

Melissa Andrews

2017 Ford Street

Austin, TX 78704

512-586-7452

melissaleaps@gmail.com

Education

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Masters of Arts in American Dance Studies (2005)

Thesis: "Step in Time: The Ritual Function of Social Dance and Military Drill in George Washington's Continental Army"

GPA: 4.0 in degree requirements

Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

MFA program in Dance (8/99-12/99)

Narrative evaluations available on request

New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL

(The Honors College of the State of Florida)

B.A. in Philosophy (1998)

Thesis: "(Re)Presenting Culture: Abstract Communication and Incommensurable Schemes in Museums"

Narrative evaluations available on request

Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA

(Program for the Exceptionally Gifted—8/93-5/95)

GPA 3.7

Relevant Work History

Director of Academics at The Khabele School (Austin, TX)

2006-present

Started as MS and HS teacher in history, literature and dance, advanced to humanities team lead and performing arts director of events, then to Director of Academics for the past three years, overseeing quality of education, instruction and long term strategic program development, AP and IB coordinator, hiring, firing and development of teachers

Major Accomplishments:

- IB Diploma program feasibility study, strategic plan and implementation
- Improved teacher retention and development, creation and implementation of long term evaluation plan centered around individual professional paths based on reflective practices
- Enhanced teacher leadership structure (creating and supporting effective staff committees, introduction of instructional coaches & team leaders to school leadership structure)
- Recruiting and managing teacher contracts, schedules and long term development (\$1.5 million in salaries)
- Increased academic achievement without sacrificing community spirit of the school (increased average AP test scores while increasing participation, improved ITBS scores)

- Vertical alignment of all objectives in all subjects, taking from Common Core, IB, TEKS and teacher knowledge—managed creation of course sites for every course with coordinated scope and sequence that is flexible enough to allow teachers substantial autonomy
- Orchestrated three year reform of school wide assessment practices towards competency based report card in 2014-2015
- Created structures that support global mindedness—taking foreign language program from 3 year sequence to 7 year sequence, growing international trips, school wide philanthropy project to create increased access to education around the world,
- Advocate for self-generated learning—improved and managed school wide independent project structure, individualized graduation plans, internships and teaching assistantships.

Teaching Experience 1996-2006

In my 20s, I traveled extensively and studied voraciously. While living on an academic calendar, working and performing as a choreographer and doing academic research, I always worked part time as a teacher. I have taught over 1500 students in a variety of subjects. Each of these positions was held for at least a semester and sometimes much longer.

Teaching experience with at-risk youth (approximately 3 years and 500 students)

- Dance Place (Washington DC)—after school program coordinator
- Outward Bound (Manatee County, FL) Wilderness Instructor and teacher for criminal adjudicated young men, ages 13-18
- National Department of Education/NEA grant (Tallahassee, FL) testing connections between arts education and literacy with at risk population in public middle schools
- Camp Unilya, YMCA (Suring, WI) – Wilderness and Survival Skills instructor for visiting school groups from at-risk populations

Teaching Experience in dance education (approximately 5 years and 500 students)

- Sandy Springs Friends School (Washington DC)-Contemporary Dance and Choreography
- YMCA (New Rochelle, NY)—after school dance program for elementary and middle schools
- Corpo de Baile (Natal, Brazil) Contemporary professional dance

Teaching Experience in ESL education (approximately 6 years and 400 students)

- Sakae Institute of Study Abroad (Japanese company working in Virginia)-ESL teacher and residential supervisor
- Cultura Inglesa (Natal, Brazil)—ESL teacher
- What's up English School (Natal, Brazil)—ESL teacher and curriculum design
- Private lessons to UFRN grad students prepping (Natal, Brazil)—ESL teacher
- Curriculum development for ESL program while living in Jayapura, Indonesia

Related work in Administration (1998-2005)

Jan 2005-May 2005 Assistant to organizer of 36th annual conference of Congress of Research on Dance at Florida State University, *Tallahassee, FL*

Mar 2004- Dec 2005 Curriculum Development and Teaching, National Dept of Education, Literacy through the arts research grant, Florida State University, *Tallahassee, FL*

Aug 2003- Dec 2005 Researcher, George Washington Project at the New York Public Library, Florida State University, *Tallahassee, FL*

May 1998-Dec 1998 Grant Writer, Dance Place, *Washington, DC*
May 1998-Aug 1998 Assistant Researcher, Smithsonian Institute, *Washington DC*
Aug 1998-Dec 1998 Administrative assistant, Dance Heritage Coalition *Washington DC*

Cultural Research Experience

Natal, Brazil (2007)—traditional dances of northeastern Brazil, merger of Forro
Tallahassee, FL—(2004-2006) the social dance practices during the American Revolutionary War with the Library Without Walls Project through the New York Performing Arts Library and FSU.
Natal, Brazil (2000-2003)—movement practice in Capoeira and other forms of Brazilian dance
Jayapura, Indonesia (Jan-June 2000)—identity politics of Yospan, a dance of protest in politically charged West Papua.
Washington, DC (June-Sept 1998)—changes in Progressive Era wedding rituals in Smithsonian Archives and the Library of Congress

Conference presentations

“The Ritual Function of Dance and Drill at Valley Forge”, McNeil for Early American History Center (October 2005)
“The George Washington Project”, 36th annual meeting of the Congress of Research on Dance (March 2005)

Academic Awards, Honors, etc. . .

TED Educator’s scholarship 2013
2012 Excellence in Education Award (Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools)
McNeil Center for Early American Studies conference grant
Florida State University Graduate Research Assistantship
1-Department of Dance
2-Department of Education
New College Alumni Association Research Grant
Program for the Exceptionally Gifted Scholarship

Foreign Languages Ability

Portuguese--Reading and speaking fluency
Spanish –Reading fluency, speaking conversational

Memberships

ASCD--Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
TIBS-Texas International Baccalaureate Schools

Continuing Education

2013
IB certificate in Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) online certificate program
IB workshops "Service Learning Comes Alive" with Cathyn Berger Kaye and Philippe Cousteau
ASCD workshop “The Leader's Role in Implementing Standards-Based Grades” with Thomas Guskey and Lee Ann Jung

2012

IB Workshop: "Inspirational Leadership: How the best leaders inspire teams to greatness" with Jonh Zenger

ASCD workshop: "Effective Supervision: Applying the Art and Science of Teaching" with Robert Marzano

2011

IB Certificate in Diploma Coordination at Rice University