

Athena Lynch – Youth Arts Teaching Portfolio

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Teaching Philosophy

My teaching practice is rooted in creating inclusive, affirming spaces where young people can explore, experiment, and express themselves freely. I believe in arts education as a tool for empowerment, critical thinking, and cultural connection. My goal is to nurture students' curiosity while honoring their individuality, helping them grow both artistically and personally.

Youth Arts Education Experience Overview

Family Focus | *Program Manager, Before/After School Program*
Brunswick/Harpswell, ME – Sept 2014 to May 2017

- Designed and implemented educational and creative curricula
- Led programming in visual arts, culinary skills, and weaving
- Maintained a safe, supportive learning environment

E.O.Y.C.C. | *Arts & Crafts Teacher*
East Orange, NJ – July 2014 to August 2014

- Introduced students to printmaking, portraiture, and 3D movable art
- Created space for unhindered artistic exploration

E.S.C. Enrichment Summer Camp | *Assistant Director / Art Teacher*
South Orange, NJ – June 2012 to August 2012

- Scheduled trips, coordinated staff, and taught visual art classes
- Focused on mural art, clay sculpture, and mixed media

Kids Corps II | *Lead Teacher, 4th & 5th Grade After-School Program*
Newark, NJ – Sept 2011 to Nov 2012

- Developed curriculum combining art, academics, and nutrition
- Created an edutaining Black History Month program

E.O.Y.C.C. | *Arts & Education Instructor, After School Program*
East Orange, NJ – Nov 2010 to July 2011

- Delivered visual arts and cooking classes
- Supported academic and recreational development

Newark Museum | *Museum Educator / Assistant Lead Teacher, After School Program*
Newark/Hillside, NJ – Sept 2005 to June 2010

- Taught arts-based programming rooted in cultural exploration
- Facilitated safe, engaging after-school activities for youth

Boys & Girls Club of Newark | *Arts & Crafts Instructor (Summer Camp)*
Newark, NJ – Summer 2000

- Designed daily art projects with a focus on creativity and fun
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Featured Projects

Crayon Heat Printmaking Workshop | E.O.Y.C.C. |

Led a hands-on workshop for youth ages 6–13 exploring alternative printmaking techniques using crayons and heat. Students created original drawings on pre-heated surfaces, then transferred their designs onto construction paper using a block-printing-inspired method.

Lunar New Year Celebration Arts & Culture | Family Focus |

Designed and led a hands-on Lunar New Year program for students ages 5–12. Each student decorated a scale for a large collaborative paper dragon, which they “wore” to parade through the building halls—an initiative created to share their work with peers and staff. The project also included fortune pouches, fortune cookies, and a lesson on using chopsticks to foster cultural exploration.

Indigenous Cultures Project | The Newark Museum |

Led a hands-on cultural exploration focused on Indigenous peoples of North America. 3rd and 4th graders learned about Plains tribes, constructed model teepees, and were introduced to Indigenous pictograph storytelling using traditional iconography. 5th and 6th graders built adobe dwellings while studying the Puebloan people. The project culminated in a student-led PowWow featuring Indigenous circle dances, held at the school site. Students also met with members of the Cherokee Nation of New Jersey to deepen their learning through direct community engagement.

(1-3) Crayon printmaking samples. Participants were ages 6-13 yrs old.
E.O.Y.C.C.- East Orange Youth Cultural Center summer camp- 2011



(1-4) Super Hero Week, campers became masked crusaders and decorated their capes made from upcycled t-shirts and Markers. Family Focus summer camp- 2016





(1-4)Indigenous storytelling with pictographs.
Students were educated on the indigenous people
of North America and the symbols used along with
upcycled brown paper bags to mimic tanned hides.

