the theatrical productions. Attend show-related workshops/trainings to then adapt and implement lesson plans for each workshop. Collaborated with school teachers/administrators and co-facilitators • <i>TADA! Youth Theater</i>: served as Director/Choreographer and worked with student's pre k-12 on devising and choreographing original musical productions. • <i>Brooklyn Children's Theatre</i>: served as Director/Choreographer and instructed acting classes focusing specifically on Musical Theatre Performance. • <i>Northshore Music Theatre Education Program</i>: served as Choreographer/Dance Instructor and worked with middle and high school aged students on musical theatre techniques and choreographed <i>The Starmites and School House Rock!</i> • <i>Scarsdale Public Schools</i>: Worked with the schools entire 2nd & 5th grade on an Interdisciplinary Theatre Project focused on their study of animals found in various eco-systems around the world and Greek Myths (incorporating the students Ancient Greek S.S. unit. • <i>Brooklyn Arts Council</i>: Served on Re-Grant Committee - duties include reviewing all grant proposals; discussing merit based on artistic merit/Community benefit/ Outreach; allocation of funds to approved proposals. Facilitated family workshops for Parents/Children based around various themes • <i>Starlight Productions</i>: Serve as Director/Choreographer/Production Stage Manager for full musical productions for past 15 years. Choreographed over 25 productions including <i>Sound of Music, Annie, Fiddler on the Roof and Oliver</i>. Directed summer camp programs and served as Production stage manager for full scale musicals with over 125 youth actors including <i>Annie & Les Miserable</i>. 		

M.S. 136/M.S. 821 "Life Lines " Community Arts Project	Brooklyn, NY	2001-2005
Director/Theatre Specialist		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated After-School Theatre Program (writing, directing & staging 3 major productions each year) • Instructed student's grades 6th- 12th on acting, play writing, improvisation and theatre design • Worked with six to eight 6th grade classes per semester on Interdisciplinary Arts projects • Wrote curriculum for all in-school classes • Facilitated Professional Development for teachers in school on use of Creative Dramatic Activities in the classroom • Worked heavily on policy and advocacy of education, summer youth employment and children's rights • Collaborated in the writing/preparing of Federal/State Grants • Served as Education Coordinator, Life Lines Community Arts Project. 25th Anniversary theatrical production <i>From the Stoops of Sunset</i>, brought over 200 New York City middle and high school students to the production at Tribeca Performing Arts Center 		

Education

Graduate Center, CUNY	Ph.D. Urban Education Policy	May 2016
<i>Dissertation Research: Building Sustainable Arts Programming in Urban School Districts</i>		
New York University	M.A. Educational Theatre	December 2003

Marketing Experience

Brad Simon Organization

New York, NY

1999-2001

Marketing Associate/Booking Agent

- Responsible for overseeing all marketing aspects (tv, print and radio) of commercial theatre productions in the United States and Canada
- Responsible for booking traveling theatre productions across the United States and Canada

Tribeca Performing Arts Center

New York, NY

1998-1999

Education Coordinator/Marketing Assistant

- Responsible for marketing and selling tickets to all school time performances.
- Responsible for the writing and creation of all supplemental educational materials for all performances.
- Worked with Marketing Director to develop all materials for main-stage productions

National and Regional Conferences

Katona, J (2019) "Using Assessment to build strong programming in your cultural organizations". Face to Face Conference New York City Arts in Education Roundtable, NYC, NY

Katona, J & Herring, A (2017, April) 'Confronting Privilege and Power in the Age of Diversity'. Face to Face Conference New York City Arts in Education Roundtable. NYC, NY

Katona, J & Poulin, J (2017, April) "Advocacy Now: Every Student Succeeds Act: What is Theatre's Role?" Face to Face Conference New York City Arts in Education Roundtable. NYC, NY

Katona, J (2016, July) "Curriculum Mapping: Where it can take us in our Classroom Planning". American Alliance for Theatre Education. Boston, MA

Katona, J & Poulin, J & Palmarini, J (2016, July) "Every Student Succeeds Act: What is Theatre's Role?" American Alliance for Theatre Education. Boston, MA

Katona, J & Herring, A (2016, July) 'Confronting Privilege in the Age of Diversity'. American Alliance for Theatre Education. Boston, MA

Katona, J & Poulin, J (2016, April) "Advocate Now". New York City Arts in Education Roundtable Face to Face Conference. New York, NY.

Katona, J & Wiggins, M (2016, January) 'Confronting Privilege in the Age of Diversity'. New York City Arts in Education Roundtable Day of Learning Conference. New York, NY.

Katona, J (2015, January) Moderated Panel on STEAM and Creative People in the Workplace. New York City Arts in Education Roundtable Day of Learning Conference. New York, NY.

Katona, J. & Valle, J (2013, August) 'Timmy and the Bard: *Understanding Disability Studies through the works of Shakespeare and modern television*'. VSA - Arts Education and Special Education Conference. Washington, D.C.

Katona, J. (2011, February). Panel/Moderator. "Race to Where? Exploring Current Arts Education Policy". New York

City Arts in Education Roundtable. New York, NY.

Katona, J. (2011, March). "Race to Where? Exploring Current Arts Education Policy". Theatre in Our Schools (American Alliance Theatre Educators). March, 2011. New York, NY.

Katona, J. (2011, April). "Arts Integration in the Classroom". Educational Theatre Mini Conference. April, 2011. New York, NY.

Katona, J. (2011, July). Panel/Moderator. "Know Thyself: Adolescent Social Identity, Personality, and Perspective Through Encountering Performance and Playbuilding". American Alliance for Theatre Education. Chicago, IL.

Katona, J (March, 2010). "Exploring the Use of Theatre and Dramatic Activities in the Early Childhood Classroom" In Defense of Childhood Conference at The City College of New York. New York, NY

Katona, J & Boddie, C. & Schmidt, J. (February, 2010). Presentation. "Building Quality Partnerships: Investing in the Big 3-Classroom teachers, Teaching Artists and Cultural Organizations. New York City Arts in Education Roundtable. New York, NY.

Katona, J & Boddie, C. & Schmidt, J. (February, 2010). "Building Quality Partnerships: Investing in the Big 3-Classroom teachers, Teaching Artists and Cultural Organizations. New York City Arts in Education Roundtable. New York, NY.

Katona, J & Boddie, C. (June, 2008). "Building Voices out of Silence: Providing Theatre Work within the Deaf Community". American Association of Theatre Educators (AATE). Atlanta, GA.

Katona, J. (2006, July). "Building an Ideal Community: Through the use of Theater". Association of Theatre Educators (AATE) Baltimore, MD.

Awards and Special Recognitions

Lin Wright Special Recognition Award for Excellence in Theatre Education, American Alliance for Theatre and Education (2015)

President's Award for Outstanding Faculty Service (2014) School of Education, The City College of New York

Affiliations

- American Alliance for Theatre Educators (AATE)
- New York City Arts in Education Roundtable
- Educational Theatre Teachers Association (EDTA)

References & Artistic Resume available upon request