

TEACHING ARTIST INSTITUTE OF ROCHESTER

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT



TEACHING
ARTIST
PROJECT






TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary

Community Practices

Demographics

Program Outcomes

Evaluations

Trainee Voices

Trainee Affirmations

Areas of Improvement

Conclusion

SUMMARY

The Teaching Artist Institute of Rochester (TAIR) is a multi-day intensive workshop for creative writers, visual artists, musicians, dancers, multi-media artists, and theater artists to expand their teaching practice, explore social justice pedagogy, get resources on the business of teaching artistry, and connect with educators and cultural centers in Rochester as well as New York City.

With funding thanks to the New York State Council on the Arts, Community-Word Project's Teaching Artist Project staff have created this training in partnership with arts community members from the Rochester area. The Institute's training curriculum is based on Community-Word Project's Creative Process exploration methods, teaching practices and arts-in-education philosophy developed over the last 23 years. The training is free for teaching artists.

This report offers a snapshot of the Institute during the fall of 2021. The program statistics and evaluations shared here were gathered and interpreted by TAP staff. Our analysis demonstrates continued promising results and also reviews program challenges and areas for improvement. We reflect on our progress to date primarily for the purpose of continuing to improve our curricular and training design, staffing structure, and program model. Insights shared are intended to update and engage a range of stakeholders, from program participants and leadership to peer organizations in the arts-in-education field.

The Teaching Artist Institute of Rochester pedagogy was created by Facilitators Adriana Guzmán, Javan Howard, and former Director of TAP Katie Rainey, in partnership with community members from the Rochester area. Special thanks goes out to our steering committee members: Annette Ramos, Founder & Executive Director of the Rochester Latino Theater Company; Daystar Rosalie Jones, Founder & Artistic Director of Daystar Dance; Jack Langerak; Reenah L. Golden, Founder & Artistic Director of The Avenue Blackbox Theatre; Sally Bittner Bonn, Director of Youth Education at Writers & Books.

This report was assembled and designed by TAP Co-Directors Dale Anderson-Lee, Adriana Guzmán, and Jay Howard.



COMMUNITY PRACTICES

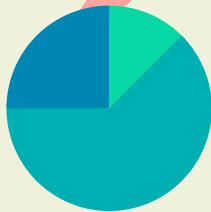
WE WILL have compassion, empathy, & honesty
WE WILL appreciate opinions we don't agree with
WE WILL have respect for divergent opinions
WE WILL check in if we see someone may need a
little extra care

WE WILL keep constructive criticism in mind
WE WILL appreciate different perspectives
WE WILL support and motivate each other
WE WILL balance making space and taking space

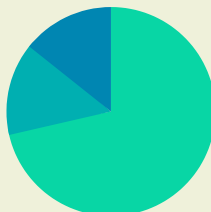
DEMOGRAPHICS

9

Teaching Artists Trained



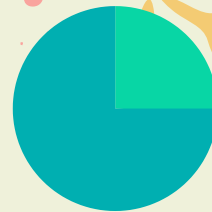
- 25-34 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 55-64 years old



- Cis-Gendered Woman
- Cis-Gendered Man
- Prefer not to say

5

Steering Committee Members and Partner Organizations



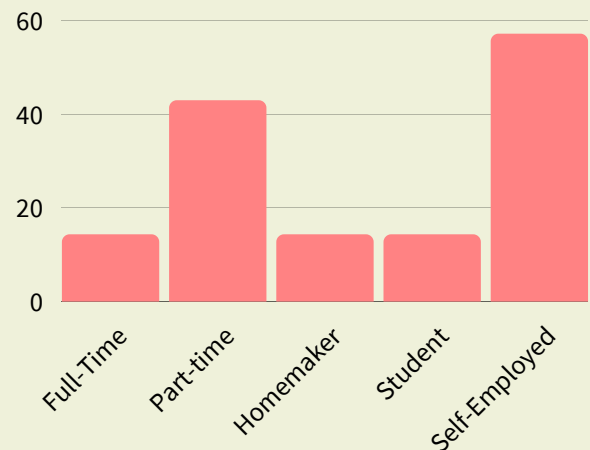
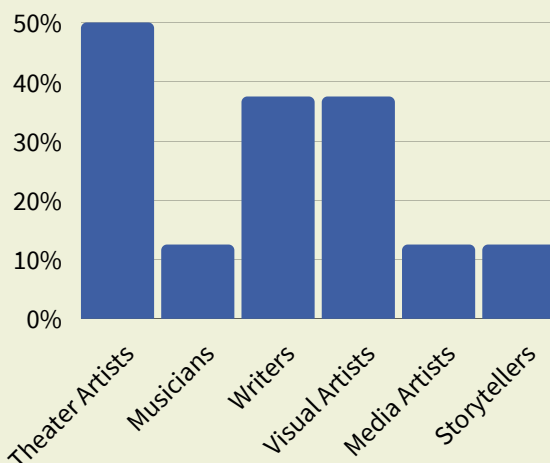
- Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African
- White or European

