



## SMMUSD Teaching Artists 2019-2020

### **Ann Barron, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: Will Rogers**

Ms. Ann Barron is a professional graphic artist and has been a P.S. ARTS Teaching Artist for over 15 years. She attributes her success in the classroom to her ability to create a “safe space” in the studio, where she provides opportunities for the student artists to revel in their creations and discuss the process from initial vision to finished art piece. Ms. Barron received her A.A. from Pasadena City College and a Commercial Art Certificate from Los Angeles Trade Tech in graphic arts.

### **Angie Bradshaw, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: Franklin, Webster**

As an arts educator, Angie Bradshaw creates a playful, process-driven space where learners can explore visual art mediums and concepts. She has taught visual arts from preschool through high school ages in a variety of setting. As an artist, Angie’s work combines classical art training with interests in digital tools, modern abstraction, and design. Angie earned her BA at the University of Richmond and has completed coursework in visual art and education at Santa Monica College.

### **Amber Carroll, Music Teaching Artist: Malibu**

Amber Carroll is a Teaching Artist who has worked for P.S. ARTS since 2006. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from the Crane School of Music and her Master’s Degree in music education from Ithaca College with a focus in Voice. While in school at Ithaca College she also acted as Master Teacher for the undergraduate music education students. Amber has over 17 years of experience teaching music. Born and raised among the tradition of Barbershop music, Amber sings in a 2-time world championship Sweet Adelines chorus “Harborlites”. This hobby feeds Amber’s interest in American folk music and art. She is also a skilled classically trained singer who loves to share her love of the beauty of the human voice with her students. Students in Amber’s class can expect to sing, move, create, explore, and play. When she’s not in the classroom, Amber enjoys being a mom to her two young boys. She likes photography, running, cycling, and pretending that she’s still 15 years old by flipping around at her weekly gymnastics class.

### **Julia Chanin, Music Teaching Artist: Roosevelt, Franklin**

Julia Chanin is a saxophonist, vocalist, and dedicated music teacher. Julia received her B.A. from Wesleyan University in Music and Latin American Studies and is passionate about working with kids and teens through the lens of social-emotional learning and world music. She incorporates her training in international Orff-Schulwerk method teaching by integrating movement, games, storytelling and improvisation into every lesson. Julia has taught music and arts integration in public schools in Richmond, CA, and at a therapeutic program on the Big Island of Hawaii. When Julia is not teaching she performs with local soul, funk, and folk bands, and leads wilderness trips for teens and adults. Julia recently relocated to LA from the Bay Area and is excited to help build musical community teaching TK-2nd grades at various schools in the Santa Monica Unified School District with P.S Arts!



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### **Nicole Fisher, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: Malibu**

Born in New York and raised in Los Angeles, Nicole Fisher has always been involved with art in some capacity. She has a BFA in Ceramics from California State University Long Beach, was Publicity and Publications Director for the University Art Museum, and worked in PR and Marketing for the Ahmanson Theatre. After starting a family, she began her photography business, which celebrates her love of art and children. She also works in mixed media and painting, and her art is in several private collections.

After many terms on the PTA, building a school library, and other volunteer opportunities, she again blended her two favorite passions... art and kids by becoming the K - 5 Art Instructor at Juan Cabrillo Elementary in Malibu. Nicole is now part of the P.S. Arts teaching artist team, and has taught art at all three Malibu elementary schools. This past spring, Nicole received an Excellence in Education award from Malibu's Optimist Club. She is a passionate believer in the critical role that art education plays in a child's growth, and believes that everyone is an artist. Her role as a teacher, is to create a space that is inspirational and nurturing, so that each child develops the confidence to find their own unique and creative voice. <http://nicolefisher.me/>

### **Hilary Hahn, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: McKinley**

Hilary aims to provide high quality arts programming for children at all levels. Her career takes her everywhere from SMMUSD to Montessori classrooms. Hilary currently teaches art at McKinley elementary in Santa Monica. In the classroom, Hilary enjoys inspiring elementary children to develop their budding art skills and explore their talents. Her program explores materials, incorporates technique, connects to world arts, and encourages creativity. Her focus is on the process of art-making and the power of art that leads to discovery and invention. Hilary earned her BFA from the University of LaVerne, earned a diploma of International Studies in France and completed a Set Design apprenticeship at Vassar College. During the summer months, she oversees the Summer Program for the Brentwood Art Center and offers private art workshops throughout Los Angeles.

