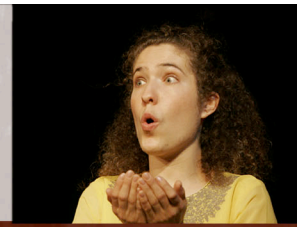




Arianna Ross

# story tapestries



Weaving a lively fabric of tales.

## Story Tapestries

With art, understanding. With understanding, community

To fulfill our mission, Story Tapestries has developed a network of Master Teaching Artists that are able to deliver high-quality, customized programs to people of all ages. They have a diverse set of talents and skills, so that we are able to offer a wide range of programs that incorporate visual arts, music, dance, theatre, and storytelling. Our team offers for example:

- **Robotics and Storytelling Workshops:** Connecting innovation, engineering and building skills with story sequence, character traits and teamwork
- **Geometry and Visual Art for test preparation:** Students draw their own cartoons using geometric shapes that they must recognize in standardized tests
- **Song Writing and Composition Workshops:** Teachers and students discover the art of writing lyrics and crafting music that is connected to their curricula.
- **Stories-in-Motion:** Empowered math instruction through dance and choreography.
- **Family Innovation Nights:** The entire family spends 1 and a half to 3 hours making and creating anything from robots to books.
- **Professional Development for teachers:** Build practical skills for improving classroom management, teaching to multiple levels in the classroom, and using the arts to engage students in their academic lessons

### Why should we include the arts in the word STEM?

8<sup>th</sup> graders in 14 countries outperformed American students in math.

Schools integrating the arts into the curriculum as part of a comprehensive education reform strategy are documenting positive changes in the school environment and improved student performance.<sup>1</sup>

...students with high arts involvement performed better on standardized achievement tests than students with low arts involvement. Moreover, the high arts-involved students also watched fewer hours of TV, participated in more community service and reported less boredom in school.<sup>1</sup>

**Story Tapestries, Inc.** creates entertaining and educational, international, dynamic programs that weave the power of dance, theatre, creative writing, music and spoken word together. Our artists are known for their ability to entertain/educate both children and adults with equal success. For over 12 years, we have performed and taught workshops across the United States, Canada, India, Vietnam, Mexico, England, Italy and Brazil in festivals, concert halls, schools, community centers and hospitals. Some of those venues have included multiple Smithsonian National Museums, Towson University, The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Wolf Trap's Theatre-in-the-Woods, National Storytelling Festival, National Association of the Educators of Young Children National Conference, Maryland Association of School Libraries, NPR for the Kojo Nnamdi Show and in Public Television, and Round House Theatre.

<sup>1</sup> Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Achievement and Social Development, Washington, DC: AEP

**International, Historical, and Educational** programs that weave the power of acrobatics, storytelling, music and other art forms together.

### **Rationale for teaching STEAM:**

As technology increasingly defines our global economy and consciousness, math, science, and the ability to innovate and engineer have been recognized as critical skills for young people to master. The arts provide a way of integrating STEAM concepts across disciplines and engaging both sides of the brain in the learning process; activating the minds of every type of learner, and helping students dissolve all barriers to learning. Learning through the arts means creating an experiential learning environment where children utilize all their senses to synthesize information. They simultaneously build confidence and improve their communication and presentation skills – tools that become extremely valuable when it's time to enter the work force and succeed in job interviews, for example. The strength of Story Tapestries' artist-in-residency project is that we will not only improve math and science skills for those involved, but also help create innovative thinkers who have a desire to learn, who can logically think through and solve problem, and who are inspired to think creatively to help define our future communities.

### **Why integrate the Arts into your life and learning?**

“The arts can play a crucial role in improving student’s ability to learn because they can draw on a range of intelligences and learning styles. Schools that incorporate music, art, drama, dance and creative writing into the basic curriculum have found that teaching the arts has a significant effect on overall success in school. Because the arts are closely associated with important ideas and events in history, students who have a good background in the arts are likely to have a richer source of information and insight to draw upon, compared to those who do not study the arts.”

–President’s Committee on Arts and Learning

Some of the ways the arts improve lives:

- Are languages that all people speak – that cut across racial, cultural, social, education, and economic barriers and enhance cultural appreciation and awareness.
- Integrate mind, body, and spirit.
- Create a seamless connection between motivation, instruction, assessment, and practical application – leading to “deep understanding”.
- Develop both independence and collaboration.

One of the unique aspects of Story Tapestries artists is that our repertoire is not limited to a list of existing programs. We **customize** programs in partnership with schools, museums, libraries and other community organizations. Using a range of artistic tools and methods from spoken-word to movement and from solo artists to collaborative groups, we tailor programs to create lasting resources for integrating arts into daily life and learning long after Story Tapestries’ programs have been completed.

### **For Additional Information:**

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