

Alliance  
Theatre

EDUCATOR  
CONFERENCE

CENTERING JUSTICE

# PROGRAM

#AllianceEdConf21  
@AllianceTheatre

JUNE 8–9, 2021  
A VIRTUAL EVENT

*Note: this program is accurate as of  
May 17, 2021 (details are subject to change).*

The Educator Conference is supported by:



THE ZEIST FOUNDATION, INC.



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## ABOUT THE EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

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The Alliance Theatre Educator Conference: Centering Justice will occur virtually June 8-9, 2021. Designed to serve educators of all grade levels (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12) and all content areas, this event will explore Performing Arts Instruction (Theater, Dance/Movement, Dramatic Writing), Arts Integration, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), and Allyship in an environment that is inclusive, equitable, and united.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING HOURS

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The Alliance Theatre Educator Conference: Centering Justice offers up to 5 hours of real-time professional learning each day (10 hours of real-time professional learning total). Additionally, workshop recordings will offer up to 10 hours of virtual, asynchronous professional learning. Participants who attend the Educator Conference in real-time and access workshop recordings may complete up to 20 hours of professional learning total. Following the event, participants will receive a certificate to document the total number of professional learning hours completed.

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## GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGEMENT

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### Be present

- Take care of yourself to remain physically, emotionally, and mentally present
- Avoid retreating from conversations in which your opinions (or previously held beliefs) conflict with others

### Lean in to discomfort

- Growing pains are necessary and inevitable
- Be mindful of the difference between discomfort and danger

### Be honest

- Speak your truth using “I” statements
- Believe others’ lived experiences

### Contribute to a safe and brave space

- We all make mistakes; assume best intent and extend gratitude for correction from others
- As applicable, acknowledge your own privilege transparently and authentically

### Expect and accept a lack of closure

- Quick solutions or neat conclusions to injustice aren’t real
- This is a part of an ongoing conversation; the work never ends

### Embrace this as rehearsal

- No one has all the answers; we’re all imperfectly human together
- Listen to listen, not just to reply
- Make bold choices and have fun!

## CONNECT AND SHARE: #AllianceEdConf21

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Let your friends and colleagues know that you plan to attend the Alliance Theatre Educator Conference! We look forward to following your updates and insights on social media.



@AllianceTheatre

## PLANNING FOR THE 2021–2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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The [Alliance Theatre Institute](#) partners with districts and schools to elevate teacher practice and impact student academic and social-emotional growth through arts integration, STEAM, and theater. Designed to support school curriculum and individual classroom goals across all grade levels and content areas, Institute programs include residencies, workshops, and professional learning events.

Institute programs may occur during the traditional school day or through summer learning, extended day, afterschool, or extended school year programs. During the 2021-2022 school year, all Institute programs are available to occur in-person (with precautions in place) or virtually via real-time video conference or pre-recorded videos. The Alliance Theatre subsidizes the cost of its residency programs for public and Title I schools.

## CONTACT THE ALLIANCE THEATRE INSTITUTE TEAM

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**Hallie Angelella**, Naserian Foundation Head of Early Childhood Programs: [hallie.angelella@alliancetheatre.org](mailto:hallie.angelella@alliancetheatre.org)

**Rebecca Pogue**, Head of Elementary School Programs: [rebecca.pogue@alliancetheatre.org](mailto:rebecca.pogue@alliancetheatre.org)

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## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING

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The Alliance Theatre Institute is deeply committed to supporting educators as they address students' social, emotional, and academic needs resulting from the pandemic. Districts and schools that receive U.S. Department of Education funding through the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund may partner with the Alliance Theatre Institute to strategically respond to learning recovery needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

Our colleagues at [Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education](#) (GPEE) hosted an informative Critical Issues Forum regarding federal relief funds on May 20, 2021. For more information on how to access funding through the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, we encourage educators to view the recording of that discussion, available [here](#).

