

---

# COUNTRY DAY CREATIVE ARTS

## THE 2023 ARTIST TEACHERS



We wholeheartedly **THANK**  
our 37 CDCA 2023  
Interns  
for all their help & support!

---



**Sidney Astl**

New Orleans, LA

**Digital Photography/ Visual Arts**

Sidney Astl is a New Orleans based artist focusing in printmaking and filmmaking. She has a passion for fashion and has spent the last year working at a costume shop for a TV show. Sidney loves to combine textile, printmaking, and photography to create visual stories and textured pieces that you almost want to touch. But mostly, Sidney loves to get her hands dirty and make something exciting! When she's not making art, you can find Sidney decked out in pink or roller skating with Big Easy Roller Derby. Sidney has hair as long as Rapunzel and is a steadfast believer in fairies.

---

**Leyla Beydoun**

New York, NY

**Stage Combat/Performing Arts**

Leyla is joining us from New York's best borough, Queens. Leyla is a Middle Eastern-American actress, dancer, and performer. She received her BFA in acting from the University of Michigan. Some fun facts about her: She has been dancing since she was five, she is trained in flying trapeze, and traveling is her all-time favorite hobby. When she is not teaching, she can be found eating soup dumplings, listening to Taylor Swift, or baking her favorite sweet treats. Leyla is thrilled to be joining CDCA Staff for the summer of 2023!



**Joe Cantu**

New Orleans, LA

**Robotics**

Little is known of the early history of Jose C. Cantu II. In fact, it is not even known why the "s" is silent. He is known to have said he came as fast as he could, but there was not enough information to draw any knowledge about where from, or how he arrived. He was born at the beginning of the last decade of the preceding century, on June 3. However, many events have contradictory dates unless we assume that the stories are not told in chronological order, which is entirely possible since they are almost completely episodic. What is known is that Joe Can-do graduated from Ball State University, and has since served as a mentor to makers, young roboticists and artists. He has decorated many times. In 2018, when he was a young community coordinator for Fab Lab Nola, he stumbled upon a man making corsages for a summer arts program, and in need of assistance. He helped that man. This would later have repercussions...



**Ben Cousins**

New Orleans, LA

## Sound FX/ Music

Growing up in New Orleans, Ben found my love for music early on, about the same time he figured out my perfect ratio for a PB+J. As he grew up his admiration turned into a passion, and he has not been able to stop making noise since! As a student of music, the past 10+ years Ben has been putting my focus on the wonderful lineage of improvised music that emerged from the wonderful city we get to call home. As a creative, an artist and teacher, Ben is driven by the power of sound and the possibilities presented! Music's ability to heal, transport, transform and create community is what excites him to create.

---

**Eric Crider**

Mission Viejo, CA

## Resident McGyver

Eric Crider is a Southern California native with a scattered background in creative writing, visual arts, and theatre production. Following graduation from Loyola New Orleans in 2014, a series of art apprenticeships segued into performing arts and the world of stagecraft sucked him in. He is a scenic carpenter of eight years, trained as one component of the diverse backstage team that brings plays to life. Eric's trade requires integrated abilities in construction, welding, automation, and theatrical rigging, while his complementary interests include painting, puppetry, and costume crafts. He recently took to the road in a 1991 Mitsubishi Delica converted into a mobile maker space.



**Ferneasa Cutno**  
New Orleans, LA

## Musical Theater

Ferneasa is an established dancer, choreographer, studio owner, and dance education. She grew up in New Orleans, La., and started dance training at age 2. She studied at several New Orleans dance schools, including NOCCA. She began her professional career at age 14, traveling to Rio with NOLA city officials in cultural exchange, and opened her 1st dance studio at age 16. Ferneasa studied and performed throughout the US, Europe, and Africa. She was a member of several dance companies, including New Orleans Ballet, Augusta Ballet, and Garth Fagan Dance. As a dance educator, she has taught Dance K-12 in the public and private school systems for over 20 years, serving as an adjudicator and department head for Governor's Honors Program in Ga. Ferneasa is the founder and Artistic Director of Cutno Dance Center in Augusta, GA., which is in its 28th season of Dance. Currently, she is a Teaching Artist with Young Audiences in La. Fern's favorite color is orange, and she loves to cook and travel. If she were an animal, she would be Gazelle.