5

Teaching Artist Mentors

Languages Spoken:

English, Swahili, Swedish, Danish, French, Italian and German



PROGRAM

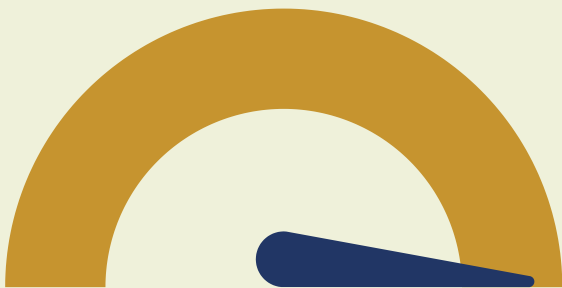
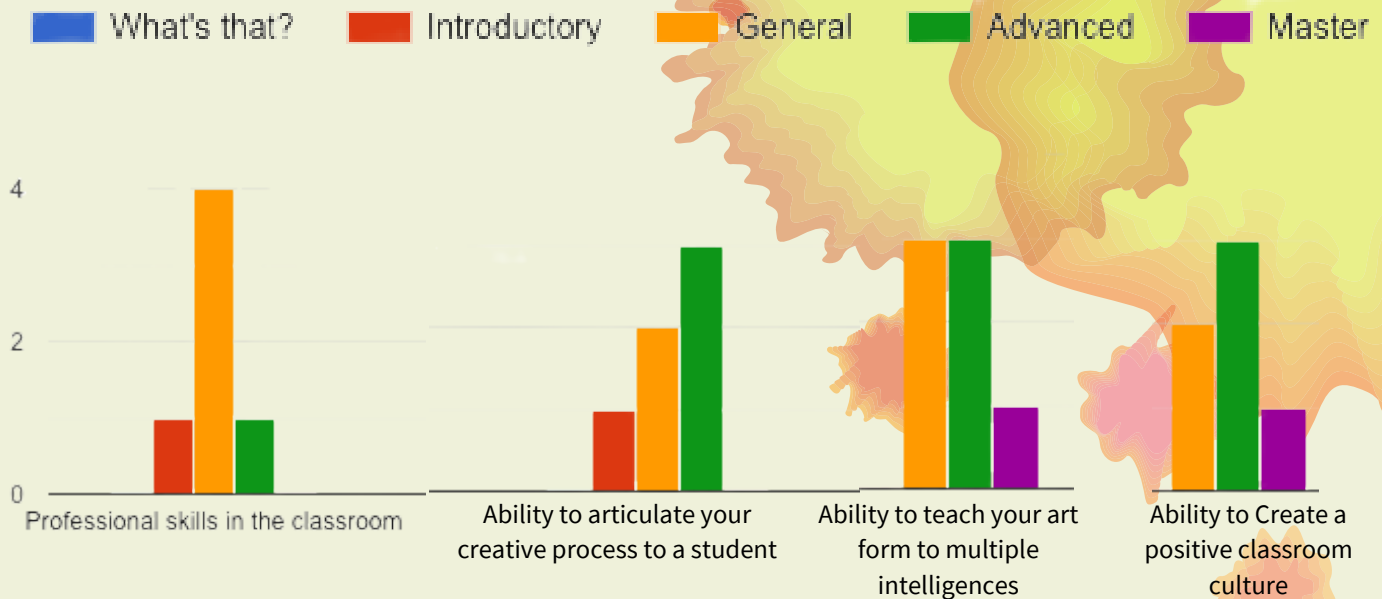
Teaching Artist Institute of Rochester (TAIR) aimed to bring Teaching Artists from the Rochester area together, creating opportunities for knowledge sharing and professional learning across disciplines and experience levels. Building on last year's Institute, TAIR Fellows grew in the following areas:

- Leadership roles within Teaching Artistry
- Impact in teaching for social justice
- Deepening their teaching through experience
- Inquiry and reflection processes
- Connecting with other Teaching Artists from the upstate area as well as NYC
- Exploring creative processes
- Critical and creative thinking
- Investigating techniques for project-based arts integration
- Building new strategies for creating a positive classroom culture
- Learning how to better navigate the business of teaching artistry, including promotion, marketing, and build relationships with potential clients (schools, CBOs, etc.)