TIME

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021**

9:00–9:45 AM  
WELLNESS  
ACTIVATION

Option 1: **Mindfulness Moment** with Melissa Word  
Option 2: **Concept Album Exploration** (on your own)

Option 1: **Yoga** with Emma Poole  
Option 2: **Journal Reflection** (on your own)

10:00–11:00 AM  
KEYNOTE  
SPEAKERS

**Welcome** from Christopher Moses  
**Invocation** from Pearl Cleage  
**Keynote** with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum  
(conversation facilitated by Aierelle Jacob)

**Keynote** with Idris Goodwin

11:15 AM–  
12:30 PM  
CONCURRENT  
SESSIONS

**Community of Movers: Encouraging and Managing Thoughtful Movement in the Classroom** with Valerie Branch  
**Director’s Workshop: Hands Up** with Keith Arthur Bolden and Alexis Woodard  
**Introduction to Arts Integration** with Courtney Moors

**Activating Your Anti-Racism Lens: A Pro-Justice Approach to Curriculum and Scripts** with Aierelle Jacob and Maya Lawrence  
**Experts at Play: Tactics from the Theatre for your Early Childhood Classroom** with Olivia Aston Bosworth and Samantha Provenzano  
**The Songwriting Process: How to Compose a Modern-Day Freedom Song** with Eugene H. Russell IV

12:30–1:30 PM  
LUNCH

Option 1: **Lunch & Learn** (meets 12:40 – 1:25 PM): **Do You Love the Dark?** with R. Gregory Christie and Maya Lawrence  
(conversation facilitated by Christopher Moses)  
Option 2: **Lunch** (no session)

Option 1: **Lunch & Learn** (meets 12:40 – 1:25 PM): **Theatre in a Societal, Cultural, and Historical Context** with Paul McClain  
Option 2: **Lunch** (no session)

1:30–2:45PM  
CONCURRENT  
SESSIONS

**Anti-Bias and Allyship** with Jessenia Ingram and Samantha Provenzano  
**Devising and Performing a Classroom STEAM Musical** with Jessica Espinoza  
**What’s Going On? The 20th Anniversary Palefsky Collision Project** with Pearl Cleage and Patrick McColery

**Coding with Culture: Fusing Computer Science and the Art of Stepping** with Victor Hicks  
**Courageous Conversations through the Performing Arts** with Tamara Irving, Ashe Kazanjian, and Avery Sharpe  
**Playwright’s Workshop: Bina’s Six Apples** with Lloyd Suh

3:00–4:00PM  
SOCIAL HOUR

**Unconference Gathering** with Astra Armstrong, Garnetta Penn, and Rebecca Pogue

## KEYNOTE

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 // 10:00–11:00 AM EDT (*Conversation facilitated by Aierelle Jacob*)

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### Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, president emerita of Spelman College, is a clinical psychologist widely known for both her expertise on race relations and as a thought leader in higher education. Her thirteen years as the president of Spelman College (2002–2015) were marked by innovation and growth and her visionary leadership was recognized in 2013 with the Carnegie Academic Leadership Award. The author of several books including the best-selling, *Why Are All of the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race* (now in a new 2017 20th anniversary edition) and *Can We Talk About Race? and Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation* (2007), Tatum is a sought-after speaker on the topics of racial identity development, race and education, strategies for creating inclusive campus environments, and higher education leadership. In 2005 Dr. Tatum was awarded the prestigious Brock International Prize in Education for her innovative leadership in the field. A Fellow of the American Psychological Association, she was the 2014 recipient of the APA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology.

A civic leader in the Atlanta community, Dr. Tatum is engaged in educational initiatives designed to expand educational opportunities for underserved students and their families. In Atlanta, she serves on the governing boards of the Westside Future Fund, Achieve Atlanta, Morehouse College, and the Tull Charitable Foundation. She is also on the boards of Smith College, TIAA Charitable, and the Educational Testing Service.

She holds a B.A. degree in psychology from Wesleyan University, and M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan as well as an M.A. in Religious Studies from Hartford Seminary. Over the course of her career, she has served as a faculty member at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Westfield State University, and Mount Holyoke College. Prior to her 2002 appointment as president of Spelman, she served as dean and acting president at Mount Holyoke College. In Spring 2017 she was the Mimi and Peter E. Haas Distinguished Visitor at Stanford University. She is married to Dr. Travis Tatum; they are the parents of two adult sons.

## KEYNOTE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 // 10:00–11:00 AM EDT

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### Idris Goodwin

Across two decades Idris Goodwin has forged an impactful career as a multiple award-winning playwright, breakbeat poet, director, educator, and culturist.

Idris is the author of over 50 original plays ranging from his Hip Hop-inspired breakbeat series to historical dramas to works for young audiences. Titles such as *And In This Corner Cassius Clay*, *How We Got On*, *Hype Man: A Break Beat Play*, *This is Modern Art* and the ground breaking *Free Play: open source scripts for an antiracist tomorrow*, are widely produced across the country by a diverse mix of professional theatres, academic environments, and non-traditional spaces alike. Goodwin's created original content for and/or appeared on Nickelodeon, Def Poetry, Sesame Street, NPR, BBC Radio, and the Discovery Channel.

