



21ST ANNUAL BEST ARTS CONFERENCE

Presented by Pacific Oaks
College & Children's School



Saturday, April 4, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Pasadena City College

CHECK IN: LOUIS CREVELING LOUNGE	
7:30 a.m.	Registration packets, vendors, and continental breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Conference seating begins
8:45 a.m.	Welcome and introductory presentation
9:10 a.m.	Break
9:30 a.m.	Workshop Session 1
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:05 a.m.	Workshop Session 2
12:20 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Workshop Session 3
2:30 p.m.	Conference ends

[Click here to view the Event Brite link](#)

Feature Presenter Session 1: Susan Wood, M.A.

Workshop Presentation: *From Theory to Practice Through the Lens of STEAM*



Susan Wood's experience over the past 40 years includes serving as a classroom instructor overseeing classroom teachers, coordinating community college preschool practicum students, and providing developmentally appropriate activities for children. Wood is currently the executive director of the **Children's Center at Caltech** and is also the founder of the **Early Childhood Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (ECSTEM) Conference**. She is an active member of the *National Association for the Education of Young Children* and the *National Science Teachers Association* and has presented workshops on a national level in the areas of early childhood curriculum with an emphasis on science education. She holds an M.A. in child development from Pacific Oaks College.

Feature Presenter Session 2: Anna Reyner, M.A.

Workshop Presentation: *Art in the Trauma Toolbox*



Anna Reyner is a nationally recognized arts advocate who is dedicated to helping people get in touch with their own creativity. Anna has conducted more than 800 national and international hands-on art workshops and is a registered art therapist and licensed marriage and family therapist. She holds an M.A. in art therapy from the University of Louisville and a B.A. in art and psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University. Anna is the author of two award-winning books, *Smart Art* and *Smart Art 2*. With nearly 40 years' experience delivering art programs and trainings, she remains passionate about the role of art and creativity in emotional intelligence, mental health, and human wellness. Anna is the founder of Creative Play LA, a new training service and creativity resource for parents and teachers in LA County.

Feature Presenter Session 3: Eric M. Nelson, M.A.

Workshop Presentation: *An Introduction to the Outdoor Classroom: The Perfect Landscape for Art and Early Learning*



Eric Nelson, M.A., is the director of consulting and professional development for the **Child Educational Center, Caltech/JPL Community (CEC)**, which he co-founded with his wife, Elyssa, in 1979. A child development professional since 1974, Eric has delivered a broad range of services for more than 30 years to corporations, government, colleges, and hundreds of early childhood centers, most recently through the **Outdoor Classroom Project**[®]. Project activities focus on site and program consultation, staff training, and yard layout concept plans. An adjunct professor of Child Development since 1977, he also speaks professionally. His book **Cultivating Outdoor Classrooms** was published in 2012 by Redleaf Press and in China in 2016. In 2015 he was awarded the status of Exceptional Master Leader in the field of early childhood education by a panel of his peers. He holds an M.A. in human development from Pacific Oaks College.

BEST Arts Workshop Schedule

ROOM	Session 1 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Session 2 11:05 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Session 3 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.
Featured Presenters: Harbeson Hall - HH001	<i>From Theory to Practice Through the Lens of STEAM</i>	<i>Art in the Trauma Toolbox</i>	<i>An Introduction to the Outdoor Classroom: The Perfect Landscape for Art and Early Learning</i>
R109	Exploring Art Materials to Enhance Toddler Development	Exploring Art Materials to Enhance Toddler Development	STEAM Mathematics & Art
R117	Engaging Children with Rhythm	STEM: Say T Is for Toddlers	STEM: I Say T Is for Toddlers
R123	Creative Arts with Loose Parts	Creative Arts with Loose Parts	Creative Arts with Loose Parts
R205	<i>One, Two, Three, Come Read with Me! Interactive Literacy Activities for Young Children</i>	Music Makes Sense	Music Makes Sense
R216	Music Throughout the Day: From Circle Time to Story Time	Music Throughout the Day: From Circle Time to Story Time	Music Throughout the Day: From Circle Time to Story Time
R217	Let's Play Puppets	Let's Play Puppets	Let's Play Puppets
R102	Positive Behavior Sport Strategies for All	Positive Behavior Sport Strategies for All	Positive Behavior Sport Strategies for All
R219	Bilingual Story Time for Preschoolers Using Puppets, Music, and Props ... Oh My!	Bilingual Story Time for Preschoolers Using Puppets, Music, and Props ... Oh My!	Inclusion Works!
R218	Building Social Emotional Foundations Through the Creation of Books	Building Social Emotional Foundations Through the Creation of Books	What a Boy Wants in School
R220	Yoga for Every Child	Yoga for Every Child	Yoga for Every Child

BEST Arts Workshop Descriptions

ART AND COOKING

Yolanda Carlos, Session 3

STEAM Mathematics & Art

This presentation will provide participants opportunities for fun and creative uses of mathematics with preschoolers and the use of art as an important component for mathematical learning. Participants will engage in hands-on art activities.

Susan Gradin, Session 1, 2

Exploring Art Materials to Enhance Toddler Development

How do open-ended art materials, set up in an engaging way, enrich the learning and development of toddlers? Come and experience how! After experiencing and exploring the art materials, make connections with the Infant/Toddler Foundation.

Cherie Hogan, Session 2, 3

STEM I Say T Is for Toddlers

Learn simple techniques and tools for cooking with children as young as 18 months old. The top 10 toddler-approved, teacher-tested recipes will be given to all in attendance. Cooking with toddlers can be fun, so come and join in!

Ansina Green, Session 1, 2, 3

Creative Arts with Loose Parts

This hands-on, interactive workshop provides resources for different childhood settings along with practical ways to enhance children's learning experiences and outcomes. Strategies will be demonstrated that show how loose parts fosters creativity.

MUSIC

Norman Jones, Session 1

Engaging Children with Rhythm

Learn how music and rhythm can add value to your classroom experience. Proven techniques, developed and used with preschoolers, will be demonstrated. During this hands-on drumming presentation, all attendees will be encouraged to experiment with their own sense of rhythm. Participants will be encouraged to leave motivated, confident, and inspired to drum with their students.

Carmel Madonna, Session, 2, 3

Music Makes Sense

This workshop will provide a variety of ways to include music throughout the day using ALL your senses. Carmel will share ways through breathing, singing, dancing, and inspiring teachers to help enrich their classroom experience. Music is receptive and expressive and provides opportunities to process and react to sensory stimulation.

Kira Rappaport, Session 1, 2, 3

Music Throughout the Day: From Circle Time to Story Time

Music has a place in every aspect of the early childhood classroom. Kira will teach three different music lesson plans, including "Circle Time Songs and Chants," "Fine and Gross Motor Movement," "Literature Made Musical," and "Instrumental Play." Come and join Kira for an incredibly accessible and musical day.

PUPPETS

Michelle Moen, Session 1, 2 ,3

Let's Play Puppets

This workshop will empower teachers to make (and use!) puppets. We will cover why puppets are important in classrooms, different types of puppets, and how to expand your puppet inventory inexpensively using recyclable treasures.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Amy Blandford, Session 3

Inclusion Works!

All children can succeed with the right support. This workshop will focus on building capacity for educators in the classroom and working with parents to build a partnership when concerns arise. Content from PITC and Beginning Together will be incorporated as an interactive workshop.

Michelle Neilsen & Melissa Wolney, Session 1, 2, 3

Positive Behavior Sport Strategies for All

Each of you can make a difference in a child's life. Negative behaviors are often the biggest obstacle we face as educators. Participants will gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to effectively modify and prevent challenging behaviors and leave with a toolbox of strategies they can use with their students.

STORYTELLING

Angelica Saceda Garcia, Session 1, 2

Bilingual Story Time for Preschoolers Using Puppets, Music, and Props ... Oh My!

An interactive, bilingual story time will help your children succeed in life when they fall in love with books! Kids will beg you to read when you use puppets, music, and props during story time. Handouts with a selection of recommended bilingual books, bilingual songs, and puppet show scripts will be included.

Charlene Salinas, Session 1

One, Two, Three, Come Read with Me!

Interactive Literacy Activities for Young Children Get their attention at circle time! Come explore storytelling, utilizing fun, interactive strategies. This highly interactive session is focused on giving you ideas to immediately implement in your classroom.

PEDAGOGIES AND STRATEGIES

Robert Boyman, Session 1, 2

Building Social Emotional Foundations Through the Creation of Books

We will explore the importance of understanding our emotions and being able to label and express them in a healthy manner. Creating a "book" to help us explore the deeper feelings that we are experiencing. In this workshop, real-life experiences and hands-on exploration of the process will take place.

Carol Minami and Fany Abrego, Session 3

What a Boy Wants in School

Let's learn about the boys in our classroom by looking at the differences in how boys and girls think, develop their learning styles and feelings, and environmental needs. We will share stories and activities that will bring out the best in boys.

YOGA

Amber Ramseyer, Session 1, 2, 3

Yoga for Every Child

Learn fun and engaging yoga and mindfulness techniques to improve focus, attention, strength, balance, and coordination in every child. Integrating the brain, breath, and body through the use of stories and games will help children find balance throughout their day. Adaptations and modifications for special needs will be discussed.

Biographies for Workshop Presenters

Amy Blandford

Amy Blandford has more than 30 years of experience in early childhood education. She is a PITC Trainer, California Inclusion Trainer, and is currently working as Assistant Professor of Education, Child Development and Director of Fieldwork at the University of La Verne. Amy is dedicated to supporting educators to grow in leadership and professionalism. Amy's motto is Educated Educators ELEVATE (E.C.E).

Robert Boyman

Robert Boyman is the executive director and adjunct professor for Pacific Oaks College & Children's School. He has been teaching young children for more than 23 years and has worked in private and state funded schools. Robert believes that all children deserve high quality education to set healthy foundations for future success. He is also a firm believer in the humanistic and emergent approach to education in ensuring healthy brain development and the ability to be resilient and empathetic to others. These are the core beliefs that brought him to Pacific Oaks six years ago.

Yolanda Carlos

Professor Carlos has developed a passion for the early childhood education profession and providing culturally centered programs and education for creating agents of change. She has presented papers and workshops at statewide and international conferences, most recently at the Learner Research Conference, Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland (2019) on Anti-Bias through the Lens of the Practitioner and at Hong Kong International Conference of Education, Psychology, and Society (2018). She has also presented workshops throughout China and California focusing on STEAM specialization developed for educators; trauma-informed practices for teachers at the World Forum (2017); and UPC International Educators Congress, Lima, Peru (2015).

Angelica Saceda Garcia

Ms. Angel has worked for the Anaheim Public Library for 34 years and has been a Spanish and bilingual children's storyteller for the last 15 years. She has a bachelor's degree in Child Development from Cal State Fullerton. She has worked as a preschool and elementary school teacher as well as a school librarian for the Anaheim Elementary School District. Ms. Angel trains and mentors new storytellers, librarians, and support staff for Anaheim and was the official Emcee Storyteller for the 2019 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books Children's Stage. Her musical bilingual story time uses puppets, props, booksharing, folktales, and stories from all around the world.

Susan Gradin

For the past 40 years, the focus of Susan Gradin's educational and career goals has been children and families. Susan received a bachelor's degree in Developmental Psychology from UCSB and a master's degree in Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University. Susan completed a variety of ECE courses and received certification in the five Infant/Toddler Caregiving modules through WestED. Her past job experiences as teacher assistant, teacher, infant/toddler coordinator, assistant director, and director provided many hours of observing and learning from children and families. For the last 20 years, Susan has been a full-time faculty member at Cerritos College in the Child Development Department.

Ansina Green

Ansina Green is the owner of Green Tree Community School, a Tier 5 Reggio-inspired family child care program. She earned a M.S. in Human Development with a specialization in Infant/Toddler Development. Ansina is pursuing her Ph.D. in Early Childhood with an emphasis in Leadership and Advocacy. She is an associate professor at Mt. San Jacinto College, UC Riverside extension and has facilitated numerous statewide workshops. She is the founder of Early Childhood Educators Network and holds the position of Director Mentor and Mentor Teacher for the California Early Mentor Program. Ansina studied abroad in Reggio Emilia Italy, which influences her current practice. Her passion is training, coaching, and educating children, teachers, and parents.

Cherie Hogan

Cherie Hogan is an early childhood educator, mentor, and author. In addition, she is an adjunct instructor, presenter, guest speaker, and an avid lover of books.

Norman Jones

By creating a fun environment that uses the drum as a tool for developing confidence, increasing coordination, and reinforcing core curriculum, Norman Jones helps children understand patterns of learning. He has spoken at numerous conferences and workshops as well as being a respected classroom teacher.

Carmel Madonna

Carmel Madonna is a native of Redondo Beach and received an associate of arts in Early Childhood Education. She grew up in a musical family and attributes her love of performing to them. She plays guitar daily and has added a ukulele to the mix. She received a Ryan Designated Subject Matter Credential in Parent Education and spent 28 years in the classroom before retiring. She will never retire from music, and she enjoys gigging about town.

Michelle Neilson

Michelle Neilson has worked with individuals with special needs for the past 14 years. She is a Behavior Intervention Supervisor for Long Beach USD and is certified in Non-Violent Crisis Prevention strategies. She is passionate about helping children and their educators overcome behavioral obstacles so they can reach their full potential. She is a strong advocate for expanding awareness and acceptance of neuro-diverse children in society at large. Michelle earned her master's degree in psychology from Cal State Long Beach. When she is not working, she can be found exploring the outdoors with her husband and two young boys.

Carol Minami and Fany Abrego

Carol Minami is a retired teacher from Los Angeles Harbor College Child Development Center. Currently, she volunteers at a preschool in Rancho Palos Verdes Wilmington Rotary Club and Vision to Learn, along with other community projects. She is a supporter of Early Education Action League and an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Fany Abrego is the director of a preschool and an avid supporter of early education.

Michelle Moen

Michelle Moen received her master's degree from Cal State Long Beach and teaches at El Camino College. She has more than 20 years of experience teaching young children in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and California. She also keeps busy with her roles as a consultant, guest speaker, artist, and professional storyteller.

Amber Ramseyer

Amber Ramseyer, MC, OTR/L, SWC, CYT, is an occupational therapist who works at Pediatric Therapy Network, an internationally renowned pediatric clinic specializing in sensory integration theory and intervention. She has advanced training and certification in sensory integration and administration of the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests as well as advanced certification in swallowing assessment and intervention. Amber has completed her 200-hour yoga certification and is certified to teach yoga for children with special needs.

Kira Rappaport

Kira Rappaport has an M.A. in music education. In addition, she has completed Level III Orff-Schulwerk Teacher Certification and Mastership Certification in Edwin Gordon's Early Childhood Music Learning Theory. In 2019, Kira completed an 18-month fellowship in the "First 36 Project," educating parent educators on whole child development during the first three years of life. Kira currently teaches Parent and Me music classes, preschool music classes, and teacher workshops on the use of music in the early childhood classroom. She has released two children's music CDs. She regularly performs with her band, Kira Rappaport and Friends. Learn more at www.musicwithkira.com.

Carlene Salinas

Carlene Salinas has been working with young children and their families since the early 1990s. She currently teaches Head Start for the Norwalk-La Mirada School District. Carlene enjoys presenting hands-on, interactive storytelling workshops at the state and local level.

About Pacific Oaks College & Children's School

Founded 75 years ago in 1945, Pacific Oaks College & Children's School (PO) is composed of two educational entities. **Pacific Oaks Children's School** provides non-profit early childhood education programs for children ages 6 months through 5 years and has pioneered achievements in the areas of anti-bias education, emergent curriculum, and peaceful conflict resolution. Informed by Quaker principles, Pacific Oaks Children's School brings an inclusive approach to early childhood education—teaching children to respect and embrace the differences that make others unique.

Pacific Oaks College is a non-profit, accredited higher education institution offering bachelor's and master's programs in education, early childhood education, teacher preparation, human development, marriage and family therapy, advocacy & social justice, community psychology, business administration, social work, and organizational leadership and management. Guided by four core values—respect, diversity, social justice, and inclusion—Pacific Oaks College has helped graduates change the world.