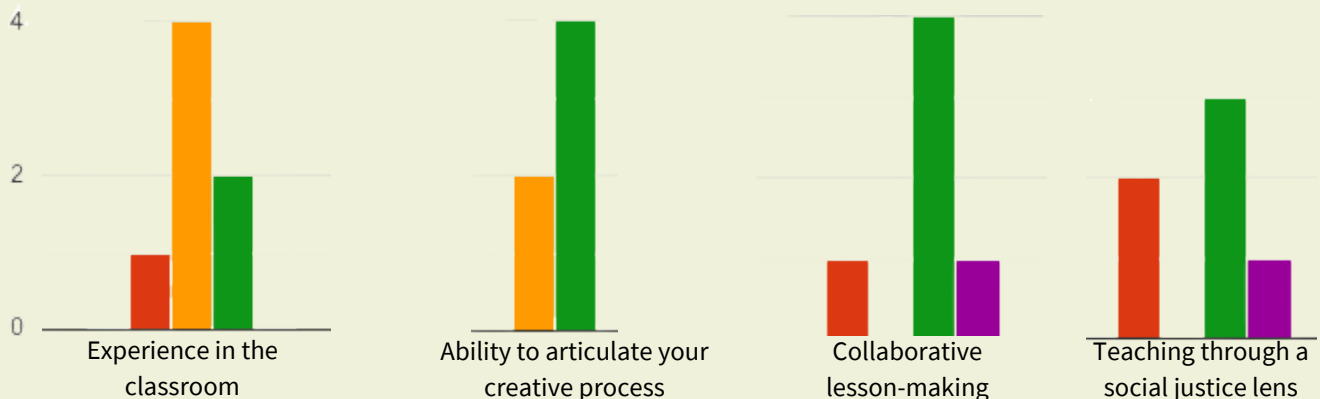
OUTCOMES

EVALUATIONS:

Based on our FY20 program, we set benchmarks and measured the success of the program through the number of fellows and registrants for the Institute, participant feedback, and number of new connections participants made during the Institute.

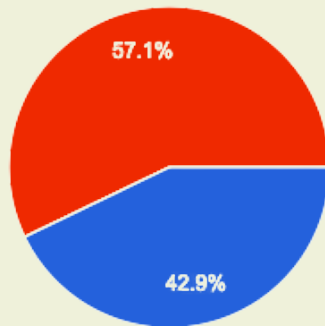


100% OF PARTICIPANTS said they connected with another Teaching Artist they'd be interested in working with.



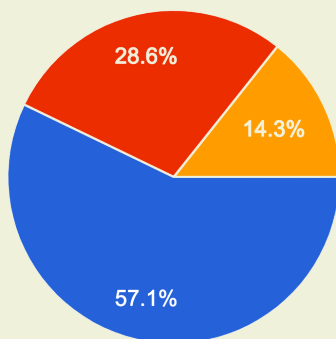
EVALUATIONS:

According to the post-program survey, the satisfaction of the TAIR Fellows was high in all areas of growth.



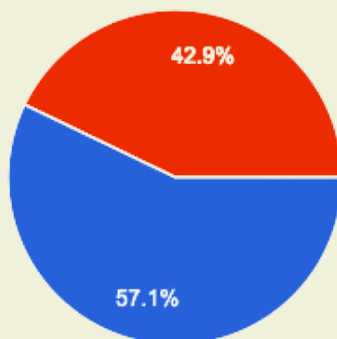
- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Somewhat unsatisfied
- Unsatisfied

A majority of trainees were very satisfied with the overall experience of the program.



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

A majority of trainees feel more prepared to pursue work as a teaching artist as a result of participating in this training program.



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

A majority of trainees strongly agree TAIR was valuable to their development as a Teaching Artist.

TRAINEE

VOICES

"The program gave me so many skills to bring into my classroom and I felt it made me a greater asset to my students. I felt very confident in my ability to develop and reach students further and place more Justice or items learning in my lessons."

ALEXIS ROBINSON

"I had never learned anything about creating a syllabus before, and my confidence on how to begin to develop a plan for every class or even private coaching has expanded greatly."

DEVIN CANNON

"A new enlightenment for teaching artistry, teaching in general, and more knowledge for how to do it."

MARISSA COFFA

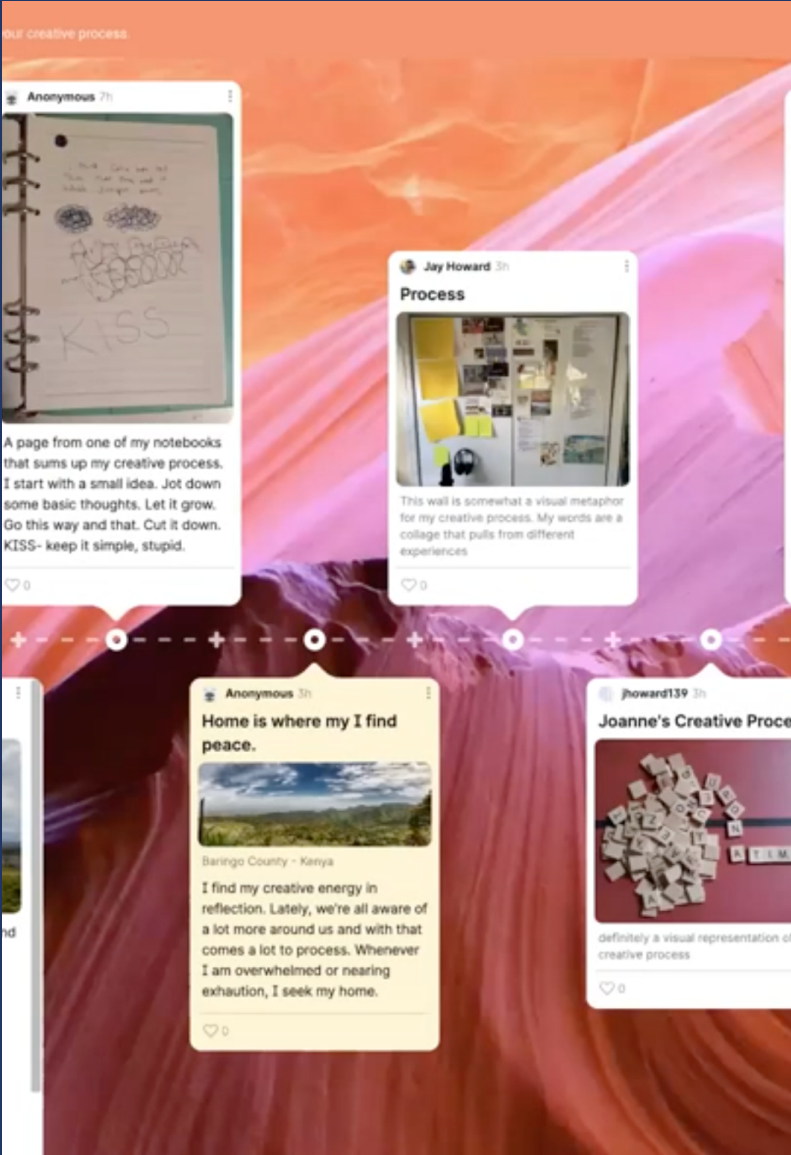
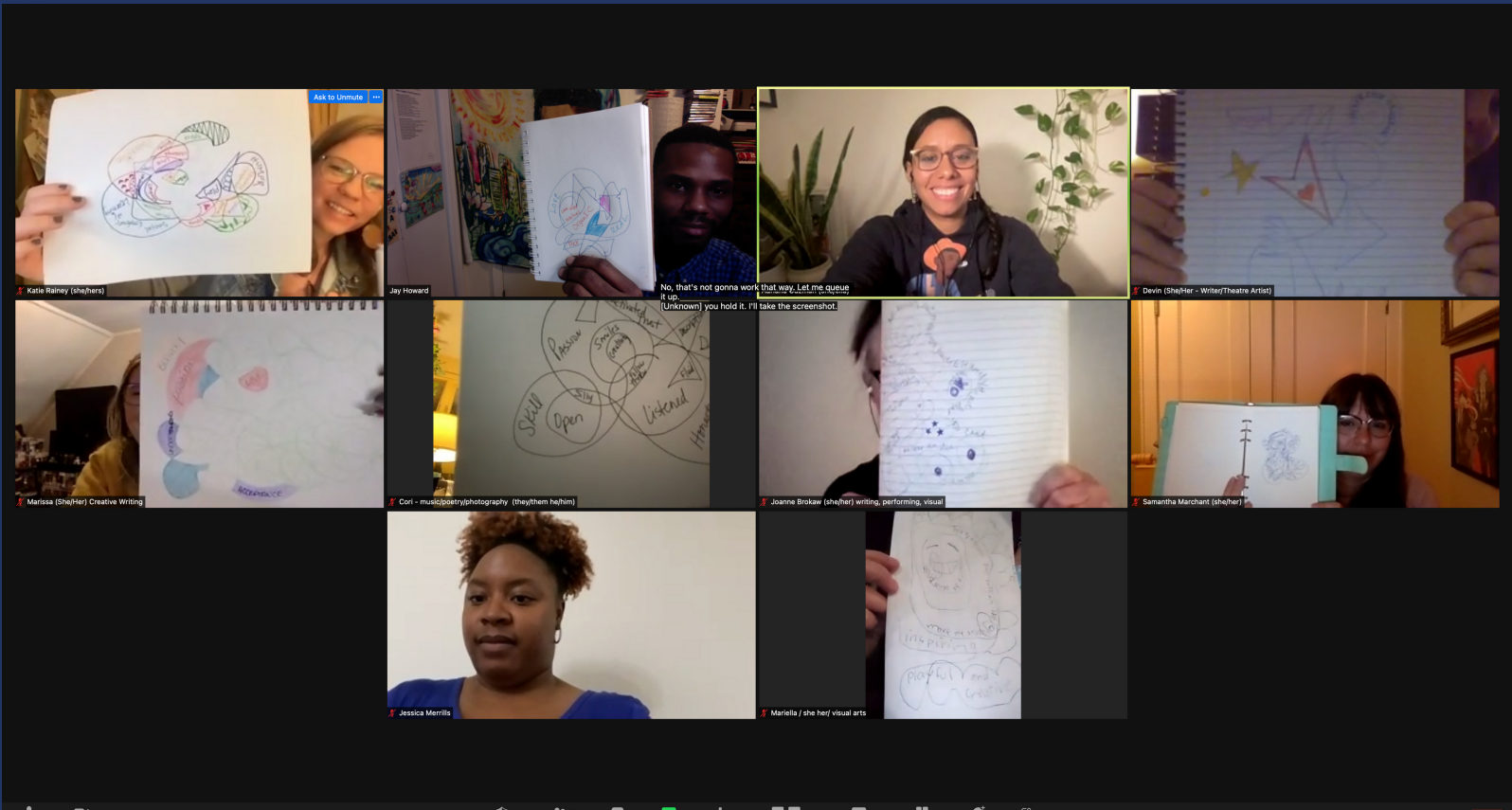
"I learned so much from the mentors, the leaders, and the other participants. Every class was fun and interesting. I wasn't sure where we were headed at first, but now I see they were teaching us by example."