Several of his plays are published and/or licensed through Playscripts Inc. Other works like the poetry books *Can I Kick It?*, *Inauguration* co-written with nico wilkinson, *Human Highlight: Ode To Dominique Wilkins*, and the play *This Is Modern Art* are available from Haymarket Books.

Passionate about cultivating new audiences in the arts, Idris is The Director of The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, the first Black man to hold the position in its 100 year history. Prior to this, Goodwin served two seasons as Producing Artistic Director at StageOne Family Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky. He actively serves on both the advisory boards of Theatre for Young Audiences USA and Children's Theatre Foundation Association.

Idris is a 2021 United States Artist Fellow, recognized as a culture bearer who celebrates community values and cultivates histories with care. Supported by prestigious institutions like The Kennedy Center, The Eugene O'Neill Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, and The Playwrights' Center, Goodwin uses his full creative powers to galvanize people into the community square to sculpt better tomorrows.

**Wellness: Mindfulness Moment**  
with Melissa Word

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
9:00–9:45 AM

In this morning session, participants will learn body-based tools for stress and anxiety relief in and outside of the classroom. Synthesizing the wisdom of dance and theater, educators will experience strategies for mental and emotional regulation that can be shared with their students. Living through highly destabilizing, re-traumatizing, and tumultuous times calls for a radical kind of presence and centering in ourselves to meet each moment more fully and courageously. These simple and effective movement and voice exercises require no previous experience and can be modified for diverse physical abilities.

**Wellness: Concept Album Exploration**  
on your own

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
9:00–9:45 AM

Fifty years ago, Marvin Gaye released a legendary concept album titled *What's Going On?* A masterpiece named the #1 Greatest Album of All Time by Rolling Stone, *What's Going On?* explores human rights with a focus on issues that remain crucially relevant to our national conversation and consciousness today, including: police brutality, war, concern for the environment, and drug addiction.

On Tuesday, June 8, Educator Conference participants are invited to use the Wellness Activation block to deeply listen to the full concept album (runtime: approximately 35 minutes). We encourage listeners to engage in any physical activity that they enjoy (e.g. breathing, stretching, walking, jogging, cleaning) as they tune in to set a meaningful tone and intention for the day.

**Community of Movers: Encouraging  
and Managing Thoughtful Movement  
in the Classroom** with Valerie Branch

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
11:15 AM–12:30 PM EDT

In this workshop, participants will explore the elements of dance and specific movement strategies that will empower educators to use and facilitate movement-led teaching and learning for inclusive classrooms. Participants will learn how dance fosters classroom community development and engagement by setting classroom expectations and creating a fun learning environment while connecting to core curriculum.

**Goal:** To empower participants to use dance strategies that foster classroom community development, engagement, and encourage child-led learning and participation in virtual, hybrid, and in-person environments.

**Director's Workshop: *Hands Up*** with  
Keith Arthur Bolden and Alexis Woodard

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
**11:15 AM–12:30 PM EDT**

Originally commissioned by the New Black Fest in response to the 2015 events in Ferguson, MO, where a police officer fatally shot Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager, *Hands Up* is comprised of separate monologues written by seven Black playwrights. The play depicts the realities of Black America from the perspective of varying genders, sexual orientations, skin tones, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Directed by Keith Arthur Bolden and Alexis Woodard, the Alliance Theatre's production of [Hands Up](#) will run October 8 – 31, 2021 on the Hertz Stage. In this session, participants will explore innovative directing strategies to unpack and amplify the situations, characters, and stories presented in this piece.

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**Introduction to Arts Integration**  
with Courtney Moors

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
**11:15 AM–12:30 PM EDT**

Have you wanted to explore habitats through statues and tableau? Step into role as a character from history? Facilitate a Town Hall to debate which shape is best? This workshop will introduce teachers to best practices and strategies using arts integration. Arts integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both.

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**Lunch & Learn: *Do You Love the Dark?***  
with R. Gregory Christie and Maya  
Lawrence (conversation facilitated by  
Christopher Moses)

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
**12:40–1:25 PM EDT**

Join Christopher Moses in conversation with R. Gregory Christie (*Jazz Baby*, *The Champ*, *Sugar Hill*, *Freedom in Congo Square*) and first-time author Maya Lawrence to learn about the process of developing, writing, and illustrating a children's picture book. Commissioned by the Alliance Theatre in partnership with the Atlanta Mayor's Summer Reading Club, *Do You Love the Dark?* explores how our fears of the unknown can illuminate our biggest strength — love.