**Aurora Daigle**  
New Orleans, LA

## Horticulture

Aurora is a New Orleans native who attended and loved CDCA as a kid. She graduated from NOCCA, then went on to San Francisco Art Institute, achieving her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art. In 2022, Aurora received her Master's Degree in Creative Arts Therapy from Pratt Institute. Aurora is an interdisciplinary artist and a blossoming art therapist and educator with the local nonprofit T.R.E.E. Aurora's art practice emphasizes 'folk-art' and seeks to cultivate thoughts of restoring our connections to the natural world through a deepening relationship with ourselves and the plants and animals. With a holistic approach to art making and life, Aurora feels an urgency and passion for being in service to the planet and to the people of the communities she has called home.

---

**Julianne Lagniappe**  
New Orleans, LA

## Costumes/ Adornment

Julianne Lagniappe is a native New Orleans artist best known for creating Feather Forest at JAMNOLA. When not at CDCA, she works as an independent costume designer and dressmaker, creating garments for Mardi Gras royalty and fabulous entertainers in our city. Julianne loves working with bright colors, shiny sparkles, and creative people of all ages. This is her fifth year teaching at CDCA.



**Kiernan Dunn**  
New Orleans, LA

## Silkscreen

Kiernan Dunn has been creating hand pulled prints for over a decade. After receiving an undergraduate degree in fine arts from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in 2009, Kiernan moved to New Orleans and joined the New Orleans Community Printshop and Darkroom. There she fell in love with screen printing and layering color. In 2017, she began to build a personal studio in the 7th ward, where she creates all of her designs and prints today. In 2018, she joined Dutch Alley Artist's Co-op. Kiernan Dunn screen prints all of her work with love and a keen eye for detail. By hand drawing each color separation, hand mixing acrylic inks and printing with gradient techniques each print she pulls is unique. Her work is inspired by native flora and fauna, with a whimsical flair. Each year she designs and prints a horticulture calendar, this year was her 11th calendar!



**Marti Dumas**

New Orleans, LA

## Creative Writing

Marti Dumas is a native New Orleanian with a passion for storytelling. When she is not teaching or parenting, she is reading or writing. She prefers to do some combination of the above within view of ancient oak trees or the banks of the river. To date, she has published twelve books for children, including the best-selling Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest chapter book series, and the Wildseed Witch books, tales of social media and magic.

---

**Amber Dyer**

New Orleans, LA

## Culinary Arts

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Amber credits growing up surrounded by food, family and the ocean for the foundation of their loves in life. Amber received their B.S. in Culinary Nutrition in Dietetics, Food Science and Research & Development from Johnson & Wales University. Amber's professional background is sprinkled with a wide variety of food and beverage science, research and development, as well as nutrition and wellness education with an emphasis on whole-body nutrition. Amber was drawn to the vibrant city of New Orleans to teach culinary medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine and share their passion with the local community. Over the last several years working with Tulane, Amber has created the kid's community nutrition and culinary programming, led community outreach and partnerships, and connected with thousands of individuals in the kitchen. Amber is passionate about kitchen confidence, learning about cultures through food, and their growing family. When not in the kitchen, Amber can be found laying out at the park or exploring outdoors with a Hansen's Sno-Bliz in hand.



**Ursa Eyer**

New Orleans, LA

## Comics

Ursa is a comic book artist and illustrator working out of New Orleans. She first began studying art at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and went on to receive a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She spent time abroad at the Osaka University of Art, studying what would soon become her passion, comic book making. Her work features surrealist narratives and personal reflections. She is an active member of both The Aquarium Gallery and Antenna. Ursa's work has been featured in The Huffington Post, Bustle, MIC and BuzzFeed.



**Frenchie Faith**  
New Orleans, LA

## Performing Arts

Frenchie's first love is flying, but puppies, babies, and creepy things that go bump in the night run a close second. Having been a librarian for ten years and a professional acrobat for thirty, it's amazing that she is only 26 years old! Frenchie has performed with (or for) many of your favorite New Orleans artists and she once sang for Bill Clinton, at his inauguration. Twelve years ago, one CDCA young artist said, "She kinda looks like Ke \$ha." Some of her proudest accomplishments are her two magical children, her silver metal in Sports Acrobatics at the National Elite Level, and her role as a founding member of The Flying Buttresses, the greatest aerial troupe in the world. She is honored and thrilled to join you again at CDCA this summer!

