

A Cabinet of Curiosities



Global Education, Material Culture, and the Arts

Blue Planet Global Education 4th Summer Teacher Institute

June 25-27, 2021
Armory Art Center
West Palm Beach, Florida



BLUE PLANET
GLOBAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Blue Planet's 4th Summer Teacher Institute!

We're so very glad you've joined us for this extraordinary weekend of learning and sharing with a wonderful group of globally minded educators.

This weekend, you'll have time to think about your students...and time to think about *yourself*. Time to create...and time to reflect.

Expect to be excited and inspired by the experts and practitioners who will be sharing their passion and their praxis with all of us.

And expect to go back to school in the fall with new lesson plans, activities, resources, and inspiration.

Try to meet everyone while you're here! Chat, share, and exchange info so you can stay in touch and continue to generate amazing ideas for unique global projects.

And be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for more conversation and resources all year long.

And finally, take to heart the splendid advice of American poet Mary Oliver:

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

As educators who embrace the world, its people, and their fascinating cultures, isn't that exactly what we strive to do, every day?

Stay inspired,

Cora & Susan

Cora Bresciano, Susan Gay Wemette
Co-Founders & Co-Executive Directors
Blue Planet Global Education

A Million Thanks!

A big thank-you to everyone who has worked so hard and given so much to make this Institute possible. We can do what we do only because of your dedication and care!

Our Generous Funders

Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
Cultural Council for Palm Beach County

Our Gracious Hosts

Armory Art Center
Dr. Tom Pearson, Executive Director
Dannie Matevia, Director of Education
John Boardman, Facilities Manager
Yarif Orzoco, Technical Associate

Our Fellow Presenters

Dr. Sandra Norman
Dr. Candace Cunningham
Ashley Monastra
Urifah Ridlo
Odile Yeramian
Maxwell Mittman

Our Magnificent Volunteers

Amber Collins
Tiffany Collins
Cris Monastra

Our Fellow Board Members

Jonathan Wemette, Chairperson
Danielle Bolla, Director
Ashley Monastra, Director

Institute Schedule

Friday, June 25

5:00 pm Check-in, Welcome Reception

Join your fellow global educators for wine and snacks to kick off an incredible weekend.

Introduction to the Weekend:

Dr. Susan Gay Wemette and Cora Bresciano, Co-Executive Directors, Blue Planet Global Education

6:00-8:00 Creativity Workshop: Your Own Cabinet of Curiosities

Cora Bresciano, Dr. Susan Gay Wemette, Blue Planet Global Education

In centuries past, collectors and explorers often housed a lifetime of finds and wonders in a unique *cabinet of curiosities*. Every object represented a journey, a discovery, an adventure. Every artifact told a story, filled with peril and exhilaration.

In this personal creativity workshop, you'll use the concept of the cabinet of curiosities to explore your own life and experiences. Through reflection and art-making, you'll begin to curate your own cabinet as you gain clarity on what brings *you* joy, purpose, and fulfillment.

Saturday, June 26

10:00 am Check-in and Continental Breakfast

Grab a bagel and get ready for a day of inspiration and education!

10:30-11:00 Theme Talk: Curiosity, Learning, and International Collaborations

Dr. Susan Gay Wemette, Blue Planet Global Education

Curiosity is the driving force behind our evolution as humans. Research shows that the desire to know is as important for students' success as intelligence and perseverance. So, what happens to students' curiosity when they explore other cultures? And why is that important?

11:00-11:30 Panel Discussion: Global Connections in IB Education

Ashley Monastra, G-Star School of the Arts, Palm Springs, Florida, USA

Marwa Elqabany, Kafr El Gemal Official Language School, Egypt

Urifah Ridlo, SD Aisyiyah Kota Malang, Indonesia

American teachers in International Baccalaureate (IB) programs and our international partner teachers share their experiences and best practices in creating successful—and fun!—international collaborations.