\*Note: this session will begin at 12:40 PM EST and conclude by 1:25 PM EST, to allow participants time to secure lunch (at the start) and take a brief break (at the end).



**Anti-Bias and Allyship** with Jessenia Ingram and Samantha Provenzano

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
1:30–2:45 PM EDT

In this learning experience, we will use theater-based learning strategies and The Actor’s Tool Kit (being present, connected, curious, intentional, and authentic) to help us challenge our assumptions, acknowledge our biases, and establish a culture of genuine equity, inclusion, and justice in our workplaces, classrooms, and lives. Session components include: Exploring Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action; and Leveraging our learning towards the journey of Allyship.

**Devising and Performing a Classroom STEAM Musical** with Jessica Espinoza

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
1:30–2:45 PM EDT

What if your students could perform a mini musical centered around a particular elementary science concept? Participants will explore first-hand the steps in the creative process of devising theatre around a STEAM topic with Jessica Espinoza, educator and playwright. We will begin by stepping inside visual art depicting science concepts full of wonder as an entry point into dramatic writing. We will then explore how music and dialogue can be applied to create a strong story. We will explore STEAM musical stories such as the life cycle of a moth, an outer space journey to a newly discovered planet, and animal adaptations. Participants will discuss creative ways in which these musical stories can springboard deeper STEAM experiences in the classroom.

**What’s Going On? The 20th Anniversary Palefsky Collision Project** with Pearl Cleage and Patrick McColery

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
1:30–2:45 PM EDT

For three weeks each summer, the Alliance Theatre assembles a diverse group of (20) teenagers from metro Atlanta to explore and unpack a classic text under the guidance of a professional playwright and director. Together, the ensemble devises a new piece of theater inspired by the classic text but perceived through their own utterly unique and contemporary prism. The [20th Anniversary Palefsky Collision Project](#) (July 2021) will explore Marvin Gaye’s legendary album, *What’s Going On?* In this workshop, participants will “collide” with Gaye’s masterpiece in order to practice their own artistry and develop specific theater and creative writing strategies to use in the classroom. Note: participants who enroll in this workshop are strongly encouraged to engage in the Concept Album Exploration activity during the Wellness Activation block on Tuesday, June 8.

**Social Hour: Unconference Gathering** with Astra Armstrong, Garnetta Penn, and Rebecca Pogue

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8**  
3:00–4:00 PM EDT

Join us for an Unconference Gathering - a participant-driven meeting. At the beginning of the session, you will decide on the agenda! Facilitated by teachers with experience in arts integration and fine arts instruction, participants will ask questions, unpack the day’s session and keynote, and build connections with other educators.

**Wellness: Yoga**  
with Emma Poole

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
9:00–9:45 AM

Join Emma in this rejuvenating 45-minute slow flow yoga class. Emma will guide participants through a series of postures meant to connect students to their breath and help attune to their body. Practice will end with a brief guided meditation and relaxation. All levels are welcome.

**Wellness: Journal Reflection**  
(on your own)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
9:00–9:45 AM

What does “Centering Justice” mean to you? On Wednesday, June 9, Educator Conference participants are invited to use the Wellness Activation block to freely respond to the prompts below in a journal. Before starting, we encourage writers to create an inspiring writing space in any way that is comfortable and accessible (e.g. by pouring a cup of tea, lighting a candle, opening a window, or playing reflective music).

Prompts:

- How do you define “justice”? Describe a situation in which justice was – or was not – clearly present (and centered) in your experience as an educator.
- Re-read the Invocation by Pearl Cleage. Which specific words, phrases, and/or messages resonate most loudly for you? Why?
- How does your teaching philosophy and practice incorporate anti-bias and allyship? Describe 1-2 concrete, actionable changes you plan to make to deepen your impact as an ally.

**Activating Your Anti-Racism Lens: A Pro-Justice Approach to Curriculum and Scripts** with Aierelle Jacob and Maya Lawrence

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
11:15 AM–12:30 PM EDT

Justice and Anti-Racism is more than just a conversation; it’s a lifestyle. How do you implement that lifestyle into the fabric of your learning environment? You’ll leave this session with strategies on how to foster an anti-racist and equitable learning environment through the evaluation of curriculum and lesson plans.

