

# Sara Poleman



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## Summary of Qualifications

- Single Subject K-12 Certification in the Visual Arts possessed in NY and CA (CT pending).
- 15 years of experience working with children in various academic settings.
- 7 years of experience professional teaching full-time in art classrooms.
- Pedagogical focus on exceptional, positive, equitable, collaborative, and rigorous arts instruction for every student, without exception.
- Genuinely loves teaching art to children more than anything else in the world.

## Professional Educational Experience

### **2019 – Present: School in the Square – Washington Heights, NYC** **Visual Art Teacher (Grade 6, 7, & 8)**

Worked as a full-time Middle School Art Educator serving a student body of 300 students in 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade. Developed state-standards aligned curriculum focused on student expression of identity as it relates to the development of age appropriate technical skills. Facilitated weekly Enrichment choice-based courses focused on the student driven school beautification and restoration through the creation of murals and site specific art installations. Served as a Grade Team teacher leader, leading other staff members through professional development and grade-wide organization.

### **2016 – 2019: Richard Merkin Middle School – Los Angeles, CA** **Visual Art Teacher (Grade 7)**

Worked as a full time Middle School Art Educator serving 150 7th Graders at a Title 1 Charter School (Alliance College Ready Public Schools). Created a standards aligned curriculum focused on: fundamental technical skill building, meaningful connection building through art historical and contemporary concepts, and student-driven classroom management. Created and led an after school Art Club, which contributed several community focused murals to the school.

### **2016: Pacifica Montessori – Culver City, CA** **Visual Art Camp Director (Elementary)**

Worked as a full day summer program educator in a mixed level (K-5th Grade) Montessori classroom. Designed and implemented Montessori philosophy-aligned curriculum for 4 weeks of intensive full-day art making and exploration.

### **2015 – 2016: KIPP: Empower Academy – South Los Angeles, CA** **Visual Art Teacher (TK-4th Grade)**

Worked as a full time Elementary Art Educator at a Title 1 Charter School in South Los Angeles for 570 students. Created a curriculum spanning 32 weeks for grades Pre-K through 4th Grade, covering numerous art production and art historical concepts. Created and lead an after school Art Club. Hosted a culminating literacy themed art show exhibiting work from every single student artist.

### **2007 – 2015: Middletown Stage Company – Middletown, CT** **Dance Teacher, Counselor, Choreographer, Art Director (PreK-13)**

Lead weekly dance lessons for students aged 6-13. Choreographed and taught a final piece of dance work for the students to perform at a culminating recital. Lead a team of summer camp students through daily community-building and enrichment activities. Designed and implemented a daily dance fitness curriculum. Created full-scale musical theater choreography for students ages 3-13. Wrote daily youth art curriculum and directed an early childhood multimedia art program for students ages 3-6 with a culminating exhibition event for families and community members.



## Education

### **2011 – 2015: Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY**

Earned a BA in Art Education, with a minor in Art History Minor, and a K-12 Single Subject Teaching Credential.

### **2013: University of Virginia, Semester at Sea**

Global circumnavigation study abroad semester spanning 14 countries, and 4 continents.

### **2022: New York University, NYC, NY**

Earned an MA in the Art Education and Community Practice Program.

## Teaching Philosophy

My goal as an art educator is to guide students to develop a love of art and creating. I believe that every child is an artist. In today's culture, students may miscategorize art as outside the realm of academic pursuits, or believe that artistic success is only for those that possess innate talent. My goal is to teach that everyone has the potential to be an artist in their own way, and use their art to have a profound impact on the world. I will guide students towards finding their artistic passion and inner artist.

## Educational Research & Leadership

### 2020: School in the Square – Washington Heights, NYC

#### Grade Team Lead Teacher

Organized and facilitated weekly meetings for 13 other teachers on the 6th Grade Team, and worked as a liaison between Administrative staff and the teachers.

