

# High School Teacher Fellows

Teacher Fellows are distinguished educators from the Houston metro area who have demonstrated leadership skills and a passion for innovative teaching and learning methods in their classrooms. Established in 2011, the Teacher Fellows program brings together participants with Museum staff to craft new approaches to interdisciplinary classroom curriculum, school and teacher resources, and professional development opportunities at the Museum. The teachers are selected through their participation in other MFAH activities or recommended by Museum staff members.

The 2018–21 Teacher Fellows for Interconnections: Bridging Teen Learning Ecosystems at the MFAH will codevelop a new interdisciplinary curriculum resource with high school educators using works of art from the Museum’s modern and contemporary collections, as well as create specialized professional development offerings targeted to high school teachers’ expressed needs. The project will also result in reimagined high school tours, together with informal workshops and other teen programming at the Museum. Interconnections will generate timely research on the intersections of in-school and out-of-school learning.



## Kristen Balch

Kristen Balch teaches biology and AP environmental science at Friendswood High School. With a wide-ranging educational background in linguistics, psychology, science, law, and education, Balch has always believed in the importance of making cross-curricular connections and bringing real-world examples into the classroom.



## Anna Bass

Anna Bass is an experienced art teacher, artist, swim coach, and swimmer. Driven by social justice and community collaboration, she takes pride in providing an outlet for creative change. As a PhD student at the University of Houston, her goals are to use art to connect communities in swimming and beyond.



## Wendy Bejarano

“I moved here from West Texas thirteen years ago with my three elementary aged boys; I didn’t know a soul. I don’t think I could have landed in a better city, full of art and inspiring people. My goal is to give to my students an appreciation for art, the skills to make what they can imagine, and an understanding of the work that goes into the art. I learn from my students as well. I am a teacher of fourteen years, a mom (three grown boys and a six-year-old), and an artist. I have painted several murals and signs around Houston and I enjoy working in all mediums. I am a lifelong learner of art.”



## Julea Brode

Julea Brode teaches at Carnegie Vanguard High School. Brode has been in her role as a high school math teacher since 2017. She is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing curriculum. Prior to her employment at CVHS, she taught middle school mathematics in Clear Creek ISD. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Houston.



## Jamie Ford

Jamie Ford is a teacher and the science department chair at Carnegie Vanguard High School. Ford has been in her role as a high school science teacher since 2012 and serves as the girls' cross-country and track & field head coach. She is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing appropriate curriculum in her courses of pre-AP biology, AP biology, anatomy & physiology, and scientific research & design. Prior to her employment at CVHS, she served as the regional program manager for the Student Conservation Association's southwest programs in Texas, Florida, and Arizona from 2007–12. She holds a bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in biology from Tarleton State University.



## Chadwick Gray

Chadwick Gray is currently teaching AP art history and AP 2-D art at Westside High School. He currently resides in Houston, Texas, after having lived in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for ten years. His artwork *Museum Anatomy* won Gray a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, was exhibited in FotoFest 2014, and was a finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Award in both 2006 and 2008. His work has been published in *The Harvard Review*, *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*, and in the book *The Real Real Thing: The Model in the Mirror of Art* by Wendy Steiner. The *Museum Anatomy* artwork, created in collaboration with Laura Spector, can be seen in exhibitions and collections around the world.



## Charity Hughes

A problem-solver by nature, Charity Hughes seeks to empower students to own their learning through meaningful engagement and relevant inquiry. Secondary English and creative writing are her vessels to help students see inherent worth in others and themselves. She is in her eighth year as a teacher leader, and has served her campus, district, and state in roles to help nurture an authentic learning environment for teachers and students. She seeks to make school a place of belonging by sponsoring multiple student clubs. She has facilitated campus and district PD, and has presented on inquiry and promoting student-owned learning at Texas Association of Gifted and Talented, National Council of Teachers of English, and the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. After starting her education in the honors college at the University of Houston, she continued a professional relationship with the program as a Common Ground Fellow. She holds a BA degree in English with secondary education from Sam Houston State University and a Master's of education degree in educational leadership from Lamar University, and doesn't want anything good unless she can share it.

## Neda Khan



Neda Khan is an art educator and advocate, student mentor, artist, and graphic designer. She teaches visual art and photography at DeBakey High School for Health Professions in Houston ISD. In addition to expanding the art program, she designed and created several large-scale murals for the campus. She has a passion for mentoring students to develop their artistic voice, escalating their artistic experience and encouraging increased participation in local and national contests. She was selected as the Teacher of the Year and district finalist in 2017. In her previous position as the art teacher at an HISD middle school, she was selected as the school's Teacher of the Month, HISD's Outstanding Asian Teacher of 2011, as well as Teacher of the Year and district finalist in 2012. She received a Fund for Teachers Fellowship and traveled to Italy and Greece to study classical and contemporary European art and architecture. She has presented workshops in visual art to educators at the local and national level, and has developed curricula for visual art, art history, and arts integration. Khan has served as the visual art mentor for "Big Us Project," a program that provides refugees and underrepresented immigrants access to the arts and a public platform for them to create, perform, and showcase their own work. As a freelance graphic designer, her clients have included international corporations and local businesses. She has also created artwork and illustrations for books. She is fluent in English and Urdu, and holds a BA in fine arts and art education with a minor in art history from the University of Houston.



## Jennifer L Kuhleman

Jennifer Lea Kuhleman is a native Houstonian and a graduate of Houston Independent School District and University of Texas in Austin. Along with being a full-time social studies instructor, she also has been a curriculum writer for HISD, served as the district AP world history lead teacher, and spends part of her summer working as a table leader for the College Board. She enjoys gardening, exploring the city, and traveling when the opportunity presents itself.