

# The Hamilton Hill Arts Center 2017- 2018 Course Catalog



Founded by an artist and inspired by the Black pride and Black Arts movements, the Hamilton Hill Arts Center's mission is to promote the knowledge, preservation and continued development of African and African Diasporic art and culture. It is our belief that with the knowledge and celebration of the cultural and artistic contributions of our ancestors we create a strong foundational perspective and skill set with which to approach our lives.

## **Programs:**

- Art Reach after-school and summer camp programs offer neighborhood children ages 6 -17 exposure to the arts and crafts of the African Diaspora. Children participate in classes such as Batik, Hip Hop dance, African Dance, Steel Pan drum, coding and more. During the after-school hours children are provided with a free healthy snack and during summer camp children are offered a free healthy lunch.
- Arts and Education programs provide schools and businesses throughout the Capital District access to quality teachers, lecturers and performers on subjects spanning African Diasporic history, culture and art.
- The Susan Cunningham Black Library promotes the work of black authors, exposes the public to African Diasporic art, culture and history and encourages positive self-esteem through stories written by and about people who look like themselves. This is especially important for communities of color who are lacking in positive representation. Our stories tell us who we are; stories created by culturally representative members of our community help us envision a place for ourselves in the world. Our Library offers book clubs and writing classes to children and adults
- The Jerry Burrell Gallery exhibits the work of African Diasporic Artists, nurturing their talents and providing exposure. Beginning artists can establish a name for themselves and more established artists share their talents with a community that has limited exposure to the Arts. The visual arts enable the community to see its reflection in contemporary and historic art. The gallery space also serves as a meeting place for members of the community.
- We also offer classes for the more committed student such as dance and music that are free for children and fee-based for adults.
- Annual community events include Junteenth in the summer and Kwanzaa in the winter. We also collaborate with other community organizations by offering our services for their community events.

## **Project Artreach**, Hamilton Hill Arts Center's free after school program.

We provide a safe afterschool environment where children are exposed to the arts and crafts of the African Diaspora. Our classes allow students to explore different art forms before committing to more extensive study. Our program offers weekly classes and visiting artists who conduct one-time short-term workshops and special events. Participation in the Arts has been shown to improve motor skills, visual learning, focus, decision making, perseverance, confidence, and academic performance. Creativity developed in the artistic setting will allow your child to develop the problem-solving skills needed to develop new avenues to success.

Our regular Afterschool program features arts and crafts projects determined by Valerie Lewis, Artreach Coordinator. Our 2017-2018 program also features the following weekly classes:



### **African Dance**

Have fun and improve your strength and stamina learning dances from African countries like Mali, Nigeria and South Africa. These classes are accompanied by live drumming and when you're ready you will have an opportunity to perform.



### **African Drum**

Learn basic rhythms and hone your technical skills through west African Drumming!



### **Hip Hop Dance**

Enjoy a high-energy class that combines the latest styles of Pop Locking and Street dancing to create free-form choreographed dance moves.



### **Steel Pan Drum**

Enjoy the sounds of the Caribbean while learning the basic techniques of the steel drum!



### **Anansi's Children Theatre Program:**

Express yourself! Learn to use memorization, vocal technique, choreography, character development, stage craft and improvisation to create a performance out of an African or African American Folk Tale.



### **Coding** CS First coding club offers

4th-8th graders the chance to learn how the Arts meets technology with fun, artistic projects using the code "Scratch". Increase your confidence and skills with computers and technology.



### **Writing Class** Tell your story!

Develop your creative writing and drawing skills. Each student will write and illustrate a story which will become a self-published book to take home. Parents will be able to order additional copies.



### **The Susan Cunningham Library's Children's Book Club:**

Explore new worlds, visit faraway lands and find new heroes. Members will meet every Thursday to read a book from our African and African American collection. Each child will receive a copy of the book to take home.



**Iwa rere** means good character. Every Monday 4-6 Arts center children will engage in fun and thought-provoking character building exercises



**Team 250** Develop your talent with a coach who will help you to polish your skills in the performing arts. Learn to mix music, record and produce. Students will have the opportunity to record and perform.