**Experts at Play: Tactics from the Theatre for your Early Childhood Classroom** with Olivia Aston Bosworth and Samantha Provenzano

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
11:15 AM–12:30 PM EDT

Early Learners are the experts of curiosity and discovery. And yet, adults all too quickly jump to directing their play. How can educators encourage early learners to build new imaginary worlds without getting in the way? Discover Alliance Theatre's [Kathy and Ken Bernhardt Theatre for the Very Young](#) (TVY) and explore how teachers can apply engagement tactics from the theatre in their early childhood classroom. Participants will learn about TVY, its development, and general form. Applying the key interactive methods from the productions, educators will outline immediate actions to take in the classroom for inquisitive and imaginative play.

**The Songwriting Process: How to Compose a Modern-Day Freedom Song** with Eugene H. Russell IV

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
11:15 AM–12:30 PM EDT

How does a professional composer generate ideas, collaborate with a creative team, and make decisions in order to develop an original song? Further, how can educators across grade levels and content areas borrow the skills and routines of a composer to lead engaging and arts-integrated units of study?

Facilitated by Eugene H. Russell IV, composer of the Alliance Theatre's [Sit-In](#) and [Beautiful Blackbird](#), this session demystifies the Songwriting Process, breaking it down into (5) easy-to-follow steps that guide small groups through the development of a contemporary freedom song.

Participants who enroll in this workshop are encouraged to preview the Alliance Theatre's [Musical Theater Composition Video Series](#). Presented in partnership with the Johnny Mercer Foundation, this series is comprised of two parts: Introduction to Musical Theater (a 1-hour resource video) and The Songwriting Process, (4) 10-15 minute instructional videos. All videos are available for free via Vala.

**Lunch & Learn: Theatre in a Societal, Cultural, and Historical Context** with Paul McClain

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
12:40–1:25 PM EDT

Facilitated by Paul McClain, Georgia Department of Education, this workshop explores strategies for teaching students about a variety of theatrical traditions in a historical and cultural context as well as how to engage students with specific styles of theatre, researching theatrical traditions and period plays, reading and comparing plays, and introducing students to the process of researching theatrical traditions from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

\*Note: this session will begin at 12:40 PM EST and conclude by 1:25 PM EST, to allow participants time to secure lunch (at the start) and take a brief break (at the end).

**Coding with Culture: Fusing Computer Science and the Art of Stepping** with Victor Hicks

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
1:30–2:45 PM EDT

Coding with Culture will define connections between the fundamentals of computer coding and the language of the dance form of stepping. We begin the journey delving into the rich history and culture of stepping, an art form currently made popular by African-American fraternities and sororities but coming from the Stono slave revolts. Participants will discover that stepping is an algorithmic voice that fights for justice in both past and present day.

Our Computer Science focus for teachers becomes illustrating how they can incorporate the task of choreographing a step dance as algorithmic thinking. Teachers will discover this task teaches students about cultural voice while using algorithmic thinking, computational skills (such as decomposition), and collaborative problem-solving skills. Students will gain from the opportunity to learn history, culture, and dance as well as Computer Science.

**Courageous Conversations through the Performing Arts** with Tamara Irving, Ashe Kazanjian, and Avery Sharpe

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
1:30–2:45 PM EDT

How do educators meaningfully address the events of this year — the pandemic, social justice movements, political unrest, gun violence and mass shootings — in their classrooms? These issues are complex, difficult — and, for many, traumatic. But they can't be ignored.

This session features three panelists (one classroom teacher and two Alliance Theatre teaching artists), each with a unique perspective on how to foster courageous (and safe) conversations — while including ample space for questions and reflections — within student communities of all ages through the performing arts.

**Playwright's Workshop: Bina's Six Apples** with Lloyd Suh

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
1:30–2:45 PM EDT

An upcoming Alliance Theatre production written by Lloyd Suh, *Bina's Six Apples* follows a young girl's courageous journey to reunite with her family. As the fighting in the Korean War gets closer and closer, Bina and her family must leave their home and apple orchard to travel to Busan for safety. Along their route, Bina becomes lost and separated in the chaos of a sudden explosion. Determined to find her family, Bina continues on and leaves behind a tale of the people she encounters and the apples she must trade and barter along the way.

In this session, participants will hear from the author about his process in writing *Bina's Six Apples*. Then, they will begin their own short, original plays inspired by stories from family history, using personal lore and myths to tell multi-generational stories that truly speak to audiences of all ages.