

July 22-26, 2024

Welcome to the IMAGINARIUM

Creative Practices for Teaching & Learning

Habla Summer Teacher Institute

Habla

Welcome to the Imaginarium The 16th Annual Habla Teacher Institute

Itinerary

Every song that has ever been sung,
Every piece of art that has ever been hung,
Every dream that's ever been dreamed,
They all began in a place not so easily seen . . .

This year the institute will be led in Spanish and English with materials in Spanish and English available. Please note that all listed times are in **Mexico Time**.

*Quotes throughout the itinerary are from this summer's core text, **The Fantastic Bureau of Imagination** by Brad Montague. This text will be supplemented by a constellation of poems, songs, and books for every age group.*

MONDAY, JULY 22

8:15am-8:45am

BREAKFAST

8:45am-9:15am

WELCOME

9:15am-12:00pm

EVERY DREAM THAT'S BEEN DREAMED

a building community/performance/writing workshop with Kurt Wootton and María del Mar Patrón Vázquez

“They all began in a place not so easily seen . . .“

12:00pm-12:45pm

LUNCH

12:45pm-2:45pm

BUILDING AN IMAGINARIUM

a MAKERSPACE workshop with Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri and Cynthia Weiss

“Ideas from all over the world are delivered to The Makery.”

TUESDAY, JULY 23

8:15am-8:45am

ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST

8:45am-9:15am

MORNING REFLECTION

9:15am-12:00pm

ALL THE STORIES THAT HAVE YET TO BE TOLD

a narrative and performance workshop with Patricia Sobral

“All the stories that have yet to be told in the world”

12:00pm-12:45pm

LUNCH

12:45pm-2:45pm

CURIOUS CREATURES

a visual art studio with Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri and Cynthia Weiss

“Most of our agency business is handled by curious little creatures known as figments.”

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

8:15am-8:45am

ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST

8:45am-9:15am

MORNING REFLECTION

9:15am-12:00pm

MAKING IDEAS VISIBLE

a rigorous thinking workshop led by Kurt Wootton and María del Mar Patrón Vázquez

“Ideas are not just meant for having and holding, but for sharing and living and doing.”

12:00pm-12:45pm

LUNCH

12:45pm-2:45pm

THE POWER OF A ROOM

presentations and conversations from Institute participants

THURSDAY, JULY 25

8:15am-8:45am

ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST

8:45am-9:15am

MORNING REFLECTION

9:15am-12:00pm **BEAUTIFUL SYMPHONIES**
integrating sound into the classroom with Darío Bernal Villegas

*“He looked at all the wonderful things that’d been imagined—
Beautiful symphonies, performances and plays, marvelous inventions,
ideas for brightening days.”*

12:00pm-12:45pm **LUNCH**

12:45pm-2:45pm **AGENTS OF IMAGINATION**
an imagination workshop with Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri

“AGENTS of IMAGINATION are needed and YOU CAN BE ONE!”

FRIDAY, JULY 26

8:15am-8:45am **ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST**

8:45am-9:15am **OVERALL INSTITUTE REFLECTION**

9:15am-10:00am **PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN: THE HOW AND WHY OF THE HABLA TEACHER INSTITUTE**
a talk by Kurt Wootton

10:00am-12:00pm **THE IMAGINARIUM: EXHIBITION REHEARSAL AND PREPARATION**
a rehearsing/revising experience led by Kurt Wootton, and Darío Bernal Villegas

12:00pm-12:45pm **LUNCH**

12:45pm-2:00pm **MAGICAL CUENTOS: A CULMINATING EXHIBITION**
exhibition of the week’s collective work

2:00pm-2:45pm **INSTITUTE CLOSING**

6:30pm **HABLA’S 16TH ANNUAL CLOSING CELEBRATION AND FIESTA**
meet at Habla at 6:15pm for transportation to the fiesta

The closing fiesta will take place at a spacious Quinta (estate) outside of Merida. Traditional Yucatecan food, drinks, Latin American music, and dancing will carry us through the night.

PRESENTERS 2024 TEACHER INSTITUTE

María del Mar Patrón Vázquez is co-founder of Habla: The Center for Language and Culture in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Her work is focused on how reading and literature can be part of the daily life of communities. At Brown she received the prestigious Presidential Teaching Award for her teaching of Spanish language classes to university students. Her unique approach to teaching involves the literature and culture of the language. Marimar has presented talks and workshops on culture, language, and pedagogy in a variety of settings including recently at the Deeper Learning conference in San Diego, the New School of Thought Institute in São Paulo, and an upcoming keynote at the STEAM conference in Barcelona. Perhaps the greatest lessons she’s learned about teaching are from her children, Luis and Sandra, who are growing up bilingual.