---

**Oscar Foster**  
New Orleans, LA

## Culinary Arts

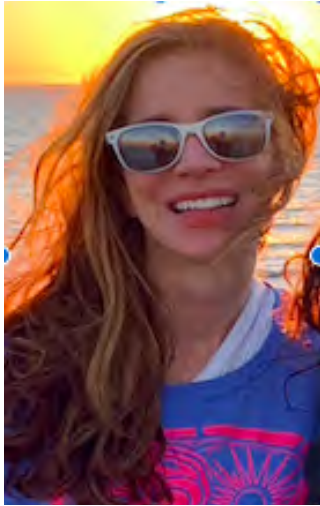
Meet Oscar Foster, an accomplished alumni of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts who studied Culinary Arts while working in restaurants across New Orleans and participating in popular culinary events like Carnival Du Vin and Boudin Bourbon and Beer. Growing up in a dual culture household in New Orleans, Oscar's love for food started at a young age, and he enjoyed combining his Louisiana and Salvadorian roots to create unique fusion dishes. Now, as a student at Tulane University, Oscar is on a mission to make a difference in his community by founding a non-profit organization called R.I.S.E. (Re-imagining Sustainable Ecosystems) that aims to tackle food insecurities in Louisiana. By partnering with the CDCA, Oscar is excited to share his passion for Culinary arts and inspire the next generation of young chefs and community leaders.



**Joia Gaviria**  
New Orleans, LA

## Capoeira

Ana María Gaviria (aka Graduada Joia) is originally from Colombia but has made New Orleans home for over 12 years. She is super excited to return to CDCA and help young artists find their inner ninjas. Outside of CDCA she is a bilingual speech therapist and can be found making music, walking her dog in the park or training capoeira at Mestre Cocada's studio.



**Lauren Gehman**  
New Orleans, LA

**Assistant Director of CDCA**

Lauren is the head of the counseling department at Metairie Park Country Day, where she enjoys teaching psychology and helping to coordinate community service projects. Lauren is also part of the adjunct faculty of Tulane's School of Social Work and maintains a small private practice. Lauren is drawn to Country Day Creative Arts year after year due to the inspiring teacher and student artists!

---

**Susan Gisleson**  
New Orleans, LA **Director of CDCA**

Susan Gisleson taught art for eighteen years before becoming the director of Country Day Creative Arts. She is a New Orleans based artist and educator and a founding member of the literary and visual arts non-profit Press Street, Antenna Gallery, and the 24 Hour Draw-a-thon. Susan has also designed signature floats for the Krewe of Muses as well as some of their throws. She believes that CDCA is a place where dreams become realities and realities become dreams.



**Jon Greene**  
New Orleans, LA

**Theater**



Jon Greene is a director, producer, and theater-maker based out of New Orleans. He holds a BFA from Boston University, trained with Italian Maestro Antonio Fava and is a Kennedy Center Directing Fellow. Nominated for over 12 Big Easy awards his oversized, and imaginative work has been seen at The Shadowbox, The Besthoff Sculpture Garden, Le Petite Theater, and most recently with The Radical Buffoons, of which he is Artistic Director. Prior to living in New Orleans he traveled the world as a working theater maker and found homes (and gigs) in such far away places as Buenos Aires, Reggio Emilia IT, Singapore, Deadwood South Dakota, as well as in New York, Boston, Washington DC, and elsewhere. When he's not in the theater working he's in the theater playing - as in the world around him. He's a firm believer that everything is fodder for our art, but more so -as a true clown -that everything around us is an opportunity for play!



**Rey Hansen**  
New Orleans, LA

## Yoga

Rey is excited to return to CDCA this year, exploring a different facet of their interests by moving from ceramics to yoga. They are a dedicated movement practitioner, dancer, and yogi, and have been teaching restorative yoga at First Grace UMC for the last year. They will bring unbridled curiosity about the body and its movements into the yoga space in order to make room for fun, while encouraging the students to listen to what their bodies need. Outside of yoga they have continued to make ceramics under the name Hold Space, imbuing each piece of functional pottery with intention and prayer. Rey is dedicated to the earth, interdependence, beauty, and liberation for all.