## Adult Education Courses

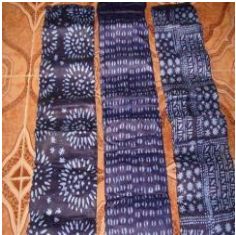
Have fun and expand your creativity by taking some of the Adult education courses offered at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center. Many of the courses offered to children are also available to adults. Ongoing courses are \$12 a class or \$60 for a six-week commitment paid in advance. Weekend workshops are \$25 plus a \$10 materials fee. Clubs are free with a materials fee where applicable.



**Udu Drum Weekend Workshop**  
(Saturday and Sunday afternoon)  
November 11,12 from 2-4 : This unique clay drum from Nigeria is made with a hole in the middle and another at the top. By covering the holes rhythmically, you can get a lovely, soft beat. Using self-hardening clay, you will create the drum on the first day and finish it up on the second day. You'll need several additional days for it to harden up.



**Shekere Making Weekend Workshop**  
(Saturday and Sunday afternoon) January 13,14 from 2-4: The Shekere is a beaded gourd shaken and tapped to create a rhythmic sound. An instrument used throughout the African Diaspora and the Caribbean, it makes a great addition to drums, to accompany singing or used as a solo instrument.

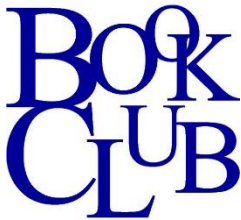


**African Batik Cloth Making**  
Weekend Workshop (Saturday and Sunday afternoon) March 10, 11 from 2-4: This is a wax-resist method of decorating fabric. Hot wax is used with dye to create beautiful designs. We will start with white fabric to make a scarf. The first day will be spent waxing and dyeing and on the second day we will remove the wax and finish the scarf.



## Memoir Writing Club

Meets monthly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 1-3. This ongoing workshop is for people who want to explore their own history or the history of their family in writing. Whether your goal is to publish or to get it down for your own satisfaction, this workshop will help you get started. A combination of writing exercises, and homework that is shared for group feedback, will help you with your project.



**Book Club** will meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month to discuss the book of our choosing. Refreshment will be served.

## Arts and Education

Bring these Programs to your school or business! Many of our teachers are available to come to your site. They can teach one of the programs described or design a program to meet your needs. Give us a call to see what we can do for you. In addition to the programs described we also offer:

Public Speaking - Instruction on techniques, pacing and preparation. Microphone techniques and breathing techniques. This class will help the novice to the intermediate speaker.

Creative writing and storytelling - Instruction on techniques and methods to bring life to each individual's point of view. This class will create better writers and communicators for all purposes.

Videography -Aimed for the novice to intermediate individuals who would like to get guidelines and dissect the process of making films. Make better video from snapchat, YouTube or promo videos, etc.

Lectures on Hip Hop, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Arts Movement, Orisa and more.

Storytelling, Performers, arts and crafts, face painting and more

## Meet Our Faculty



**Sue Wilson-Dean** helped found the original Umoja African Dancers and has been the choreographer and instructor for many years. As one of the Burundi Dancers, she was trained by Omoye Cooper. She later studied under Dr. Pearl Primus, and Master Drummer Babatunde. Mrs. Wilson-Dean, holds a Master's in Education.



**Zorkie Nelson** comes from a long line of Ghanaian master drummers. A founding member of the Pan-African Orchestra (PAO) with whom he toured internationally, Zorkie was a member of the group Odadaa!, which toured with Wynton Marsalis. He is a drummer, vocalist, and flute player in the eclectic jazz fusion group HEARD and leads his own group, Gballoi.



**Aston "Robot" Ellis** inherited his love of music from a family that has been a part of the Jamaican music industry for over 60 years. A bandleader, bass player vocal and music arranger and steel pan player, Aston has taught and performed internationally for over 25 years.



