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# KARA WHITING

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## EXPERIENCE

### PAINTING INSTRUCTOR, JCS- 2021- PRESENT

- Developing and writing curriculum in accordance with NCAS Standards 6th-12th grade.
- Working with teams, developing vertical alignment from pre-k through 12th grade.
- Mentoring teachers in best assessment practices & UBD lesson development.
- Budgeting, ordering, and maintaining supplies for all Painting courses.
- Effectively working with parents to maintain a positive relationship with the school.
- Student centered instruction with a focus on mindfulness and student well-being.
- Social media liaison for the department.
- Cross Department Collaborations: History, Sciences, and Dance.
- Community Involvement: Hosting department team building events, coordinating art event for Senior Adoption Day, chaperoning and attending school events, and participation in professional development community focused on assessments.
- Assistant Junior VASE site coordinator.
- Empty Bowls Event host and contributing artist.
- Outside hours dedicated to training for the Sculpture Department.

### VISUAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR & TEAM LEAD, HCHS – 2016-2021

- Served as lead teacher for Digital Photography, Integrated Media Productions, Advanced Placement - Drawing, Advanced Drawing, 2D and 3D Design, and Advanced 3D Design.
- Visual Arts - Department Budget Manager, Department Professional Development Organizer, Trainer for new teachers.
- Developed and wrote curriculum for new and existing Visual Arts courses.
- Recruited for the Grew Visual Arts program and doubled enrollment in two years.
- Curriculum team member with a focus on connecting the classroom to real world experiences, student-centered lessons, STEAM, and leadership.
- Served on Community Committee, Fine Arts Hiring Committee, and STEAM curriculum building committee, and as School Safety Committee's Senior Community Group Leader.
- Cross Department Support: Sponsor for Student Council & Robotics Club, Collaborative Shows with Performing Arts, Recruitment for Fine Arts programs, Student Mentorship, Engineering Collaborative, Robotics Club Design & Marketing, Chemistry Cross Curricular, GMO Cross Curricular.
- Served as ISAS Festival Chair Coordinator.
- Lunch With an Artist- bringing in professional, nationally recognized artists and entrepreneurs to speak & host workshops for the student body.
- Mentor to new teachers - all departments.
- Assistant to the Distinguished Scholars program (2018 & 2020).
- Distinguished Scholar Research Mentor & Co trip organizer.

## **ART TEACHER, CY FALLS HIGH SCHOOL – 2009-2016**

- Founded the CFHS National Art Honor Society. During sponsorship our program was the largest NAHS program in the nation, Recruiter and College Preparatory Instructor, District Curriculum & Lesson Development, Lead Visual Arts Instructor for special education at CFHS.
- Grew enrollment for sculpture program from 12 students to over 200 in under 2 years. Made it a nationally recognized, award-winning program – Top 100 of 4,000 at the 2016 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. Top 100 programs according to Time Magazine (2015).
- Visual Arts Scholastic Event - Juror, 2009 – 2014. Served as lead facilitator in collaborative efforts between multiple departments to effectively improve student metrics.
- Responsible for actively managing 200+ students. This includes managing records as well as relationships. Responsible for the department's budgeting including inventory management and purchasing.
- Other activities include hosting guest artist workshops and writing grants.

## **ART TEACHER, FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY – 2006-2009**

- Middle School Visual Arts Instructor; Curriculum & Lesson Plan Development for Certification.
- Served as fundraiser coordinator, organizing auction sales. Event planning included representing the school as liaison to the community, while managing purchasing, budgeting, vendor relationships, and relationships with top donors to maintain and grow donations.
- Representative and judge at the statewide Private Schools Interscholastic Association.
- After School Art - founded program teaching visual arts to pre-school through 5th grade.

## **EDUCATION**

- Masters of Art Education- Texas Tech University (2010)
- Bachelor of Arts - Houston Baptist University (2006)

## **SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS**

- Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, Dimension, Lightroom, Bridge, Camera Raw)
- Corel Painter
- Apple Certified Teacher
- Microsoft Suite
- Google Suite
- Blackbaud
- EC-12 Art Certification Texas
- Mindfulness

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Houston Chronicle Memorial Examiner January 2020
- Cy Fair Lifestyles and Homes March 2016
- Houston Chronicle, March 2005, March, 2014, March 2016
- Crossroads Magazine, 2006 (Cover feature)
- The Tribe Report, January 2006
- The Collegian, November 2005 & January 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Lisa Clauge 2016, Debra Fritts 2018
- Neuro Teach
- Flipped Classroom
- Reverse Design Curriculum
- Apple Teacher Certification
- Brain Based Learning
- Dallas Market Emerging Artist 2020
- Mindfulness 2021

## **STUDENTS' AWARDS**

- Scholastic Gold & Silver Keys - Work featured at Carnegie Hall, NYC
- Student digital art work used for all Memorial Herman Hospital training manual
- Rodeo Art Auction
- Vase State Championship
- Junior Vase
- Culture Shapers
- NCECA K-12 Recognized Teacher

## **VOLUNTEERING**

- Empty Bowls Contributing Artists
- HHD COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
- Ani Meals on wheels
- Contributions to Poodle Rescue of Houston & Houston Pets Alive
- Houston Business Women Disaster Support Uri and Viola
- State VASE Juror
- PSIA Juror
- Junior VASE Juror
- ACSI Art Festival Juror

## PORTFOLIO LINKS

- [karawhiting.com](http://karawhiting.com) ; [lillybellejewelryco.com](http://lillybellejewelryco.com)

## REFERENCES

### Professional

- Christine Metoyer - Assistant Head of Upper School, Oakridge School. (713) 553-0088
- Karen Stuart - Retired Distinguished Scholars Director HCHS, Managing Director of Anchor Global. (704) 654-1857
- Jan Pearson - Lead Councilor, Houston Christian High School. (832) 289-1049

### Personal

- Pam McClendon - History Department Chair HCHS. (832) 491-7894
- James Watkins - Internationally Recognized Artist & Horn Professor TTU  
[james.watking@ttu.edu](mailto:james.watking@ttu.edu)
- Monica Thayer - Visual Arts Instructor Houston Christian High School (715) 577-2964