



## 2018-2019 Preschool Faculty

**Renée Boyette (Art Director & Art Teacher for Suns, Moons, Stars & Planets)** in her thirteenth year, is the Director of Art Programs at Arts Together. She is responsible for the development and implementation of visual arts curriculum for students ranging from preschool to elementary school age. Additionally, she leads the visual art activities for Arts Together's Arts After Dark, a unique multi-arts experience for adults. Renée has organized and led many interactive visual art projects throughout the Raleigh community including the Hillsborough Wide Open Celebration, NC Sports Day at the NC History Museum, family events at North Hills, Artsplosure and the Governor Morehead School. She has spearheaded the children's art activities for the SPARKcon festival and curated, in collaboration with Marbles Kids Museum, the Raleigh Historic Development Commissions' children's art contest. Renée pursued a BFA in Art Education with a concentration in Painting from East Carolina University. She believes strongly in the importance and transformative power of the arts and considers herself an advocate for getting messy. Renée likes collage, encaustics and creating with clay. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and working on her historical home in Louisburg with her husband Charles, beagle Thelma Lou and kitty Lucy Pearl.

**Sarah Harris (Head Planets Teacher)** fell in love with the Arts Together program and curriculum when her two daughters were enrolled at the preschool over the last four years. After teaching the Multi Arts Sampler class last year, she decided to take on a new position as a preschool teacher. Over the last three summers, Sarah taught multiple art camps at Arts Together and at Artspace in downtown Raleigh. This follows a career as an elementary art teacher where she taught for seven years in Johnston County. Sarah graduated in 2003 from Buffalo State College with a BS in Art Education after she studied abroad in Australia for a year attending the University of South Australia in Adelaide. During her free time, she enjoys science fiction movies, face painting for events and crafting with her girls, Cora and Elisabeth.

**Brenda Howe (Director of Preschool)** obtained a degree in Social Work with a concentration in Family Relations and Child Development from East Carolina University. She then worked for seven years in a family and child development center in Greenville where the emphasis was on the total family, while incorporating a preschool experience for children ages three to five. After moving to Raleigh, she became a medical social worker prior to having a daughter and a son, who are both now grown. While raising her children, she was asked to become a substitute teacher for the Wake County Public School System, eventually becoming a teacher assistant and Early Arrival Coordinator. For many years, Brenda was the Site Coordinator for Arts Together's Summer Program. For the past 12 years, she has been the Director of Preschool and Summer Programs. With a passion for the arts and a love of children, Brenda has found a perfect fit at Arts Together. In her spare time, she loves reading, cooking, traveling, gardening, yoga, working out and playing with her granddaughter, Aria.

**Sherri Pekks (Drama/Music for Stars, Moons & Planets)** is in her sixth year here at Arts Together. Sherri comes with training from the University of North Florida in Early and Elementary Education and also has additional training and experience in Conscious Discipline. Sherri was very active in theater during both high school and college and is excited to begin her new role as the Lead Multi-Arts Preschool Teacher and Assistant Summer Camp Coordinator. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, painting, cooking and reading. She resides in Raleigh with her husband, two daughters and a plethora of pets.

**Sarah Bousquet Rainbolt (Head Suns Teacher)** enters her sixth year at Arts Together. She is a Colorado native with a love for teaching and a passion for Theatre. In addition to the Multi-Arts program, she teaches a Drama Play class, a Learning Lab class, and is the Costume Designer for the spring Children's Musical. Sarah attended the University of Colorado with a major in English and Theatre and has completed Level 1 Credentials in Early Childhood Education at Wake Tech. She starred in numerous musicals and plays in Colorado and Raleigh for Theatreworks, Theatre in the Park and Raleigh Little Theatre. Her background in children's music instruction, kids' birthday parties, Shakespeare, improv and vocal performance has given her energy for showing others how to find their voice and help young ones become who they are. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her 11-year-old son Christian, her husband Rob and her loveable dog Tucker. In her spare time, she loves science, writing music, singing, reading mountains of books and pretending to cook.

**Misty Santos (Head Stars Teacher)** Misty attended Southeastern College in Wake Forest where she studied music and early childhood education. Her career with children began after she was a mother and decided to open a licensed in-home day care to afford her the opportunity to stay at home with her own children. From there, she went on to work as the Assistant Program Director for the Salvation Army's after school program in Raleigh, to teaching preschool for four years, then becoming a full-time nanny and now coming back full circle to teaching preschool. Misty is married with three adult daughters and a wonderful granddaughter. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time in the mountains, cooking, gardening and spending time with her German shorthaired pointers.

**Nikki Turner (Head Moons Teacher)** has always loved the arts, especially dance. As a child, she attended Arts Together, taking dance and art classes and fell in love with the teachers, the staff and the vision. It wasn't until after receiving a BS in Business Administration from Saint Augustine's College and working in corporate America, that she realized how much she missed dance. Longing to return and give back to Arts Together what she'd been given, Nikki decided to pursue her dance degree. In 2004, while studying dance, she returned to Arts Together to teach. She received her BA in Dance with a concentration in Private Studio Teaching, from Meredith College in 2008. Nikki has performed works choreographed by LD Burris, Joan Nicholas Walker and Carol Finley. She's also performed with EEDT as an adjunct member and was a member of Rainbow Dance for four years. She recently returned to NC, to be with family, while her husband serves our country abroad. It was only natural for her to return to Arts Together and Rainbow Dance, as well. Nikki loves coffee, cupcakes and has made seeking out locally owned businesses to support, a fun hobby. She also enjoys spending time with family and seeking out new, fun adventures. She is a proud military spouse to Robert and devoted mother to Rasheed, Raushan, Nikolas and Olivia Rae.

**Karen Warr (Movement/Dance for Stars, Moons & Planets)** comes to us with a life-long love of dance. She attended Randolph Macon Woman's College and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Biology and a Minor in Dance. Karen later obtained her Master of Science from UNC Wilmington in Marine Biology. Early in her life, Karen recognized her passion for dance and took many dance classes, volunteered as a movement teacher for Developmentally Disabled Adults and Children, and later studied dance both in the United States and England. She has been a member of Arts Together's Rainbow Dance Company for 10 years. Karen also has taught dance/movement classes for older children at Arts Together. This is Karen's eleventh year as the movement/dance instructor for our morning preschool. Ever busy, Karen is also wife to Richard and mother to two beautiful children, Ian and Claire.