11:30-11:40 Break

11:40-1:00 Workshop: Material Culture: Objects, Meaning, and Memory

Dr. Sandra Norman, Florida Atlantic University

What is material culture and how can you use it in your international collaborations? This session will provide insights, inspiration, and discussion on a walk through the Art-i-Facts exhibit.

1:00-2:00 Lunch on Your Own

Bring your lunch and enjoy it indoors or outside in the tented courtyard. Or treat yourself to one of the many nearby restaurants; we've provided a list at the end of this program.

2:00-3:30 Art Workshops

Odile Yeramian, Ceramics Artist

Maxwell Mittman, 2D/Mixed Media Artist

We've planned two fun and fascinating workshops for you, filled with activities you can use as you lead your students through your next international collaboration! You'll work with one artist today and the other tomorrow.

3:40-4:10 Theme Talk: "Breadcrumbs of Identity: Myths as Cultural Artifacts"

Cora Bresciano, Blue Planet Global Education

To understand—and to try and change—the world around us, we humans have always made up fantastic stories. We call some of these stories *myths*. Though many of them are very old, these myths continue to spring up in novels, movies, art, and pop culture, all over the world. Why? What can our mythologies teach others about ourselves? How can we use them in a global education project? And what can they teach us about our common hopes, fears, and our place in this awesome, confusing world?

4:10-4:30 Reflection and Closing

Learn creative ways to look back on your day and extract meaning and significance from your experiences—then take those creative exercises away with you, to use with your own students.

Sunday, June 27

10:00 am Check-in and Continental Breakfast

Have a bite to eat and get excited for another day of learning, inspiration, and creativity!

10:30-11:15 Theme Talk: Digital Museums, Storytelling, and Culture

Dr. Candace Cunningham, Florida Atlantic University

Art-i-Facts was all about building a digital museum to showcase elements of our different cultures. Learn more about this innovative, virtual type of forum for student work of all kinds.

11:15-11:30 Break

11:30-1:00 Art Workshops

Odile Yeramian, Ceramics Artist
Maxwell, Mittman, 2D/Mixed Media Artist

Today we'll switch: you'll get to enjoy whichever workshop you didn't take yesterday. Have fun and be creative while gathering tips for incorporating art into a global project.

1:00-2:00 Lunch on Your Own

Once again, bring your lunch and enjoy it indoors or out, or dine at a nearby eatery.

2:00-3:30 Workshop: Curiosities Still to Come: Revisiting Your Cabinet and Crafting Your Future

Dr. Susan Gay Wemette, Cora Bresciano, Blue Planet Global Education

In this follow-up to Friday's cabinet-of-curiosities workshop, you'll expand upon the artifacts and experiences you curated in order to chart a course toward the adventures of your future.

3:30-4:00 Reflection and Closing

Get meta again with a creative reflection that you can transfer to your own classroom. Look back on what you've learned this weekend and look forward to bringing the benefits—and fun!—of global education to your students in the fall.

Presenters

Cora Bresciano



Cora is the co-founder and co-executive director of Blue Planet Global Education. Recently, she also spent two years as a Visiting Instructor in Florida Atlantic University's English Department, teaching myth and magical realism in fiction along with creative writing and first-year writing. She speaks on her work in the US and abroad, most recently in Lisbon, Portugal at the Modern Language Association International Symposium. Cora is currently completing her PhD in Comparative Studies at FAU, where her research focuses on the agency of myth and absence in the politics and literature of Spain's 20th and 21st centuries. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from FAU, where she received the Frank and Courtney Brogan Award in Fiction, and a BS in Music Education from Hofstra University in New York. She is a citizen of both the US and the EU, making her home in South Florida with a breathtaking view of the sunset and a thousand books.