---

**Hunter Higgins**  
New Orleans, LA

## Team Games

During the school year, you can find Hunter Higgins teaching Social Studies and coaching boys high school basketball at the Willow School. On the weekends, you might find him riding his bike, running, dancing or listening to music. While he spends a lot of time in a gym, he prefers being outside and he is a big fan of the New Orleans heat. Does he like cold weather in New Orleans? He does not! Hunter's favorite color is plaid and one day, he hopes to own a pet hippo. Hunter is the proud father of two children, Olivia and Heath, and looks forward to his very first year at CDCA!



**Josh Jackson**  
New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

A product of NC barbecue, his Granny's chocolate cake, and watching too much Nickelodeon, Josh Jackson is a multi-disciplinary artist and co-founder of local art studio, Daggum Creative. Whether it's creating wacky sculptures, wiring chandeliers, or practicing traditional crafts, Josh's work invites everyone to embark on a creative adventure, unearthing humor and fun along the way.





**Kourtney Keller**  
New Orleans, LA

## Video

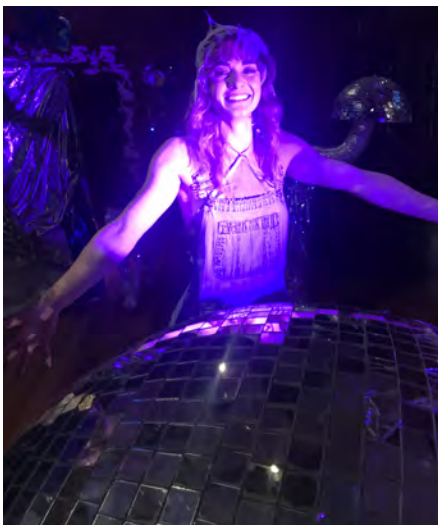
Kourtney Keller is a mother, daughter, comrade, artist, karaoke singer, partner, and is always striving to be a better human. She enjoys messing with perception and working with folks of all ages who have illuminatingly MAD creative ideas! Kourtney gets really excited when hand-made things collide with technology.

---

**Jenny LeBlanc**  
New Orleans, LA

## Sculpture

New Orleans artist Jenny LeBlanc makes work where performance, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture converge. She has exhibited throughout the US and also in Canada, Italy, and Japan. LeBlanc cofounded and directed Hot Iron Press for 18 years, was a founding member of the art collective and gallery The Front, and taught sculpture at NOCCA for most of the last decade. She holds degrees from the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Louisiana State University (BFA in Sculpture), and Virginia Commonwealth University (MFA in Sculpture). Jenny enjoys daily growing alongside her two whoopsy-splunking childers and a happy and productive garden. Her favorite color used to be aqua but she thinks she likes orange and yellow more these days.



**Julia Lemann**  
New Orleans, LA

## Dance/ Acrobatics

Julia Lemann, better known around CDCA as “Lemon”, is a New Orleans native with a passion for both performance and visual art. She has taught dance and circus arts locally at Artivism Dance Theatre, Dancing Grounds, Newman School, and the International School of Louisiana. Nowadays she makes jewelry and performs around town, but you might have to look up to catch her...she’s 8 feet tall on wooden stilts. When on the ground, Lemon loves to gather inspiration from nature and New Orleans culture, meet new animals, and practice partner acrobatics. This summer, she will be offering four different movement-related classes that take dance out of the studio and into the world.

**Theresa Linnihan**

Minneapolis, MN

## Puppetry



Theresa Linnihan has spent two decades playing several roles in Czechoslovak American Marionette Theatre, including Polonius in Hamlet and most recently The Brewmaster in Audience. She has been associate director for the company, designing and performing in original, provocative productions, re-imagined classics and toured to puppet festivals in Turkey, Pakistan, Korea and The Czech Republic. In Minneapolis and Boston she has built and performed for parades and pageants which reflect a global call for justice and healing. Theresa is also a long standing member of The Puppeteer's Cooperative currently creating their annual Rites of Spring project. Theresa has been with us at CDCA since 1996 and we are so glad she is back for another amazing year!