### **Chloe Houston, Theater Teaching Artist: Roosevelt**

Ms. Houston has a BFA in Theater Performance from Hofstra University, as well as a M.S. in Education from Johns Hopkins University. She has performed in numerous productions throughout New York City, and worked as a company member for Dzieci Theater for several year. Additionally, she has worked as a full-time educator in both public and private schools in Washington D.C. and NYC, working to incorporate arts education into the classroom.

### **Deborah Reilly, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: McKinley**

Ms. Deborah received her BFA in Drawing from Montana State University. Her personal artworks and philosophy reflect her vision in the classroom. She has self published several children's books, recently completed a 365 day portrait challenge and is currently creating forms with burlap and thread remnants reflective of her abstract and figurative paintings. She has shown work locally and throughout the United States including Puerto Rico and participates in sellers markets with her illustrative works. In the classroom Ms. Deborah hopes to impart a love of the process and cultivates the benefits of the creative process outside of the work of Art. *"Everyone has a creative bone in their body and society benefits through the process of supporting and cultivating that unique voice to our individual and collective experiences."* When not in the classroom Ms. Deborah draws, enjoys being outdoors, supporting animal rescue groups and visiting museums and galleries.



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### **Matt MacFarland, Visual Arts: Muir**

Matt received his MFA from Otis College of Art in 2003 and has been teaching ever since, including over six years at P.S. Arts. He is a contemporary artist and cartoonist whose ongoing graphic narrative *Dark Pants* follows a mysterious pair of pants through Los Angeles as they impact the lives of whomever wears them. MacFarland has also compiled his 14+ years of teaching experience into a self-published comic *The Teaching Chronicles*. He enjoys introducing students to a wide spectrum of art materials and approaches and has a fundamental conviction that everyone is able to draw. His work has been written up in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Comics Bulletin*, *Comics Grinder*, *Artillery*, and *X-tra Online*. His artwork has been featured at such venues as 356 Mission Road, the Vincent Price Museum, Armory Center for the Arts, and Torrance Museum of Art. He has never said no to a free sandwich. [www.mattiemac.com](http://www.mattiemac.com)

### **Lonnie Martinez, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: Grant , Franklin, Roosevelt**

Ms. Martinez started her career over 30 years ago at P.S. 41 in New York City teaching music. She has been a fixture in Santa Monica elementary schools for 15 years teaching both art and music. Her professional career as an artist and musician has taken her around the world. As a back-up vocalist, she has opened for Sting, Elton John, and James Taylor. For 5 years she operated the popular art hang out “Crafts around the Corner” on Ocean Park Boulevard in Santa Monica. She is pleased to be joining the P.S. ARTS family in 2014 as they embark on their new journey with the Santa Monica-Malibu expansion.

### **Julianna Ostrovsky, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: SMASH, Roosevelt**

Ms. Ostrovsky is a visual artist currently living in Los Angeles. She is a “community artist” and her practice is to make art a process understood and authentically experienced by all. Promoting desire to think creatively and problem solve collectively. As a Teaching Artist she has instructed a range of visual arts workshops for Adults and grades K-12 at Extended Learning OTIS School of Art and Design. Julianna Ostrovsky is working hand in hand with local natural body care company, Soaptopia in a Community Arts Celebration project, at the Whole Foods Markets throughout California and Arizona; Julianna is featuring vintage cast iron bathtubs with custom murals of local cultural vignettes. She is a recipient of City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Artist in Residence Cultural Grant 2014-15. Julianna has joined PS Arts and the ReDiscover Center as an Artist in Residence.