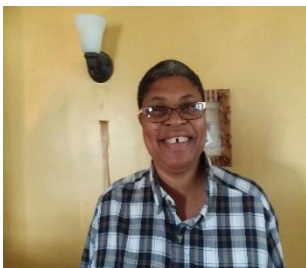
**Jessica Hunter** is a child of the Arts Center, and is currently involved with ArtReach as a volunteer and Umoja African Dance and Drumming as an assistant instructor. She has a B.S. and M.S. in Nuclear Engineering from RPI and MIT, and has coding experience in Fortran, Matlab, C, C++, and Python. She has been involved with Umoja for 15 years.



**Mike Hines** has been dancing for 8 years, he is a street dancer who specializes in pop locking. He teaches hip hop dance and pop locking for "King's Dancers" and has performed locally, at proctors at the Red Vent event. He has received awards for his dancing skills and loves to share his style of creative dancing with children.



**Miki Conn**, Artist, storyteller, lecturer, poet and former civil rights activist, has exhibited in Africa, Upstate New York, Long Island and Boston. A published author, she lectures on the Civil Rights and Black Arts movements, teaches writing, art and offers workshops in crafts from Africa, where she lived for several years.



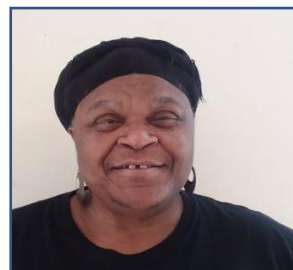
**Fabayo Egunbunmi** is the founder of the Anansi's Children theater program. A classically trained pianist, and Catherine Dunham style dancer, she is a co-author of a one act play and performed as a founding member of the Root Wymn theater company. Locally, she played Sojourner Truth, in a one act solo performance called Ain't I A Woman.



**Mark Sincere Barmore** has worked with Schenectady youth, for 9 years. A graduate of Boricua College's, Human Service Program, and a Certified Counseling Aide, Sincere has worked the Youth Voices Center, Inc., Carver Community Center, and the Youth Advocate Program. He volunteers with Divine's Interventions youth suicide prevention program and supports youth with character development programs at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center.



**Jermaine Wells** is an award-winning writer, musician, lecturer and entertainer. He has appeared in films, commercials and has collaborated with such greats as Quincy Jones. An in-demand Masters of Ceremonies and lecturer, he has spoken at many universities and events.



**Valerie Lewis**, our Artreach coordinator has been with the Arts Center for 45 years. She has extensive skills in the arts and crafts of the African diaspora. She has received city, state and national recognition for her dedicated community service, including Valerie Lewis day which was named in her honor.



**Sean Reid**, (DJ 250), has worked in the music industry for over 20 years. A graphic artist ,DJ, and standup comedian, Sean Reid is a local producer who enjoys developing the stars of tomorrow.



**Jayvon Wilson**, drummer and drum teacher A child of the Arts Center, Jayvon Wilson has been drumming with Umoja for over 17 years.

**Key**

\* Children only: These classes are introductory, “drop in” and can be attended when the student chooses without commitment.

\*\* Mature student: These classes are for the more mature and dedicated student who is committed to learning an art form and has the attention to do so. These classes are free for children and \$12 per class for adults or \$60 for a six-week commitment paid in advance.

\*\*\* These Classes are for adults only

**Weekly Schedule**

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11-1						African Dance/ African Drum ** Gallery	
2:30-4	Snacks and homework help	Snacks and homework help	Snacks and homework help	Snacks and homework help	Snacks and homework help		
4-5	Iwa rere * Gallery	Writing Class * Library  Team 250* Gallery/Studio  Coding Club* Computer room (4:30-5:30)	4:30 - African Drum Lessons* Gallery	Book Club* Library  Coding Club* Computer room (4:30-5:30)			
5-6	Iwa rere * Gallery	Hip Hop * Gallery	African Dance/ * African Drum * Gallery	Anansi’s Children Theatre** Gallery	Steel Pan* Gallery		
6-7-8		Hip Hop** (6 -7) Gallery	African Dance/ ** African Drum**(6 - 8) Gallery	Adult Book Club*** Gallery	Steel Pan** (6 -7) Gallery		

## Registration

Adults can fill out the registration below.

Children's applications can be picked up at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center.

Class

Name

Phone Number

Email

Address





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409 Schenectady St.  
Schenectady NY 12307  
518-346-126