---

**Misha Mayeur**

New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

A New Orleans Native, Misha grew up going to art camps and after school programs, graduating Mount Carmel Academy as the Student Council Executive Artist. She went on to earn her Bachelors of Science in Studio Art with a Graphic Design concentration, and her Bachelors of Art in Creative Advertising from the University of Miami. From there Misha moved to New York, spending years producing fashion photo shoots, music videos, websites and branding. In 2015 she transitioned into the exciting world of event production. Growing up with a deep love of storytelling, painting, and arts and crafts, Misha is excited to explore these themes with the young artists at CDCA this year.



**Rose McBurney**

New Orleans, LA

## Sink Manager



Rose McBurney is a figurative painter living and working in New Orleans, La. She takes inspiration from film, video, the collective unconscious, friends, family, strangers, and her inner eye. Her current work seeks to understand man's will to exist in the face of mediocrity by pausing in the weird moments of everyday life. She is currently in her junior year at the University of New Orleans, pursuing a BA in Studio Arts with an emphasis in painting. This return to higher education after maintaining a steadfast studio practice since 2011 was motivated by her deep desire to attend a Master's Program in painting. McBurney has shown in galleries locally and nationally, including The Front Gallery, New Orleans, Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, New Orleans, Hall-Barnett Gallery, New Orleans, Superfine Art Fair, Miami, Hair and Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, and The Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans as part of the annual juried exhibition Louisiana Contemporary [www.rosemcburney.com](http://www.rosemcburney.com)



**Jasper Means**

New Orleans, LA

**Stop Motion Animation/Visual Arts**

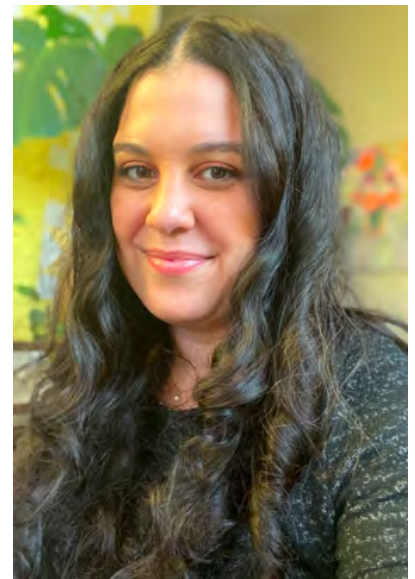
Jasper Means (He/him) is a freelance illustrator, animator, and watercolorist from Pittsburgh, PA. Through his use of line, shape, and texture Jasper's work maintains an ongoing social commentary that showcases the juxtaposition between melancholy and whimsy. Previous employment of his artwork includes children's television, children's publishing, podcast and album cover art, film, and art education. He is currently working as a teaching artist in New Orleans, LA.

**Suzy Furtick Moore**

New Orleans, LA

**Visual Arts**

Originally from Alabama, Suzanah Furtick earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking from the University of Alabama. Years later one of Suzanah's role models, her Grandmother, taught her how to make quilts. As an art educator Suzanah draws upon her Grandmother's values of diversity, kindness, patience, collaboration, history, and sustainability. You can see Suzanah's quilts, paintings, and teaching portfolio at [www.suzanahfurtick.com](http://www.suzanahfurtick.com). Suzanah's favorite things have stayed the same since she was 6- painting, sewing, going out into the sunshine, looking at moss and tiny plants, making people smile, and learning. She is looking forward to returning to CDCA to do all of that with kind, funny, and talented friends.



**Kelly Mueller**

New Orleans, LA

**Ceramics**



Kelly Anne loves making things, canoeing and fishing, animals, nature, chocolate ice cream, lindy hop dancing, zombies, teaching, and the color orange. She has been an artist since her momma set her loose in the unfinished basement with a paintbrush and a bucket of water. Originally from Chicago, she has locally been a member of the Front Gallery, Renegade Arts Collective, and Baton Rouge Gallery, and has attended art residencies and fellowships in California, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and in the rainforests of Brazil! Her work has become increasingly multidisciplinary since moving to New Orleans, and she's currently tinkering with making ceramic animal marionettes. She lives in Mid-City New Orleans with her big goofy dog, Earless Louie, and her 6 chickens, and is teaching high school visual art for her 16th year at Willow. Kelly Anne is (oh my gosh!) SO excited to meet and make things with all the brilliant, creative people at CDCA!