Kurt Wootton is a co-founder and director of Habla: The Center for Language and Culture and is one of the founding directors of the ArtsLiteracy Project in the Education Department at Brown University. He has piloted several lab schools in the United States, Brazil, and Mexico and has worked with Boston, Hartford, St. Paul, Providence, and Central Falls on multi-year, district-wide initiatives. He is the coauthor of *A Reason to Read: Linking Literacy and the Arts* published by Harvard Education Press. *The New York Times* writes, “Mr. Wootton remains every bit as convinced of education’s power to transform lives. He has changed his tool of choice, however, from a mirror in which students see only reflections of themselves to a window that opens onto the rest of the world.”

Cynthia Weiss is an award-winning artist and educator, and a national leader in creative youth development and arts integration. She was previously the Director of Education at Marwen, a program that provides free visual arts courses and career counselors for Chicago youth from low-income communities. Cynthia helped found and direct the AIMproject (Arts Integration Mentoring Project) at Columbia College in Chicago. She is part of the arts education team that creates and directs the summer institutes at Habla: The Center for Language and Culture in Merida, Mexico. She does consultations at the local and national levels to support educating artists in their professional development of arts learning and reading and writing. Cynthia has an MFA in painting from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has directed large-scale public projects around the city and is a member of the Chicago Public Art Group. She is co-editor, with Gail Burnaford and Arnold Aprill of *Renaissance in the Classroom: Arts Integration and Meaningful Learning*, and co-editor with Amana Lichtenstein of *AIMprint: New Relations in the Arts and Learning*.

Patricia Sobral was educated in Brazil and the United States and has lived all her life between and in the midst of several cultures. She holds a Ph.D. in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies from Brown University, where she is currently a faculty member. She is the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies. Patricia teaches several courses in Portuguese via the arts, for example Performing Brazil, and three courses in English: a first-year seminar, Belonging and Displacement; a sophomore seminar, Mapping Cross-Cultural Identities, and Artful Teaching. Patricia Sobral is the recipient of the 2012 Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning at Brown, and the Undergraduate Student Council Award for Teaching and Advising, and the recipient of the 2016 Karen T. Romer Prize for Excellence in Advising. She is a co-author of *Ponto de Encontro, Viajando através do alfabeto*, and *Mapeando o Português através das Artes*. She integrates the performing, visual, digital, and literary arts to enhance language acquisition, deepen cultural awareness, and demonstrate how the arts can promote change.

Darío Bernal Villegas is a drummer, composer, and improviser, originally from Mexico City, trained in Mexico and London. Improvisation is an essential part of his job as a music creator, both in his openly improvised pieces and his compositions. He seeks to create an intense and creative interaction between musicians and the score, fostering the conditions for a fruitful dialogue between performer and composer. He is known for helping students create original, modern compositions using a variety of instruments and found objects.

Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri was born in Milan, Italy and moved to Mexico at a very young age, when his passion for art blossomed. Tommaso studied Fine Arts at the Accademia di Belle Arti of Urbino in Italy. During his undergraduate studies, Tommaso found another passion: working with kids. In 2010, Tommaso moved to Merida and participated in the Habla Teacher Institute to further pursue his enthusiasm for early-childhood education. This opened the door for him to become a teacher at Habla, where today he is the Creative Director and continues to teach. He also works with EdúcaTE Yucatán A.C. as an arts literacy promotor for primary school students and PICIP (Comprehensive Participatory Community Intervention Program), where he collaborates with the people of Flamboyanes to create murals around the community. Whenever he can, Tommaso attends art and teaching workshops to enhance his creativity in his professional and personal work. His passions include painting, videography, photography, animation, music, and yoga. Watching the excitement his students express when creating art and exploring their own imagination is what drives his passion for teaching.

Arnold Aprill founded the Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE) in 1993 and the Radical Compliance Arts and Learning Laboratory in 2012. He comes from a background in professional theater as an award-winning director, producer, and playwright. He has taught at the University of Chicago, National-Louis University, Columbia College, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is one of the co-editors with Cynthia Weiss and Gail Burnaford of *Renaissance in the Classroom: Arts Integration and Meaningful Learning*. He consults nationally and internationally on the role of the arts in effective school improvement and has been recognized for exceptional leadership by the Chicago Community Trust and the Ford Foundation. The Fulbright Scholar's program has named him as an arts education Senior Specialist.

Aketzali Chacón González is from Chiapas, Mexico. She inherited her passion for teaching from her parents and from an early age she became interested in the English language. She loves reading, dancing, and traveling. She finds inspiration in helping students share their stories in a different language through creativity, fun, and purpose. The city of Merida took her in during her time as a student, which eventually opened the door to Habla, where she has found a new family. She is currently the English Program and Teacher Institute Coordinator.