Dr. Candace Cunningham



Candace is an Assistant Professor in the History Department of Florida Atlantic University. Previously, she was a visiting assistant professor at Stetson University, where she taught public history courses and worked with local organizations to create digital humanities projects using undergraduate research. Before that, she taught in the University of South Carolina's (USC) Opportunity Scholars Program. USC is also where she earned her M.A. and Ph.D., won the Robert H. Wienefeld Essay Prize, and was a Fellow in the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program. She is passionate about community collaborations and has worked on several public history projects including Columbia SC 63, the USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research, and Historic Columbia. Her research is on the 20th century African American experience with a special emphasis on civil rights, education, gender, and the South. She has presented her research at numerous conferences, including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the History of Education Society, and Southern Labor Studies. She is currently working on a manuscript about African American teachers who were in the long civil rights movement.

Maxwell Mittman



Maxwell was born in Ventura, California and grew up in North Jersey. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Montclair University in 2014. In 2018, Maxwell received his Master of Fine Arts in ceramics from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Maxwell works in ceramics, painting, and small works on paper. He is currently working and residing in beautiful Southern Florida.

Ashley Monastra



Ashley is a teacher of Digital Animation and International Baccalaureate (IB) Visual Art at GStar School of the Arts for Film, Animation, and Performing Arts in Palm Beach County. A graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design, she has also worked as a 3D animator in the fields of feature film, public television, and advertising. In addition, in past semesters Ashley has lent her talents as a teaching artist to Blue Planet, connecting Florida students with their peers around the world in creative art-based collaborations.

Dr. Sandra Norman



Sandy teaches in the History Department at Florida Atlantic University. Her Ph.D. in American Civilization is from Brown University, where her major field was history of science and technology and her secondary fields were material culture and museum studies. She has worked in museums in England and the United States, and she helped design the museum on Spanish Wells, in the Bahamas, for the country's Quincentennial. She regularly teaches classes in Material Culture Studies, Public History, the History of Science, and the History of Technology. Through her company Research Atlantica, she has worked with museums and communities throughout South Florida.

Dr. Susan Gay Wemette



Susan is the co-founder and co-executive director of Blue Planet Global Education. She is an arts educator with twenty-five years' experience in theater, arts integration, and global education. She holds a BFA in theater, an MFA in Acting, and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction (focus on arts education). Susan has created and directed dramatic writing and performance programs for at-risk students in teen mother and runaway shelters and for students with severe disabilities. She created and directed CHILDREN OF CONFLICT, an international collaboration among young theatre students in Kosovo, South Africa, and Rwanda. In addition to her work at Blue Planet, she teaches writing to incarcerated students through Exchange for Change and she serves on the Education Committee for the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. As a program evaluator, she has consulted with the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, Arts4Learning/Miami, The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, The Center for Creative Education, Theatre Lab at Florida Atlantic University, and the School District of Palm Beach County.

Odile Yeramian



Odile Yeramian is a French self-taught artist. After a successful career in international marketing, she turned her focus to ceramics, taking interest in the versatility of the material. She explores unconventional surface treatment for functional and sculptural pieces. She is also experienced in welding, and often incorporates steel into her mixed-media work.

Nearby Restaurants

Need a quick place to grab lunch during the Institute? Here's a list of tasty places that are close by:

Grandview Public Market

1401 Clare Ave. - 0.1 miles from the Armory
Showcasing nine chef-inspired vendors and raising the city's cultural profile with innovative cooking and dining in a meticulously renovated 13,000 sq. ft. epicurean playground. Guests enjoy an all-in-one shopping experience seven days a week—breakfast, lunch, and dinner—in a grab and go atmosphere.

Rosemary Square (formerly CityPlace)

700 Rosemary Ave. - 1 mile from the Armory
Enjoy Burger Fi, Moe's Southwest Grill, Taqueria Bonita, Jamba Juice, and others.

Souvlaki Grill

795 Belvedere Rd. - 0.6 miles from the Armory
Small restaurant serving delicious Greek and Mediterranean food.

Sushi Jo

319 Belvedere Rd #12 – 1 mile from the Armory
Exposed-brick walls create a rustic-chic backdrop for creative sushi at this mod eatery.