

## News Bulletin

### 2019 Tennessee Arts Academy

#### For Immediate Release

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## Tennessee Arts Academy Set to Debut!

The Tennessee Arts Academy, the nation's premier summer teacher training institute for K–12 arts education, will officially open on July 14, 2019. More than three hundred and fifty K-12 public and private school teachers from across the state have been chosen to attend the weeklong session. A program of the Tennessee Department of Education, the Academy has been held annually since 1986 on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

This year the Academy's nationally and internationally renowned instructors come from across the United States. They will teach a diverse range of classes in music, theatre, visual art, and dance as well as special classes in arts leadership, administration and assessment.

There will be many special moments throughout the week, starting with TAA's opening performance on July 14th by the unique and cutting-edge ensemble Presidio Brass. On Wednesday night, July 17, the most anticipated event of the Bravo! Awards Banquet and Performance will be the presentation of the TAA Lorin Hollander Award to arts and education advocates Jeanette and Bill Watkins and the TAA Distinguished Service Award to the acclaimed Broadway director and choreographer Jeff Calhoun (*Newsies*, *The Will Rogers Follies*). Following the awards ceremony, an inspired performance will be presented by Broadway star Alton Fitzgerald White (*The Lion King*, *Ragtime*). Reservations and ticket information may be obtained by visiting the website online at <http://www.tennesseeartsacademy.org> or by calling (615-460-5451) or emailing ([taa@belmont.edu](mailto:taa@belmont.edu)) the Academy office.

Other major highlights of the week include a speech on Monday to the TAA participants by the noted St. Olaf Choir conductor Anton Armstrong, followed on Tuesday by a presentation from the best-selling author and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds. Award recipient Jeff Calhoun and performer Alton Fitzgerald White will also address the participants. The Academy will sponsor three on-campus art exhibitions. *My Blue Heaven* by Susan Bee will be featured in Belmont's Leu Art Gallery, co-sponsored by the Belmont University Department of Art. *The Best of the Best Tennessee Student Art Exhibition* and *Connections: The Tennessee Art Education Association Teacher Exhibition*, co-sponsored with the Tennessee Art Education Association, will hang in Gallery 121 and the Lobby Gallery of the Leu Center for the Visual Arts. Rounding out the week will be performances by Nashville Ballet (*72 Steps*), Nashville Children's Theatre (*Tuck Everlasting*), and the percussion ensemble Sympatico. On Thursday, TAA will sponsor a Vendor Fair, Artist Market, and Carnival, featuring booths hosted by arts-related businesses and organizations. Artwork, crafts, and jewelry created by TAA participants will be offered for sale. Entertainment and carnival-like snacks will enliven the afternoon proceedings. At Friday's concluding Finale Luncheon, the Joe W. Giles Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to the award-winning, long-serving Tennessee visual art educator Donna Anderson, followed by a performance of the Tennessee Arts Academy Chorale, under the direction of Alan McClung.

The teachers and administrators trained at the Tennessee Arts Academy each year impact over 150,000 Tennessee students all across the state when they return to their individual school districts and classrooms in the fall. The Academy's advanced curriculum, cutting-edge methodology and unique philosophical perspective maximize participants' learning experiences. With renewed energy and knowledge, educators trained at the Tennessee Arts Academy are better equipped and motivated to raise achievement standards and affect positive and lasting change for Tennessee students, providing them with the necessary skills to become creative and productive members of our work force and society.

Several Academy events are free and open to the public. Visit [www.tennesseeartsacademy.org](http://www.tennesseeartsacademy.org) or call 615-460-5451 for more information.

### Tennessee Arts Academy

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