



Juneau Arts and Humanities Council – Juneau School District
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

2013-2014 TEACHING ARTIST PROFILE and APPLICATION

Name: Betsy Sims
 Address: 418 8th Street
 Juneau, AK 99801
 Phone Number: (907) 209-3202
 Email Address: bsims@rsims.net

Preferred Method for contact? Email and phone

I am available to work/teach:

1 - 2 week residency period only. I am flexible, could work different times
 can work 1 day/week for a month or more could work part days, different times

Arts Education and/or Arts Background

I have been a musician all my life - playing guitar and singing in several groups. For the last 4 years, I have been active in playing Zimbabwean marimbas - and have fallen in love with them.

ART FORM(s) which you are interested in teaching and age of students you are interested in working with.

I am interested in teaching Zimbabwean marimbas to students from 4th grade through high school.

What themes, concepts, and experiences do you want to share with students?

I would give a brief history of the instruments and where they come from, including some basic Shona (the language spoken in Zimbabwe). Other concepts we will explore are paying attention to each other, rhythm, melody, working together as a group and how a complex creation can be born of many small and simple pieces.

Prior Teaching Experiences

I taught classes in Zimbabwean marimba playing at the Canvas Community Art Center for 3 years.

Why do you want to teach the arts in Juneau schools?

I feel that music is integral to our making sense of the world. It helps us organize sounds, concepts, theories and so much more. The marimbas give us a chance to combine many small parts into something much greater than their sum. I am constantly amazed at how creating a marimba piece can bring people together, help them learn to pay attention and to trust each other - and have a lot of fun in the process! I feel lucky to have the chance to share this music with others.

I would like to teach in the schools because I love the fact that marimbas are an instrument literally anyone can play. It is a common occurrence for students who have not been so successful in school to be inspired by these instruments and to gain confidence as they realize how competent they can be in this new discipline.

Past Experience with Artist in the Schools residencies

December 2010 - Glacier Valley Elementary (3rd and 4th graders)
 December 2011 - Glacier Valley Elementary (3rd and 4th graders)

Have you been part of the **Juneau Teaching Artist workshop series?**

Yes, whole series Yes, some of the workshops No, not yet

3 References

Lorrie Heagy - heagy1@jsd.k12.ak.us, 907-780-1400
 Clay Good - claygood302@hotmail.com
 Kristin Garot - Kristin.garot@juneauschools.org, 907-523-1801

Juneau Teaching Artist Application

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