

Apply now for Teacher Institute 2.0! 2014–2015

The Teacher Institute continues to be the MCA's most immersive and collaborative professional development program. It launches this summer with a new program design, aimed at helping teachers conceptualize, 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 classroom during 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.

Why Teacher Institute?

Because by participating in the program, you will:

- Make the MCA your haven, your studio, and your laboratory for a year while you develop a contemporary-art based classroom project. The MCA will provide support, including a modest budget for resources, to help make your project a reality.
- Investigate the qualities of contemporary art and contemporary teaching and learning, paying close attention to the place of the creative process and inquiry in both pursuits.
- Join and influence a dynamic community and conversation around contemporary pedagogy.
- Through a free, artist-led field trip to the MCA:
 - Deepen your students' connection to the cultural resources of the city.
 - Intensify your students' engagement with contemporary art through inquiry-based encounters with art objects.

Plus:

- The Institute is free.
- As a full and active participant in the year-long program, you will earn 42 CPDUs and 3 Lane Credits.
- You will receive priority in booking a free, artist-led field trip (with free busing!) to the MCA.

What your colleagues have to say:

The Institute is for teachers who want to explore how to use contemporary works of art to facilitate rich discussions engaging students in critical questions regarding how we represent our shared experience of a rapidly changing world.This program is for teachers who want to draw larger philosophically and worldly connections to the lives of their students. In the midst of a public education crisis, this program will leave teachers feeling hopeful, inspired and capable of change. –2013-14 Teacher Institute participant

How is the Institute structured?

The Institute is designed and led by a talented teaching team. Annie Heckman and Rachel Harper are artists and educators who see their work in terms of both contemporary art and contemporary curriculum. Invited artists and educators also support the arc of the Institute during the year.

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 share your projects and the related resources produced during the year.

How do I apply?

Download and complete the application [online](#). E-mail it to teacherprograms@mcachicago.org by **Sunday, June 22, 2014**. Applicants will be notified within two weeks.

Who can apply?

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.

Not sure if the Institute is right for you?

Make an appointment to chat with Lydia Ross, Programmer of Education: School and Teacher Programs over the phone or in person at the MCA. E-mail teacherprograms@mcachicago.org or call 312.397.3841.