

Creating and Marketing Sensory-Friendly Cultural Events for Audiences & Visitors with Autism and Sensory Processing Disorders

LEAD 2014 Conference and Training - Chicago, IL

Sunday, August 3, 2014: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Gleacher Center - Room 602

Presenters

- Francine M. Andersen, Chief of Arts Education, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs (FL)
 - Phillip A. Collazo, MEd, CYT, Co-Founder, Director of Education, Project AWWOL–A WorldWithOut Labels (FL)
 - Beth Gordon, Accessibility Consultant (FL)
 - Roger I. Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA, Associate Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Temple University (PA)
 - Judy Litt, Director of Education & Community Engagement, Miami Theater Center (FL)
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Francine M. Andersen
Chief of Arts Education
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
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Francine Andersen joined the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in 1993, first as an administrator for the Performing Arts Center Trust during the design phase of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, and later as Chief of Cultural Facilities, overseeing a number of neighborhood cultural facilities projects and serving as administrator for the Capital Development Grants Program.

Ms. Andersen was named Chief of Arts Education in 2002 and since 2006, has helped secure and has directly managed nearly \$9.9 million in grant funding from the Miami-Dade County Children's Trust to vastly expand the Department's arts education and outreach initiatives, reaching over 200,000 children and families annually. She is responsible for the creation and management of several arts education, outreach and access programs including the Youth Arts Miami, Youth Arts Enrichment Program, and the Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids grants programs.

As the Department's ADA/Access Coordinator, Ms. Andersen is responsible for the creation and administration of the Audience Access grants program and the "All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids (AKI)" initiative: developing a wide range of model demonstration

arts projects for children and youth with and without disabilities, including: the annual All Kids Included Family Arts Festival which she produced from 2007 – 2011; the Shadow Interpreted Theatre Program for Children and Families, presented in 2010 for the first-time ever in the State of Florida; the Youth Arts in the Parks program for children with and without disabilities begun in 2011; the “Open Access Theater Series,” presented as part of the opening season of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in 2011, and the Sensory-Friendly cultural programs initiative for audiences and visitors with autism and sensory processing disorders launched in January 2012.

Ms. Andersen was the recipient of Parent to Parent of Miami’s 2012 IMPACT Award honoring individuals in the Miami-Dade community who are dedicated to improving and promoting initiatives that benefit children and adults with disabilities and their families. In 2011 she was recognized by the Florida Dance Association and Tigertail Productions with the Homer Avila Award for Excellence in the Field of Mixed-ability Dance for her work in support of this area of arts access. Ms. Andersen is a Fellow of the Parent Leadership Development Project for children with disabilities, a project of Parent to Parent of Miami and the Mailman Center for Child Development; and participates annually in Autism Speaks' signature fundraising and awareness event, “Walk Now for Autism”, the nation's largest grassroots autism walk program. Ms. Andersen has twice achieved “Grand Club” status for her fundraising efforts on behalf of Autism Speaks.

Ms. Andersen holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Industry with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Miami. She is a classically trained flautist and the proud mother of two young boys who have inspired much of her professional work.

Phillip A. Collazo, MEd, CYT
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- *Master’s of Science in Higher Education*
- *Eligible Florida Public School Teacher (K-6)*
- *Certified Yoga Teacher (CYT) # 1035-205*
- *Nationally Certified KIT Inclusion Facilitator & Trainer of Trainers*
- *Associate Behavior Analyst (Certificate of completion 4/2001)*
- *BA (Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies)*

Phillip Collazo earned his Masters of Science in Higher Education in June of 2011, and has been a Special Educator for more than twelve years. Phillip became familiar with the great need for inclusion training to assist community-based organizations during his time training

out-of-school program providers funded by the Miami-Dade County Children's Trust. Phillip draws upon his training in Applied Behavior Analysis, the fine arts, and Yoga to provide practical strategies and solutions for inclusion in the classroom and community settings.

As a special educator with a background in behavior, visual arts and yoga, Phillip has developed multiple programs focused on including children of all abilities into educational and recreational settings by incorporating multi-sensory teaching strategies. He is also a practicing teaching artist in the visual arts and an experienced facilitator working with non-profit and government organizations, schools and families with children and adults with and without disabilities.

