



(photo by Blaine Faul)

**CISSY
WHIPP**

TEACHER WORKSHOPS



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HABITATS, INHABITANTS, AND CONDITIONS: EXPLORING ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH MOVEMENT

Developed in collaboration with the Acadiana Arts Council, Lafayette Parish School System, and University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Workshop Leader: Cissy Whipp

For Teachers of Grades 3-6

3 hours of instruction time

Maximum number of workshop participants: 30

In this workshop, teachers explore ways to involve students in learning about the environment through movement. Participants discover how improvisation and simple choreography can activate students' interest in learning about different habitats, their inhabitants (both flora and fauna), and conditions that affect them (both manmade and natural). After exploring both the elements of dance and one habitat in detail, teachers select an ecosystem (forest, grassland, desert, wetland, or arctic tundra), and choreograph and perform a movement sequence that synthesizes their understanding.

MOVING WAYS TO READ AND WRITE ABOUT IMAGES IN WEST AFRICAN TEXTILE ART

Developed in collaboration with the Acadiana Arts Council, Lafayette Parish School System, and University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Workshop Leader: Cissy Whipp

For Teachers of Grades 3-6

3 hours of instruction time

Maximum number of workshop participants: 30

In this workshop, teachers explore West African culture through its textile art, called Adinkra. The Adinkra symbols of the Ashanti people in Ghana represent attributes for which they strive: strength, wisdom, learning from mistakes, hope, truth, etc. In this dynamic workshop, teachers explore ways to examine the symbols for these personal attributes and learn to guide students' exploration of each symbol through creative movement and writing. Movement explorations are guided by an understanding of lines, levels, shapes, and pathways. Writing explorations involve use of synonyms, verbs, and modifiers for each symbol. The experience concludes when students combine their movement and writing into a culminating performance.



Cissy Whipp also offers the following services* for:

Students

- Performances/Exhibits/Lecture-Demonstrations
- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/Exhibit Attendance
- Other Workshops
- Residencies
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

Teachers

- In-Depth Courses
- Demonstration Teaching
- Coaching in the Classroom
- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/Exhibit Attendance
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

Parents

- PTA/PTO Presentations/Speeches
- Workshops for Parents
- Workshops for Parents with their Children

School Administrators

- Workshops

Schools

- Strategic Planning for Arts Integration Schools

Partners in Education Teams

- Program Planning Advice
- Strategic Planning

Other

- Arts Curriculum Development

**Not all services have been designed or presented by the Kennedy Center.*

MARY FRANCIS "CISSY" WHIPP presents workshops nationally on integrating dance into the curriculum. She has been working as a performer, choreographer, and dance educator for more than 25 years. She received her BFA in choreographic design from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and her MA in performing arts: dance from the American University in Washington, D.C. She founded Louisiana's first professional modern dance company, Moving South Dance, Inc. She has taught in college dance programs at Potsdam State University of New York, and most recently at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she directed the Children's Dance Guild and choreographed for the State of LA Danse Concert series. Ms. Whipp has served on the committee for developing arts assessment standards for the Louisiana Department of Education and is currently teaching creative movement and dance at the J. Wallace James Elementary School for Arts & Technology in Lafayette, Louisiana.