Dear Teachers,

Thank you for your interest in the MCA’s Teacher Institute 2.0, the museum’s most immersive and collaborative professional development program for educators. The Institute launches this summer with a new program design, aimed at helping you design, incubate, and implement innovative, contemporary curriculum.

This year, the MCA will select 15 passionate, creative teachers who wish to shake up their practice and make an impact in the lives of their students and school community.

Applicants must propose a contemporary-art based project or unit to be developed during the Summer Residency, implemented in the Fall semester, and reflected upon through writing and the production of a shareable resource in the Winter and Spring. We are looking for *new* projects that critically engage your students with the art and ideas of our time; champion inquiry and dialogue; seek to build and engage community; and push beyond comfort zones.

Chicago Public School teachers from **all** grade levels and academic disciplines are encouraged to apply. Some spaces may be reserved for non-CPS teachers. As this program requires work to be enacted in the classroom, applicants must currently be assigned to teach in a school for the 2014-15 academic year. Teachers must have a minimum of two years’ classroom experience.

**Applications are due by Sunday June 22, 2014.**

**E-mail completed applications** toteacherprograms@mcachicago.org.

Questions about the application?  Not sure if the Institute is right for you?Please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lydia Ross

Programmer of Education: School and Teacher Programs

[lross@mcachicago.org](mailto:lross@mcachicago.org)

312.397.3841

**Part I:  Statement of Commitment**

By applying and signing this statement of commitment you are indicating your commitment to participating in the full year-long MCA Teacher Institute, should you be accepted.

The dates for the 2014-2015 Teacher Institute are as follows.

**Summer Residence**

**Monday, August 4 – Friday, August 8, 2014 from 9am to 3pm**

The Institute begins with an immersive week-long residence at the MCA, designed to be a time and space for you to recharge as a creative practitioner and dive head first into your project, with the museum and your cohort as resources. Sessions include exercises inside and outside of the galleries focused on contemporary art and curriculum as creative and social practice, along with independent and group work around your individual projects.

**Fall Seminars + Project Implementation**

**Saturday mornings (10am – 1pm) October 4, November 1, December 6, 2014**

As you return to the classroom to implement your projects, the Institute continues with three sessions at the MCA. These are the time to continue your professional growth while bridging the experiences we have in the museum with what is happening in your classroom. The semester culminates with a share-out/critique around your projects.

**Winter and Spring Resource Development**

**January – May 2015**

During the Winter and Spring Term of the Institute, the emphasis shifts from project implementation to reflective writing and the production of a shareable resource for the larger teaching community.

**Teacher Exchange**

**Saturday, May 30, 2015, 10am – 1:30pm**

The Institute culminates in a public symposium to discuss your projects and the related resources produced during the year.

By signing below, you are indicating your commitment to participating in the full program, including the above dates. Please note this does not indicate acceptance into the program.

Please sign here                                                                                                                                                             Date

**Part II:  About you**

Full Name:

Home address including city, state, and zip:

Primary e-mail address:

Primary phone number:

School Name:

School Address including city, state, and zip:

Describe your school (include information about demographics, neighborhood, school culture, graduation rates, administration, faculty, and anything else that would tell the story of where you teach).

Which grade level(s) do you teach?

Which subject(s) do you teach?

How many years have you taught in your current position at your school?

How many years have you taught in total?

How did you hear about the MCA Teacher Institute?

Have you participated in the following MCA programs?  Please check all that apply.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Teacher Institute | Teacher Tour or Workshop | Multiple Visit Program | Educator Salon | Educator Symposium | Student field trip to the MCA | Other |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part III: Your Project, Your Thoughts**

**Tell us about your project (200 words or less)**

Tell us about the project you would like to develop as part of the Teacher Institute. What will it look like in the classroom? What activities would this involve? What gets you excited about it?

**How is it contemporary? (200 words or less)**In what ways does your project relate to contemporary art or ideas?

**Why does it matter? (200 words or less)**

How do you see this project impacting your students’ ability to make a difference in their school or wider community?

**Why you?** **(200 words or less)**  
Tell us about you and why you’re interested in participating in the Teacher Institute.

**Please answer the following questions.**

*Answers should be kept brief*

1. How do you currently engage and build community inside and outside the walls of the classroom?
2. Describe a recent contemporary art-related project or unit you designed that would give us a better sense of your experience and style. Share an interesting success or failure that occured.
3. Describe your ideal professional development program.  Describe your nightmare professional development program
4. To what extent would your administration and school community be supportive of your involvement in this in-depth, contemporary art-based professional development experience?