

# Arts Integration Strategies to Engage Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Everyday Classroom Settings



Current and future classroom teachers, teaching artists, and other interested educators are invited

## Location

Room 126, Cogswell Hall (Music Bldg.)  
IUP Main Campus  
Indiana, PA

## Date/Time/Cost

Saturday, March 8, 2014

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Pre-Registration Fee: \$10.00

**Act 48 Credit available**



Utilizing hands-on art making and movement, the workshop offers standards-based professional development training for students, educators, and/or teaching artists to improve their skills integrating the arts when teaching students with ASD pre-K through grade 12.

## Each workshop will include:

- An overview of characteristics of Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and other pervasive developmental disabilities;
- Strategies for behavior management;
- Various options in assessment

This full-day workshop is presented regionally through the combined efforts of *ArtsPath*, the arts-in-education program of the Lively Arts in the College of Fine Arts at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; *VSA Pennsylvania*, the state organization on Arts and Disability; and with financial support provided by the *Pennsylvania Council on the Arts*.





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Saturday, March 8, 2014 • 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(Breakfast/check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.; sessions begin at 9:00 a.m.)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Cogswell Hall, Room 126 (Music Theater)



## Presenters



**Rebecca Covert** worked as a dramatic play/music teaching artist in Pittsburgh schools for Gateway to the Arts over the past seven years, crafting and teaching workshops that infuse literacy instruction with the arts. Gateway named Rebecca as Hardie Artist of the Year for 2008/2009 for her involvement with their Aesthetic Education program and her work as a Western Pennsylvania Wolf Trap teacher in preschool instruction. Also through Gateway, she develops and leads professional development workshops and visits local libraries and classrooms as a children's storyteller. Rebecca is also an instructor at the Familylinks Therapeutic Learning Center where she teaches children's acting and music year-round.

A trained classical and jazz vocalist, she currently performs as a guest soloist with the Eclectic Laboratory Chamber Orchestra and sings a blues/soul set with guitarist, Daniel Burgun. She also starred as "Goody Plenty" in *Amish Burlesque* at numerous theatres around Western PA, including the Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret, Father Ryan Arts Center (Pittsburgh) and the Palace Theatre (Greensburg, PA). Her first full-length, one-woman cabaret entitled "Lady in Flames" debuted at the University of Pittsburgh in July 2013.

In 2010, Rebecca's son, Jack, was diagnosed with autism. Determined to connect with her nonverbal son, she reconfigured her strengths as an artist and educator to engage children with autism in the classroom setting. She now strives to provide other families of autism with a safe place for their children to make friendships and be themselves through artistic programming. In partnership with the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, the PA Council on the Arts and The Kennedy Center/VSA, Rebecca and visual art teaching artist, Alison Zapata, created and led a professional development workshop designed for educators entitled "Teaching Art to Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder."

Rebecca has a BA in art history/film studies from the University of Pittsburgh and a MS in elementary education from Duquesne University.

**Alison Zapata** has been working as a visual artist and art educator in Pittsburgh for more than fourteen years. She works primarily as a painter with a focus on portraiture, murals, and multi-media collage. Her interest lies in building community and interpersonal relationships through the exploration of art. Her paintings have been featured in *Good Housekeeping* and *Pittsburgh Magazine*.



Alison is a teaching artist with the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts' Artists in Education initiative. Through the exploration of visual art, she works with children diagnosed with autism at Familylinks Therapeutic Learning Center in Pittsburgh. She also works as a teaching artist for Gateway to the Arts, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, and Citiparks. In the summer of 2009, she studied in Rio De Janeiro and Salvador, Brazil as part of the Fulbright Art and Culture Research Abroad Program sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and the Andy Warhol Museum. Through a grant awarded from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, in collaboration with the Andy Warhol Museum, Alison created two summer arts programs in Hazelwood, PA.

She has a B.A. in Art Education from Carlow University.



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*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

*Cogswell Hall, Room 126 (Music Theater)*



**Pre-Registration \$10.00**

*Includes all sessions, continental breakfast, snacks/drinks (lunch on own)*

**Registration Deadline: Must be received by March 5, 2014**

*Please PRINT legibly*

Name:	Teacher ID (if Act 48 Credit is desired):
Email:	Day of Workshop Phone:
Address (Street, City, State, ZIP):	
List 3 questions you'd like answered during the workshop (use the back of sheet if necessary)	
1.	
2.	
3.	
<b>FOR EDUCATORS ONLY</b> (please complete all information as applicable)	
School where you teach	
Name & District:	
Full Address:	
Please check all that you teach	
Music <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Theater/Musical <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education <input type="checkbox"/> General Classroom <input type="checkbox"/> Media <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please list) _____	
Number of classes taught each year:	Approx. number of students taught each year:
Approx. number of students with any kind of disability taught each year:	
Approx. number of low income students taught each year:	
<b>FOR TEACHING ARTISTS ONLY</b>	
Please list your arts discipline:	Approx. number of students taught each year:
<b>FOR STUDENTS ONLY</b>	
Please list your year in school:	Major(s):

If paying by mail, please send this registration form with your \$10 check, payable to the **IUP Research Institute**, to:

The Lively Arts/ArtsPath  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Performing Arts Center, Room 202  
403 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indiana, PA 15705-1008

**Questions? Contact:**  
**Jeff Wacker**  
**724-357-4565**  
**jwacker@iup.edu**

If on campus and paying in person, please bring this registration form with your \$10 payment to:

The Lively Arts/ArtsPath  
Performing Arts Center, Room 202  
(between Fisher Aud. and Waller Hall)