### 2019: The Art of Education “Art Ed Now” Conference

#### Online Featured Presenter

Developed and presented a 10 minute pre-filmed session entitled “Integrating Graffiti and Street Art Into Your Curriculum” for a crowd of several thousand international art educators. Received the “People’s Choice Award”, “Takeaway Award”, and the “Peer Choice Award” for her work.

### 2019: National Art Education Association Conference – Boston, MA

#### Featured Presenter

Developed and presented a 50 minute session entitled “From the Streets to the Classroom: The Impact of Accessible Subversive Art on Students”.

### 2018: National Art Education Association Conference – Seattle, WA

#### Featured Presenter

Developed and presented a 50 minute session entitled “Graffiti and Street Art: Engaging Students Through Socially Responsible Curriculum” for a crowd of several hundred international art educators.

## Professional Artistic Experience

### 2020 – Present: Freelance Illustrator

Creates custom illustrations for commission. Works closely with clients to design, refine, and perfect the client’s vision for their custom illustrated artwork. Operates a successful Etsy store managing the sale of custom and printed artworks.

### 2020 Bronx Academy of Letters - Bronx, NYC

#### Muralist

Worked under the direction of a supervisor to execute a plants and greenery themed outdoor mural for the Bronx Academy of Letters community entitled “Dreams are the Seeds of Change”.

### 2017-2019 Richard Merkin Middle School - Los Angeles, CA

#### Muralist

Coordinated with local artists to design and create 6 different murals in the school building, to reflect the values of the school community. Murals included: “Evolution of a Scholar” (2016), “Strength in Solidarity” (2017), “Wheatpaste for our Future” (2017), “We Rise By Lifting Others” (2018), “Be the Nice Kid” (2019), “Together, Juntos” (2019), and “Kaleidoscope Rooms”(2019).

### 2015: Lansing Middle School Theater Department – Lansing, NY

#### Theatrical Backdrop Designer

Designed and created 75’ backdrop paintings for use in the Middle School play, “Camelot”.

### 2014: Ithaca College Speech Pathology Faculty Member - Ithaca, NY

#### Scientific Illustrator

Created and edited 100+ anatomically accurate illustrations of Speech Pathology concepts and diagrams for a textbook.

### 2013 – 2015: Ithaca Underground - Ithaca, NY

#### Live Performance Photographer

Primary photographer for the 501(c) Non-Profit music organization, documenting 50+ live musical performances for publicity and printed publications.

### 2013: Can Do Land Tours – Accra, Ghana

#### Director of Cinematography

Conducted interviews, gathered footage, edited, and produced a documentary about the Can Do Land Tours company and their advocacy work in rural regions of Ghana.

## Professional References

### Mrs. Kayla Garaway

Phone: (917)445-5421

Email: kaylagaraway@gmail.com

Relationship: Ms. Garaway was a colleague of mine at Richard Merkin Middle School, and served as our grade level chair for my first two years.

### Mr. Justin Shahbaz

Phone: (213)-748-0141

Email: jshahbaz@laalliance.org

Relationship: Mr. Shahbaz was my Assistant Principal and direct Instructional Coach for all my years at Richard Merkin Middle School.

### Mr. Chuck Woo

Phone: (626)-759-7960

Email: chuckwoo91@gmail.com

Relationship: Mr. Woo was a colleague of mine at Richard Merkin Middle School, and served as our grade level chair my third year there..

### Mrs. Kate Ingram

Phone: (860)-916-6555

Email: kateanningram@yahoo.com

Relationship: Mrs. Ingram is a co-director of Middletown Stage Company, and was my direct supervisor in my years working there.

### Ms. Sabrina Resnick

Phone: (608)-213-6104

Email: sabrina.resnick@bxletters.org

Relationship: Ms. Resnick is a peer of mine, and a fellow Artist Educator currently teaching in the Bronx Public School System.

### Mrs. Carla Stetson

Phone: 607-274-3026

Email: cstetson@ithaca.edu

Mrs. Stetson is my Art Education professor at Ithaca College, and professional mentor.