



## Teacher Professional Development in the AITS Residency

What **is** considered professional development?

- Session(s) led by the teaching artist (TA) that builds the teachers' capacity (skills, knowledge, confidence) to use the arts. It supports the goals and content of the residency.
- Teaching the teachers a do-able strategy they can use multiple times and in multiple ways in the classroom when the TA is not there - one that the TA uses during the residency, e.g. snapshot, echoing, mirroring, how to facilitate a discussion about artwork, etc.
- Teaching the teachers something about the art form, e.g. arts vocabulary, cultural context, historical context, etc. that they can use in the classroom.
- Giving teachers specific ideas and skills for following up with students in-between TA sessions.

What **is not** considered professional development?

- TA co-planning time with teacher.
- Finding out about the student population (Special Ed, ELL students), the teacher's classroom management protocol, etc.
- Working out the residency schedule.
- Discussing the teacher's role in the residency.
- Going over what TA is going to do, handing out or explaining lesson plans.
- Teachers (merely) participating in and/or observing residency.

So, what is expected?

- The TA will lead at least one professional development session for the teachers involved in the residency, minimum of one hour, preferably longer.
- More sessions demonstrate higher teacher commitment and greater potential for teacher involvement, but the majority of the residency cost must be for direct services to students. Two or three sessions is optimum.
- Keep it simple! Leave teachers with one strategy or specific skill they are confident using.
- Make sure the application is clear and specific for the question of professional development and how it will build teacher capacity in the arts.
- Include professional development in the budget. The fee per PD workshop can be higher than the per-session teaching fee because it is understood that the TA is using his/her expertise in a different way for each.