Phillip draws upon his years in the classroom and knowledge of working with individuals with disabilities to create and facilitate professional development workshops for arts, government, and social service administrators, as well as caregivers and educators. For nearly ten years he has been facilitating workshops, both nationally and internationally, on a range of topics and learning strategies, promoting fully inclusive learning environments. Some of his audiences currently include United States Military Child-Care Employees and local and national YMCA staff. In addition, Phillip serves as a regular facilitator for the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids (AKI) annual professional development workshop series.

Beth Gordon
Accessibility Consultant
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As both a reading teacher and a teacher of the visually impaired, Beth taught for over 25 years in the Miami-Dade County Public School System and served as the District Chairperson for the Programs for the Visually Impaired for nine years. She worked with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as one of the Next Generation Assessment Team Members, where she participated in the development of new assessment procedures for National Board Teacher Certification in the Exceptional Needs Strand.

Beth worked with VSA Florida, the state organization on arts and disability, from 2005 – 2010 to develop the position of Cultural Access Coordinator. In that capacity she focused on several initiatives; including the use of universal design and assistive technology for inclusive programming, professional development which targeted access strategies for staff and docents in a variety of cultural venues, and the development of audio description and open captioning programs in the state of Florida. Beth has been a presenter on inclusive strategies, assistive

technology, and cultural accessibility for teachers, universities, cultural organizations and at numerous state and national conferences.

For five years Beth served as a coach for VSA arts National Community of Practice program, a professional learning community for teaching artists and teachers who work in inclusive settings with students of all abilities. Additionally, Beth was an instructor for the pilot online class, VSA Curriculum Design for Arts Teaching and Learning, certified by Lesley University. Beth now works as an independent Inclusion and Accessibility Consultant.

Ms. Gordon has presented nationally and extensively throughout the State of Florida on behalf of VSA Florida and serves as a regular facilitator for the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids (AKI) annual professional development workshop series.

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Roger I. Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA has worked to provide community access and opportunity for children with developmental disabilities. He advises various community and cultural arts organizations on building meaningful learning experiences for children with disabilities and their families. The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (Washington, DC), Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC), Imagination Stage (Bethesda, MD), Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (Pittsburgh, PA), Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (Pittsburgh, PA), New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences (Camden, NJ), Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia, PA) are a few of the community organizations where he advises. He has published and presented his work in local, regional and national venues. He is a strong advocate of experiential, community, and service-based learning. He and his students have collaborated with various organizations to serve vital community interests resulting in the creation of outdoor play spaces, learning gardens, community mosaic murals, and movement/arts based curricula to enhance the quality of life for children and families. He received his BS in Occupational Therapy from University of Washington in Seattle, WA, and his JD from Temple University Law School. He is a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Judy Litt
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Judy Litt is the Education and Community Engagement Director at Miami Theater Center in Miami Shores, Florida and coordinates its Theatre Inclusion Program (TIP) and manages partnerships with Miami-Dade County public schools and organizations serving adults and children with disabilities. TIP offers adaptations, study guides, behind-the-scenes Touch Tours and other programs to enhance the theatre experience of under-served children and audiences with disabilities. Over 1,500 children, families and caregivers annually attend TIP performances and continuing education programs.

Among her many accomplishments, Mrs. Litt was instrumental in bringing cutting-edge "shadow interpretation" to south Florida stages. In prior seasons, Miami Theater Center in conjunction with the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and VSA Florida, presented *The Love of Three Oranges* with shadow interpretation. During shadow-interpreted theatre, specially trained ASL interpreters perform as "shadows" alongside MTC company members. The shadow actors are integrated into the performance, mirroring the voiced actors on stage, while interpreting the character in American Sign Language (ASL).

Mrs. Litt has taken a leadership role in South Florida, garnering resources to support theater inclusion programming and presenting "lessons learned." She serves on the Steering Group for All Kids Included, an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs that encourages non-profit organizations to create ADA/Accessible arts experiences for children with disabilities, so that all children have the opportunity to participate in the arts. She also serves on the board of directors at VSA Florida, Karen Peterson and Dancers and is a member of FLACA (Florida Access Coalition for the Arts). Mrs. Litt was awarded the Best Practices in Access Award for the State of Florida. The award, presented by Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and VSA Florida, is generously funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Mrs. Litt was awarded The Kennedy Center's LEAD Award for Emerging Leaders in August 2010 and the Homer Avila Award for Excellence in the Field of Mixed Ability in 2012. Mrs. Litt holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Education from Adelphi University.