



**Once Upon A Planet
The 15th Annual Habla Teacher Institute**

Itinerary

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 the **Central Time Zone (North America)**.

*Quotes throughout the itinerary are from this summer's core text, **The Last Cuentista** by Donna Barba Higuera. This text will be supplemented by a constellation of poems, songs, and books for every age group.*

MONDAY, JULY 24

8:30am-9:00am **BREAKFAST**

9:00am-9:30am **WELCOME**

9:30am-12:00pm **THE STORIES WE TELL**
a building community/performance/writing workshop with Kurt Wootton and María del Mar Patrón Vázquez

"The stories we tell ourselves make us who we are."

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

12:45pm-3:00pm **A BEAUTIFUL WHOLE**
a visual art studio with Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri and Cynthia Weiss

"They're not meant to be identical; they're meant to complement one another. Differences make things beautiful as a whole."

TUESDAY, JULY 25

8:30am-9:00am **ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST**

9:00am-9:30am **MORNING REFLECTION**

9:30am-12:00pm **SWEET VOICES**

a poetry and performance workshop with Patricia Sobral

"¡Oh, mija! I have waited so long to hear your sweet voice. I am with your ancestors. You see? Millions of stars apart and I am still here with you."

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

12:45pm-3:00pm **MAGICAL CUENTOS**

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

"It was magical," he whispers, looking up to meet my eyes. "Like your cuentos."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

8:30am-9:00am **ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST**

9:00am-9:30am **MORNING REFLECTION**

9:30am-12:00pm **ME AND MY STORIES**

collaboratively presented by a team of multidisciplinary teaching artists

"I'm part of you. You're taking me and my stories to a new planet and hundreds of years into the future. How lucky am I."

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

12:45pm-3:00pm **THE POWER OF A ROOM**

presentations and conversations from Institute participants

THURSDAY, JULY 27

8:30am-9:00am **ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST**

9:00am-9:30am **MORNING REFLECTION**

9:30am-12:00pm **MUSIC IN THE STARS**

a performance and music workshop with Darío Bernal Villegas

*"The music grows louder.
"What is that?" Rubio asks.
I blink, and the tears spill down my cheeks.
"That, is home."*

- 12:00pm-12:45pm** **LUNCH**
- 12:45pm-3:00pm** **LAUNCHING ROCKETS**
 a MAKERSPACE workshop with Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri and Kurt Wootton
- “We have the coolest job ever. We get to live our whole lives on this ship.” Ben waves his arm. “Traveling through space. Did you see how awesome my new home is?”*

FRIDAY, JULY 28

- 8:30am-9:00am** **ARRIVE AT HABLA AND BREAKFAST**
- 9:00am-9:45am** **OVERALL INSTITUTE REFLECTION**
- 9:45am-10:15am** **PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN: THE HOW AND WHY OF THE HABLA TEACHER INSTITUTE**
 a talk by Kurt Wootton
- 10:15am-12:00pm** **MAGICAL CUENTOS: 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-3:00pm** **INSTITUTE CLOSING**
- 7:30pm** **HABLA’S 15TH ANNUAL CLOSING CELEBRATION AND FIESTA**
 meet at Habla at 7:15pm 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 2022 TEACHER INSTITUTE

María del Mar Patrón Vázquez was born in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico where her family has lived for generations. She studied literature at Universidad de las Américas in Puebla, Mexico and then went on to a graduate degree in Hispanic Studies at Brown University in the United States. 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 language teaching in a variety of settings including Brown University, Florida Atlantic University, and for SmART Schools, an arts-integration organization. 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.