



**ENGAGE**  
**Habla Winter Teacher Institute**

# Itinerary

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, **ENGAGE** by Kurt Wootton and Eileen Landay. This text will be supplemented by a constellation of core texts for every age group.*

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**8:15am-8:45am**      **BREAKFAST**

**8:45am-9:15am**      **WELCOME**

**9:15am-12:00pm**      **CAN YOU IMAGINE? ENTERING CONCEPTS, IDEAS, AND TEXTS**  
a building community/entering text workshop with Kurt Wootton and María del Mar Patrón Vázquez

*"As we enter the world of print text, we also engage with its words. For students who struggle with decoding, meeting words from the text before they read offers them what we refer to as 'textual anchors.'"*

**12:00pm-12:45pm**      **LUNCH**

**12:45pm-2:45pm**      **A MAGICAL WORLD: CREATING ORIGINAL WORK**

a visual art studio with Tommaso Iskra De Silvestri

*"The work that students create will represent their unique thinking and lived experiences."*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

8:45am-9:15am **MORNING REFLECTION**

9:15am-12:00pm **THE GREAT STORYTELLER: CREATING TEXT**

a writing workshop with María del Mar Patrón Vázquez and Kurt Wootton

*“Writing provides the opportunity to externalize and represent thoughts and ideas both for the other and for oneself.”*

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

12:45pm-2:45pm **THE SOUND OF STORIES**

a sound and music workshop with Darío Bernal Villegas

*“Soundscapes are a powerful way for readers to connect to the emotional and aesthetic elements of print text.”*

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

8:45am-9:15am **MORNING REFLECTION**

9:15am-12:00pm **BEAUTIFUL WORK**

collaboratively presented by a team of multidisciplinary teaching artists

*“The challenge for us, as teachers, is to create an environment in which students’ work truly matters enough for them to want to aim for excellence.”*

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

12:45pm-2:00pm **MAGICAL CUENTOS: A CULMINATING EXHIBITION**

an exhibition of the Institute's collective work

*“A performance may be a blend or fusion of mediums and technologies combining multiple art forms in a layered demonstration.”*

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

## PRESENTERS 2024 HABLA WINTER 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 co-founder of Habla: The Center for Language and Culture in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico and co-founder of ArtsLiteracy Project at Brown University. He has piloted several lab schools in the United States, Brazil and Mexico and currently facilitates Teacher Institutes for educators in New Orleans, San Diego, Chicago, and Merida. He is the co-author of *A Reason to Read: Linking Literacy and the Arts* and *ENGAGE: Creative Strategies for Teaching and Learning*. *The New York Times* writes, "Mr. Wootton remains 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."

**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.

**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.

**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.