

Young Audiences Arts for Learning

National Arts in Education Conference



March 25-27, 2026
Washington, D.C.

Telling Our Story

CONFERENCE AGENDA | All times listed in EDT

Agenda subject to change

The Westin Washington, D.C. City Center
1400 M St NW | Washington, D.C. 20005

MARCH 25 • WEDNESDAY

1:30pm – 4:30pm	<i>YA on the Hill*</i>	Capitol Hill
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10:00am – 5:00pm	Registrant Check-In Opens	Westin Wash., DC City Center Ballroom Level: Ballroom Foyer
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5:00pm – 6:00pm	Networking Happy Hour	Westin Wash., DC City Center Fl 2: 1400 N & Terrace
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Evening *Grab dinner on your own or go out with colleagues*

MARCH 26 • THURSDAY

8:00am – 11:30am	Registrant Check-In	Westin Wash., DC City Center Ballroom Level: Ballroom Foyer
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8:00am – 9:00am	Breakfast (buffet-style)	Westin Wash., DC City Center National Ballroom
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9:00am – 10:00am	Welcome & Opening Remarks	National Ballroom
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10:00am – 10:15am	<i>Break</i>	
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Breakout Session A

	A1. RAISE Action Research Poster Session	Ballroom C
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10:15am – 11:15am	A2. Advocacy in Action: From Capitol Hill to Community Impact	Ashlawn North
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	A3. Telling Our Story Together: Community-Centered Models for Arts Learning	Ballroom A
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	A4. Honoring the Past, Activating the Future: Engaging Alumni as Leaders, Mentors, and Lifelong Advocates	Ashlawn South
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11:30am – 12:30pm	Lunch (plated)	National Ballroom
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Breakout Session B

	B1. Expanding the Narrative: The PD/Residency Model	Ballroom C
12:30pm – 1:15pm	B2. Lessons Learned Through Dance: The Impact of Our RAISE Program Grant	Ashlawn South
	B3. The Odd Couple: Data Collection and Arts Education	Ashlawn North
	B4. What Story Are We Telling? Reimagining Narratives Through Youth-Centered Practice	Ballroom A

1:15pm –
1:30pm *Break*

Breakout Session C

	C1. Migration Stories	Ashlawn North
1:30pm – 2:30pm	C2. I Will... Centering Youth Voice in Storytelling	Ballroom A
	C3. Soul of Langston: Crafting Community Narratives Through Arts and Humanities	Ashlawn South
	C4. Telling ArtsNOW's Professional Learning Story Through Data	Ballroom C

2:30pm –
2:45pm *Break (coffee served)*

Breakout Session D

	D1. Embodied Narratives: Telling Our Personal and Collective Stories Through Dance and Movement	Ashlawn South
2:45pm – 3:45pm	D2. Dramatic Adventures: Creating Original Stories with Children	Ashlawn North
	D3. Joyful Learning: The Story of STEAM Told Through the Joy of Art Making	Ballroom A
	D4. The Board's Role in Fundraising Success (and How to Get Them There)	Ballroom C

5:00 pm –
5:15 pm **Gather in Hotel Lobby** Westin Wash., DC City Center
Walk or share a cab to Planet Word Museum Fl 1: Lobby

5:30pm –
8:00pm **National Reception** Planet Word Museum
925 13th St NW

MARCH 27 • FRIDAY

8:00am –
9:00am Breakfast (buffet-style) Westin Wash., DC City Center
National Ballroom

9:00am -
9:10am **Opening Remarks** National Ballroom

9:10am
10:15am **Panel Discussion**
Through Their Eyes: Student, Artist, and Leadership Perspectives on Arts Education National Ballroom

10:15pm – 10:30am	<i>Break</i>	
Breakout Session E		
	E1. Drumming Up Connections	Ashlawn North
10:30am – 11:30am	E2. Beyond the Algorithm: Preparing Students to Think, Feel, and Create in an AI World	Ballroom C
	E3. Supporting Reflective Practice: Tools to Guide Teaching Artist Growth (Part 1 of 2)	Ashlawn South
	E4. From Partnership to Impact: Building Sustainable Arts Integration Models with School Districts	Ballroom A
11:30am – 11:45am	<i>Break (coffee served)</i>	
Breakout Session F		
	F1. A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Using Art and Imagination to build a Narrative	Ballroom C
11:45am – 12:45pm	F2. In Response to Place: Personal Postcard Collage as Storytelling Practice	Ballroom A
	F3. Artistic SEL Core Practices: Foundations for Intentionally Embedding SEL in Arts Education (Part 2 of 2)	Ashlawn North
	F4. From Story to System: How Narrative Drives Arts Education Policy in Alabama	Ashlawn South
12:45pm – 1:00pm	<i>Lunch (grab and go)</i>	National Ballroom
Breakout Session G		
	G1. Let's Play! Developing Arts Learning Programming Rooted in Creative Exploration	Ballroom C
1:00pm – 1:45pm	G2. Using Data to Shape the Narrative of Program Impact	Ballroom A
	G3. You're Already Doing This: Simplifying Action Research and Integrating It Into Your Practice	Ashlawn North
	G4. Board Member Circle: Conference Recap and Next Steps	Ashlawn South
Closing Connections		
	1. Teaching Artists and Administrators	Ballroom A
2:00pm – 3:00pm	2. School-based Teachers & Staff	Ballroom C
	3. Board & Executive Leaders	Ashlawn South

***YA on the Hill** consists of pre-arranged meetings between YA advocacy teams and elected officials on Capitol Hill. This offering is not included as part of general registration, but we encourage registrants to set up meetings with their elected officials during this time.

Scan the QR code below to access a detailed online agenda:



Floorplans:

