

Stop! Collaborate, and Listen: Active Storytelling for the Classroom

Outcomes:

- Based on this session, participants will be able to strengthen their communication skills through active storytelling and improvisational activities.
- Based on this session, participants will be able to enliven various subjects through kinesthetic activities and a collaborative group project.

V.A.P.A. Standards:

2.0 CREATIVE EXPRESSION: Creating, Performing, and Participating in Theatre

Students apply processes and skills in acting, directing, designing, and scriptwriting to create formal and informal theatre, film/videos, and electronic media productions and to perform in them.

5.0 CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS: Connecting and Applying What Is Learned in Theatre, Film/Video, and Electronic Media to Other Art Forms and Subject Areas and to Careers

Students apply what they learn in theatre, film/video, and electronic media across subject areas.

They develop competencies and creative skills in problem solving, communication, and time management that contribute to lifelong learning and career skills. They also learn about careers in and related to theatre.

Workshop Outline:

WARM UP

When we are able to feel emotions and then express them physically, we come closer to a state of empathy for others. Putting oneself in the shoes of another is a key to understanding people from different cultures, religions, throughout history, and people today.

– Nina Silver, Actress and Skirball Arts-Educator

Through an improvisational movement and voice activity, participants will gain a greater understanding of how to convey character, emotions and story using their bodies and voices.

1. Ask participants to walk in a circle in a “natural” way.
2. Ask participants to say the word “Hello” as they normally would.
3. Ask participants to change their mood, and walk around the room as if it’s the happiest day of their lives. Remind them to allow their “happy” mood to affect their physicality: posture, tempo, eye-contact and facial expressions.
4. Have the participants say “Hello!” in this happy mood. Remind them to allow their “happy” mood to affect the pitch, volume and sound of their voice.
5. Change the mood to anger, sadness and fear; each time asking them to show these emotions in their bodies, voices and faces.

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GROUP PROJECT: Natural History Dioramas



In groups, create a moving diorama; similar to the ones in the Natural History Museum, that illustrates the habitat, behavior, and intra-species interactions among a family of “animals” native to schools.

Criteria for participants:

- Work cooperatively and include all members of your group.
- Your diorama should include movement and end in a frozen “pose” or tableaux showing the animals in their natural habitat.
- The movement, pose and arrangement must evoke the behavior of your animal (i.e. the school inspired trait they represent).
- Non-verbal authentic sounds may be a part of your diorama’s exhibit features.
- The natural habitat – weather, landscape, etc – should be communicated in your diorama during the presentation.
- Your diorama may also include a text label describing the animal in your presentation.

Animals:

Studentiphus (pygmy or full-size)
Collaborate-otamus

Teach-itross
Communicatiger
Participotimus

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Each group presents their project.

REFLECTION

- Questions for the Activity Group:
 - How did you work together as a group?
 - How did you collaborate and communicate with each other during this exercise?
- Questions for the Observers:
 - What did you see?
 - What did the group do to get their message across?
 - What was surprising or unexpected?
- **Essential Question: How can you translate these activities to your classroom/content area?**

Storytelling Experiences in Los Angeles & Elsewhere

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHY	HOW MUCH
Storytelling in Noah's Ark	Skirball Cultural Center	ongoing (Tues-Fri 12pm-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-5pm)	Inspired by the ancient flood story, which has parallels in diverse cultures around the world, this one-of-a-kind new destination invites visitors of all generations to have fun—and to connect with one another, learn the value of community, and help build a better world.	\$10 General; \$7 Seniors 65+ and Full-Time Students; \$5 Children 2-12 FREE to Children under 2 and Skirball Members All exhibitions are FREE to the public on Thursdays.
Cornucopia, An Hour of Storytelling and Other Delights	Actors Workout Studio 4735 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood	Monthly	Coffee's ready and the doors open at 3:30 pm, show starts 3:45 pm sharp. Show is not for children. Make a reservation. Call (818) 506-3903. Direct all inquiries regarding Cornucopia to theellenloop@hotmail.com	\$8
LA Moth StorySLAM	Various: usually at Los Globos or Busby's East	check website for dates: http://themoth.org/events	The LA Moth StorySLAMs are storytelling competitions where the stage is open to any and all with a story to tell on the evening's theme.	Typically a limited number of presale tickets will be available for \$16 \$8 tickets at the door
Improv!	Improv Olympic West, The Upright Citizens Brigade, The Groundlings, Second City	Various Nightly Shows: see websites for times	Some of the basic skills improvisation teaches: to listen and be aware of the other players, to have clarity in communication, and confidence to find choices instinctively and spontaneously. Knowing how to improvise off the script helps performers find life-like choices in rehearsal and to then keep the quality of discovery in the present moment in their performance.	Various: usually between \$5 and \$20

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHY	HOW MUCH
Talespinners	Allendale Branch Library, 1130 S. Marengo Ave., Pasadena	meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm	Talespinners is a Toasmasters club specializing in storytelling. Email: motaya@aol.com.	free
Live Theater!	various	various	As an audience member, you will experience many facets of storytelling: the actors, direction, writing, set, costumes, lighting, music, etc...	various
The National Storytelling Conference	The National Storytelling Conference	August 1-4, 2013 in Richmond VA	The National Storytelling Conference brings together National Storytelling Network (NSN) members, as well as individuals and organizations from the community, who are interested in the art and application of storytelling. Members and non-members present material appealing to attendees' variety of interests and developmental needs.	\$60 for membership



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR K-GRADE 12 TEACHERS

Participate in dynamic teacher professional development programs at the Skirball Cultural Center. Activities and benefits include:

- Learn strategies for creating and implementing arts-based curricula that connects to your existing units and lessons.
- Build lasting relationships with a community of like-minded educators.
- Attend classroom workshops, gallery tours, and live performances at the Skirball.

The course is divided into four strands. Teachers are welcome to sign up for a single strand or any combination of up to four strands. Each strand consists of four full-day Saturdays of training, as well as a gallery tour or live performance at no additional charge. Workshops are designed for active classroom teachers. No prior experience in the arts is required for any of the course strands.

Strand One: MUSIC

Four Saturdays • October 6–27, 2012 • 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Enjoy artist-led workshops that provide teachers with vocabulary and inquiry-driven teaching tools for connecting music to language arts, math, science, and history.

Strand Two: MOVEMENT

Four Saturdays • February 2–23, 2013 • 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

In this multidisciplinary strand, participants will learn how to integrate a variety of forms of movement into their teaching, including dance, puppetry, and performance.

Strand Three: FILM

Four Saturdays • March 9–30, 2013 • 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

In this strand, teachers will learn to use film as a way to improve instruction, both as a tool for teaching students how to demonstrate their learning and as an analytical methodology for teaching core content. Film screenings and filmmaking workshops will supplement class activities.

Strand Four: VISUAL ART AND DESIGN

Four Saturdays • April 13–May 4, 2013 • 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Using local resources in art and design as well as the Skirball exhibition *Gary Baseman: The Door Is Always Open* (on view at the Skirball beginning March 2013), teachers will learn ways to apply design thinking to planning and instruction. Thinking like a designer can transform the way teachers imagine lessons and approach content, allow educators to connect lessons to the world surrounding your students, and foster collaboration and creativity.

Questions? teacherprograms@skirball.org



SALARY POINTS:

Multiple LAUSD salary points are available for participating teachers. Details available upon registration.

FEES*:

- Any one strand (four classes): \$80
- Any combination of two strands (eight classes): \$120
- Any combination of three strands (twelve classes): \$165
- All four strands (sixteen classes): \$200

* Schools that send three or more staff will receive a 50% reduction in course fees for each participant (this offer excludes single class registration).

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2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
www.skirball.org • (310) 440-4500
FREE parking;
street parking strictly prohibited
Or take Metro Rapid 761

**Sign
up
today!**

Skirball
Cultural Center



Skirball Cultural Center At a Glance

MISSION STATEMENT

Open to the public since 1996, the Skirball Cultural Center is dedicated to exploring the connections between 4,000 years of Jewish heritage and the vitality of American democratic ideals. It welcomes and seeks to inspire people of every ethnic and cultural identity in American life. Guided by our respective memories and experiences, together we aspire to build a society in which all of us can feel at home.

The Skirball Cultural Center achieves its mission through educational programs that explore the literary, visual and performing arts from around the world; through the display and interpretation of its permanent collections and changing exhibitions; through an interactive family destination inspired by the Noah's Ark story; and through outreach to the community.

NOAH'S ARK AT THE SKIRBALL

Noah's Ark at the Skirball, a children's and family destination designed for generations to enjoy together, opened to the public in June 2007 and will remain on view permanently. Inspired by the ancient flood story of Noah's Ark, which has parallels in hundreds of cultures around the world, this indoor and outdoor attraction offers a multi-sensory, interactive experience. Visitors board a gigantic wooden ark to play, climb, build and collaborate alongside handcrafted, fanciful animals—from life-sized elephants and giraffes to snow leopards, flamingos and iguanas. Together families imagine taking an ark voyage from stormy world to dry land and delight in working with one another for a brighter, more hopeful future.

The Noah's Ark galleries were designed by Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects of Seattle. Partner Jim Olson was the lead designer of the ark and Principal Alan Maskin designed the interactive exhibits and provided art direction for the project, including the design of nearly 300 animals. Brooklyn-based designer/puppeteer Chris M. Green created additional life-sized animals, many of them puppets to be operated by gallery staff. Outdoors, the Noah's Ark experience includes a rainbow mist installation developed by Moshe Safdie, the architect of the Skirball Cultural Center, in partnership with environmental artist Ned Kahn.

SKIRBALL MUSEUM

The Skirball's core exhibition, *Visions and Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America*, traces the history, experiences and values of Jews over 4,000 years. Featuring changing displays of works from the Skirball's museum collection, the exhibition's galleries contain multimedia installations, rare artifacts, historical documents and photographs, works of fine art, interactive computer stations and sound recordings that lead visitors on the Jewish people's journey, culminating with their experiences in the United States. Anchored by the theme of retaining one's heritage while adapting to life in America, this narrative resonates with a remarkable number of Skirball visitors, over half of whom are not Jewish.

Comprised of more than 30,000 objects, the Skirball's museum collection includes archaeological artifacts from biblical and later historical periods; Jewish ceremonial objects from countries all over the globe; an extensive group of Old World Jewish objects; the Project Americana collection, comprised of objects that document the "everyday life of ordinary people" in the United States since the 1850s; and works of fine art in a variety of media.

SKIRBALL PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Skirball presents a diverse range of music, theater, poetry, literary, film and other performing arts. Some of the most important contemporary minds—award-winning artists, philosophers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, critics, public leaders, entertainers and playwrights—engage enthusiastic audiences at the Skirball. The Skirball's music and dance programs are considered vanguard and among the best in the western United States. The free summer Sunset Concerts series attracts nearly 1,000 visitors each week.

SKIRBALL AS EDUCATOR

The Skirball annually serves approximately 60,000 schoolchildren and teachers representing virtually every religious and ethnic background in Southern California. The Skirball's school outreach programs in cultural history and performing arts draw visitors from all over the region. The family-oriented discovery center, which includes a simulated dig site and field tent, offers a look at the archaeology of ancient Israel and the Near East. Family programs take place regularly and attract new and returning visitors for entertainment and education. Highlights include toddler classes, children's concerts, art and music workshops, archaeological dig workshops, readings, summer camps and the annual Hanukkah Family Festival. The Learning for Life department offers adult education courses in comparative religion and culture, art, creative writing, literature and the American Jewish experience.

SKIRBALL MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Skirball accomplishes its mission thanks to the generosity and active participation of thousands of individuals from all walks of life across the United States and abroad, including a dedicated corps of more than 7,000 members, volunteers and docents; distinguished foundations and corporations; and governmental funding agencies. These philanthropic supporters are passionate about the positive and essential force of the Skirball's mission—to bring people together in positive and hopeful engagement and to change lives by making meaningful connections across generations, communities, histories, ideas and forms of creative expression.

SKIRBALL ARCHITECTURE

Designed by Israeli-born architect Moshe Safdie, the campus of the Skirball Cultural Center is nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains and has been admired for its intimate scale and sensitivity to the natural environment. Safdie's recent and current commissions are the United States Institute of Peace Headquarters, Washington, D.C.; the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, in Kansas City, MO; the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, in Bentonville, AK; the federal courthouse in Springfield, MA; the Khalsa Heritage Centre, in Amandpur Sahib, Punjab, India; Eleanor Roosevelt College at the University of California at San Diego; the Telfair Museum of Art, in Savannah, GA; the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, in Jerusalem; and the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Center in Tel Aviv. Safdie has also taught at Harvard, McGill, Yale, and Ben Gurion Universities. Mr. Safdie designed the entire Skirball Cultural Center campus, including the amphitheater portion of Noah's Ark. During his career, Safdie has taught at Harvard, McGill and Yale Universities, as well as several Israeli universities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Skirball Cultural Center
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
www.skirball.org · (310) 440-4500
FREE on-site parking; street parking strictly prohibited
Or take Metro Rapid 761

Museum hours: Tuesday–Friday, 12:00–5:00 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Closed Mondays and holidays.

Museum admission: \$10 General; \$7 Seniors, Full-Time Students, and Children over 12; \$5 Children 2–12. Exhibitions are always FREE to Skirball Members and Children under 2. Exhibitions are FREE to all visitors on Thursdays.

[08/25/11]



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Skirball FOR Families

Fun-filled cultural activities for you and your family every day!



JOHN ELDER



STEVE COHN

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Skirball FOR Families

- Noah's Ark at the Skirball™, the interactive, award-winning family destination
- Family-friendly music, dance, and theater
- Archaeological dig activities
- Hands-on art workshops
- Toddler classes
- Family storytime
- The annual Hanukkah Family Festival



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For complete schedule and ticketing information, visit www.skirball.org.

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