CORIANDER RAINBEAUX

"The most important thing I learned was how to create educational objectives that teach students to be positive community members and learn equity through art."

ALEXIS ROBINSON





TEACHING ARTIST INSTITUTE OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY PRACTICES

CHAT DISCUSSION

Who and what brought you to Rochester? What is your connection?

BREAKOUT GROUPS

Share a piece of artwork you made/are currently working on. Rename group after fictional or real person of influence (Teacher/educator)

OUR COMMUNITY PRACTICES

Considering what you shared and how you are feeling about watching the Honor Native Land Video, What do you feel like to be seen? To be acknowledged? What do you bring to this community? What do you need from this community?

Workshop #1: Community Building



TRAINEE AFFIRMATIONS

I am the sea because I am powerful

I dream in green, I am connected to the plants

I am adventurous like the wind. I am sweet as the river and as mysterious as the ocean.

I am mycelium above ground, connecting those I love.

I am the roots of trees, finding firm ground to nurture dreams

I am water because I go with the flow.

I dance with the wind, I am ever changing and adaptable

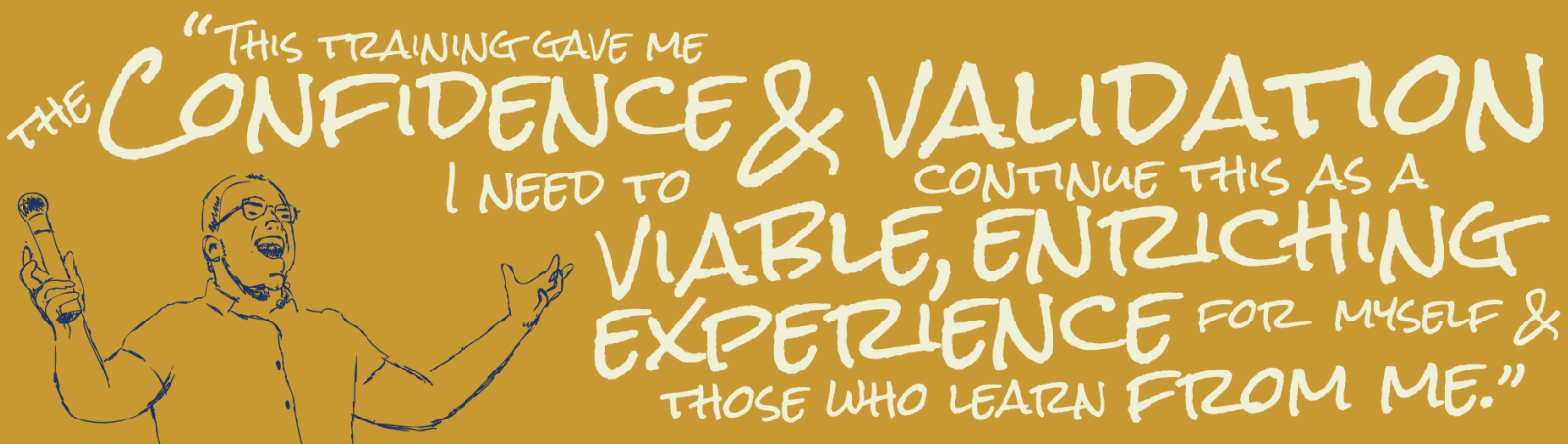
I am a leaf, turning and twisting in the breeze, only falling to ground when the time of transition is night.

I am a creek, flexible over roots and rocks

I am a wave because I am ever-changing: an important part of a powerful whole. I move with the music of the wind within me.

I am the trees, standing tall against the storms.

I am the ground, I may be high up, or down under, but still the same at heart.



AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

While overall the training was a success, TAP staff is committed to improving in the following areas:

- Time and length of online sessions
- Facilitating more out-of-workshop community building opportunities
- Meeting in-person for future events when the pandemic ends
- More specifics on scaffolding and teaching techniques
- Art form group team building within workshops
- Demo lessons and shadowing working Teaching Artists once it is safe to do so
- Connect more with potential clients like school administrators
- Training on presenting your resume and pitching a workshop
- Online alumni group specifically for TAIR graduates

CONCLUSION

The training continues to be adaptable in all forms including finding entry points for growth for all levels of participants regardless of their experience. We strive for the experiences to be driven by our teaching artist and the needs of the community. For the Teaching Artist Project the idea of creating and expanding the TA community online and in person is a consistent theme we look to stabilize.

The outcomes from the training recognizes Rochester's need for Teaching Artists to connect in ways that highlight their artistry and that would provide them with professional opportunities to develop their work. The training plays a delicate balance of understanding teaching artistry and our creative process of aligning direct guidance and mentorship vs. independent learning. Veteran teaching artists are hoping to be bridges for newer teaching artist in the community while still working with newer teaching artist to define "what is teaching artistry" for them. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the development of community is still something we are navigating.

We are still assessing ways to address the tangible needs of the artistic community in Rochester, and to help develop a sustained path in their artistry. We continue to refine the program from our challenges to better serve the Rochester community throughout COVID-19 and beyond the hardships that it has brought. We can do this by:

- Cultivating a strong, diverse TA community through strengthening partnerships with artists of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and artists with disabilities
- Exploring and implementing strategies to address program accessibility as it relates to the intersections of race, class, gender, ability, and more
- Augmenting TAP programming with additional resources and trainings for Teaching Artists who are currently working in the field and are facing the additional challenge of remote teaching and virtual learning
- Expanding the work we do with the alumnx community & creating more opportunities for our alums to participate in the training & expand their career opportunities
- Assisting Rochester community leaders with developing a formal platform for TAs to stay in connection with each other.



A Division of Community-Word Project
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