### **Kristy Pace, Theater Teaching Artist: Franklin, SMASH, Webster**

Ms. Pace has an MA in Theatre Education from Emerson College, she has produced and directed productions from Boston to Los Angeles for the past 19 years. Her company, Pocket Full of Tales, has been producing/directing educational shows for families since 1999. Recent credits include Producing *Equus*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Avenue Q* for the Morgan Wixson Theatre. Directing *Brave Irene* and *The Amazing Bone* at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre. Directing *Peter Pan*, *The Nifty Fifties*, *The Rockin’ Tale of Snow White and Princess Whatshername* for Kenter Canyon Charter School. Writing and directing “*The Knight Who Was Afraid of the Dark*” for several runs in Boston and LA. Some of her favorite projects include Directing *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Baby With the Bathwater* and *Maggie Magalita* for Theatre 1 in Boston. She currently is the Director of multiple after-school, in school and vacation theatre programs in both Boston and Los Angeles.



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### **Kevin Mockrin, Theater Teaching Artist: McKinley**

Mr. Mockrin has been in the Entertainment Industry for over three decades. Beginning at age eleven, he worked professionally as an actor, singer, and tap dancer both in Los Angeles and New York City for over seventeen years. From co-stars and guest stars in such television shows as "Quantum Leap", "Life Goes On," and "Sabrina the Teenage Witch", to leads in independent films to theater productions such as the prestigious Encore Series presentation of "Strike Up the Band!" with Kirsten Chenowith at the New York City Center. He later transitioned to casting for film and television for twelve years, working with such esteemed Casting Directors as Denise Chamian, April Webster, Alyssa Weisberg, Junie Lowry Johnson, Scott Genkinger, Jennifer Euston, among others, on various projects ranging from "Workaholics" on Comedy Central to "Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol." He ran his own casting company for several years with fellow CD Karina Walters, casting various genres and projects from student films to network television pilots. Looking to expand his knowledge base and outreach, Mr. Mockrin recently achieved his Masters in Teaching from Pepperdine University and since graduating has been a Teaching Artist with P.S.ARTS. In that time, he has taught Theater Arts to students ranging from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Kevin has a thorough passion for the arts and has been on various sides of the entertainment spectrum, providing him with a unique perspective on the actor's journey.

### **Dauida Raffa, Visual Arts Teaching Artist: Grant, Franklin, Roosevelt**

Ms. Raffa started teaching art in Santa Monica elementary schools over 20 years ago. Art and horses were her two passions as a child growing up in the Hollywood Hills. As a youth she explored many career options including exercising racehorses, stunt riding, and scuba diving before her love for clay sculpture became her main focus. As a T.A. at Santa Monica College in the ceramics program over 27 years ago she met her husband also an artist/sculpture. He introduced her to glassblowing, glass sculpture and glass casting. They now work in a studio with two out of three of their children making glass art. As an instructor she feels great satisfaction working with elementary school students providing them with an opportunity to make their own art, clay is one of her favorite medium. She expresses that student do not get much of a chance to work with clay in a classroom setting, it is a fantastic material.

### **Martha Ramirez-Oropeza, Theater Teaching Artist: Edison**

Ms. Martha Ramirez is a Theater Teaching Artist at Edison Language Academy, where she designs and implements a theater program for K-5 that is entirely in Spanish. Prior to becoming a Teaching Artist for P.S. ARTS, she was an actor, director, and administrator for the Mascarones Theater Group, which was one of Mexico's leading independent indigenous theater groups that brought choral poetry, a blend of the choruses of Greek theater and dance choreography, to the workers of Mexico. In addition to her work in the theater, Martha is also an accomplished visual artist who specializes in illustration and murals. She has taught and conducted workshops at Universidad Nahuatl, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Santa Cruz, and Columbia University.