Becoming a Teaching Artist

dance – theater – music
visual arts – digital arts
film – creative writing – circus arts

Teaching artists are active in their art form as well as active teaching in their community. Teaching artists embrace the interplay between artmaking and teaching.

Observations

Visiting classes
Watching and taking notes on: pacing, content, class format, classroom management, joy, and rapport with students

Hands-on experiences

Internships

Being a teaching assistant

Artistry

Active in your art form

Creating, making, rehearsing, performing, sharing

Courses, workshops, conferences

Topics include arts education, pedagogy, brain research, child development, and more

Lesson plan examples

Examples for content, class format, chunking of material, and pacing

Documentation of your work

Keeping notes about activities and lesson plans

This information will help with job interviews, reflecting on your practice, and repeating lessons in the future

Getting to know your community

Sensitivity and awareness
Not just diving right in
Gaining information and ideas to help support age appropriate, developmentally appropriate, and culturally appropriate curriculum and teaching

Collegiality

Joining a teaching artist group or professional organization for arts educators

Visual and performing arts standards

State standards

National Core Arts Standards

Reflection

Keeping a journal (paper or online)

Blogging

Books

Arts education, activity ideas, creativity, 21st century skills, child development, SEL (social-emotional learning), multiple intelligences, and brain research

Online resources

Websites, blogs, Facebook groups
Arts education resources
Teaching artist organizations

Finding a mentor

Support, guidance, dialogue, collegiality

Jill Randall for the Life as a Modern Dancer Blog
dancingwords.typepad.com/life_as_a_modern_dancer