**Jeanie Osborne**

New Orleans, LA

## **Mosaics/ Mixed Media**

Jeanie has been teaching Mosaics and Mixed Media at CDCA for over a decade now. She grew up in Upstate New York and attended Syracuse University for her BFA in Sculpture and later attended Newcomb College/ Tulane University for her MFA in Sculpture. She has been teaching art at Louise S. McGehee School for over 30 years. During the school year, she teaches with 3rd- 6th grade girls. She enjoys the opportunities at Country Day Creative Arts Program to work with young artists every day to nurture and develop art and ideas. She likes the atelier atmosphere, the community, and camaraderie that manifests each summer. She makes mosaic art throughout the year, likes to sew, bead, garden, and take photographic adventures.

---

**Hanna Pilch**

New Orleans, LA

## **Horticulture**

Hanna graduated with a degree in Sociology and Social Sciences from the University of Wyoming. She gained a love and appreciation of the environment from exploring rural public land around the state. This love led Hanna to pursue work in gardens in both Wyoming and Louisiana. Hanna is passionate about connecting her community through the natural world. Hanna has worked at several different summer camps and has enjoyed expressing these interests and educating others through these experiences. Hanna currently works as a part-time illustrator, and is eager to begin work as an Earth Educator at T.R.E.E. She is delighted to share her passion for art, education, and the environment at CDCA.



**Keri Pollock**

New Orleans, LA

## **Business Manager**

Keri is so happy to be a part of CDCA for another glorious year! She is the Business Manager and can be found working, but really having fun, in the office. Prior to working at CDCA, Keri lived in Atlanta and worked at Eileen Fisher for 7 years selling clothing to boutiques in the Southeast. She wears her Eileen Fisher samples that she was busy hoarding during her working hours whenever she can. Outside of CDCA, Keri is busy being a mom to Max and Sarah.



**Matthew Raetz**

New Orleans, LA

## Circus Arts

Matthew couldn't be more excited for what will be his 6th year teaching at CDCA. Owner and Co-Founder of YellowBoxCircus, Matthew and his troupe perform over a dozen different circus art skills across the Country, at private events, corporate events, birthdays, and weddings. Along with being a Big Easy Award nominated actor, a full-time cat dad, and amateur cook, Matthew is a NOCCA alumni and is represented by Hale Talent Agency.

---

**Brett Reif**

New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Reif graduated from Loyola University with a BFA and received his MFA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. When not making art or teaching, Brett can be seen running or biking around the city to work off the NOLA cuisine he can't stop cooking and eating. Brett Reif is influenced by arte povera and specializes in non-traditional media wall work, sculpture and installation. Brett Reif has worked at the Kansas City Art Institute and is back in New Orleans and has worked at various schools including Louise S. McGehee and Country Day. In 2020 Reif was interviewed by Richard Bright for the online Interlalia Magazine, "Transforming Common Materials." Reif's work has been featured in The Kansas City Star, The University Daily Kansan, and online magazines kcmetropolis.org and perversionmag.com. Reif has been interviewed by the online blog littlewordstudio.com and his work can be seen online at brettreif.com.



**Maddie Stratton**

New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

Maddie Stratton was born and raised in a very creative household in New Orleans. Her mother is an artist and encouraged her love of art making from an early age; She attended NOCCA and went to CDCA camp when she was in middle school! After returning from college in New York where she received her BFA at Pratt Institute, she discovered a new found love for painting. Ever since she has been in the studio almost everyday. She loves painting animals (mostly birds and cats) and people. When Mardi Gras parades were canceled, Maddie started working on house floats! Many of them involved large animals with tiny hats or humongous flowers or fruit to be attached to peoples' front porches. When she's not painting or drawing, Maddie loves taking walks or bike rides in City Park or just hanging out at home with her big orange cat named Bijou. She also loves to cook and try out recipes. This is Maddie's second year teaching painting at CDCA!



**Goldie Sylvan**

New Orleans, LA

## **Sign Language/ Visual Arts**

Goldie Sylvan has been serving the deaf community of the greater New Orleans area since graduating the American Sign Language interpreter training program at Delgado Community College in 2015. She also strives to live up to her creative gifts as a lifelong artist, having graduated with a BFA from her hometown University of Louisville in 2006. The twin centers of her life are her wife, Lynn and 2-year-old, Wally, the rest radiate out from there. She is passionate about imparting enthusiasm for ASL and handwork to the next generation.

---

**Lara Taylor**

New Orleans, LA

## **Calligraphy**

Lara Taylor grew up in New Orleans and has been a member of the CDCA community for almost two decades— all the way back to her days as a young artist attending the program herself! She's since gone on to receive her B.A. in Musical Theater from Marymount Manhattan College, and has lived, studied, worked, and created here in Louisiana, in Washington D.C., New York City, and most recently all the way in South Korea! She's a former rescue-animal wrangler and a self-proclaimed birthday cake connoisseur, but this summer she'll be helping the calligraphy and gaming art classes!



**Rahsaan Thomas**

New Orleans, LA

## **Culinary Arts**



Rahsaan Thomas, a cook at Metairie Park Country Day, developed his passion for cooking as a preteen while on summer vacation. Watching his grandmother command the kitchen was both awe-inspiring and intriguing. He loves cooking New Orleans favorites and putting his own spin on traditional Creole and Cajun staples. Weekends you'll find Rahsaan sharpening his culinary skills in his kitchen at home, preparing fun favorites for his wife and two daughters. After graduating from O. Perry Walker Senior High School, Rahsaan earned diplomas from the New Orleans area Job Corps and The Culinary Institute of New Orleans. Throughout his twenty-plus years in culinary arts, he's worked at English Turn, The Creole Queen, and on offshore vessels.



**Jeffrey Thurston**  
New Orleans, LA

## Ceramics

Jeffrey Thurston is a local ceramic artist and educator. During the rest of the year, he teaches ceramics classes at Nunez Community College and also at Metairie Park Country Day School as a long-term sub. What keeps him coming back to clay is that it can be simple and can be complicated, but it can never be boring.

---

**Ross Turner**  
New Orleans, LA

## Woodworking

Ross Turner's parents won him as the 2nd place prize in a watermelon-eating contest at the Yockanookany County Fair in 1986. He grew up in Chickenbone, Mississippi, subsisting on a heart-healthy diet of fried catfish, fried okra, and fried Dr Pepper. Ross spent his days chasing frogs in shallow creeks, wrestling with dogs, building forts, and drawing stuff; and his nights sleeping in the greatest tree house ever built. It's a crying shame he had to grow up.



**Bryant Watson**  
New Orleans, LA

## Music



As soon as Bryant Watson could reach, he played his father's sparkly orange drum kit in a Canton, Ohio basement. Surrounded by a family of musicians, Watson grew up listening to hip hop, soul, R&B, jazz, fusion, and many other styles. Thoroughly immersed, he began gigging at age 14 and teaching after school music lessons at age 15, creating a strong foundation of musicianship. With an anchor in jazz, Watson expanded his range of performance to rock, hip hop, R&B, Blues, Latin jazz, and Afro Cuban. After moving to Cleveland in 2013, he gained experience playing in Greek and Chinese ensembles while obtaining a BA in Music Education at Cleveland State University. In 2017, Watson moved to New Orleans where he plays with many musicians, including Daria and the Hip Drops, NOLA Dukes, and Michael Watson and the Alchemy. When Watson is not performing, he teaches at The Roots of Music and The Roots of Music Studio Academy. His lessons span music production, musicianship, drum set, piano, music theory, and music history. He finds great joy in passing down his knowledge and tools to future artists.



**Eren Wilson**

New Orleans, LA

**Media Arts/ Visual Arts**

Eren K Wilson is an editorial illustrator, comic book artist, art teacher, and huge NERD! Their knowledge of anime and manga is expert-level, and they really like sneaking anime references into their art. Their work has been published by: The Center for Investigative Reporting, Outside Magazine, Penguin Randomhouse, Vice Sports, REI, Rolling Stone, and Whole Foods Market. Eren is excited to have fun, and hopes that campers will tell them jokes. Eren's kid-friendly anime recommendations are: Keep your Hands Off Eizouken, Kiki's Delivery Service, and Mirai.

---

