

# Connecting Classrooms Grants 2015-16

## Round 1

### **A Brief Introduction to West African Drum and Dance**

Lead ICSD Applicants Jonathan Keefner

With ICSD teachers: Christopher Bell, Karen Cushman, Jennifer Kivisild, Gregory McQuade, Ross Mizrahi, Dorothy Preston, Brandon Reyes; Sulley Imoro- Guest clinician; Moxie Kumba Ensemble- Performers; Baruch Whitehead and the Ithaca College Drum and Dance Ensemble- Performers.

A Brief Introduction to West African Drum and Dance is a workshop series designed to give as many students in the district as possible the opportunity to interactively learn about West Africa culture, history, music, and life. At the end of the series every student who was involved will come together at the high school with Mr. Imoro and several other guest artists to perform the piece they learned for their peers, family, and the community. Collaborating teachers will gain the necessary resources and understanding of the topic to include an African drum and dance unit in their curriculum. This work will be able to be included in a “world music” section of a curriculum, band will also have the sustainability to stand alone as a powerful addition to a regular year-long curriculum.

*This grant is named in honor of Jennifer Engel, IPEI's immediate past president who has served since IPEI's founding 20 years ago. She served on the Task Force in 1994 that grew out of the ICSD Strategic Plan action item to increase community connections with the schools.*

*Jennifer became one of the first IPEI Board members when it began in 1996, and was Vice President for most of those years until serving as president in 2014-15. She was particularly influential in developing the Adult Spelling Bee and Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca. She chaired the Executive Committee meetings for many years and served as School Liaison with BJ Martin Elementary School. A downtown business owner and parent of several ICSD alumni, she has been an individual donor and a business sponsor of IPEI, and was a tri-chair of IPEI's first capital campaign.*

## **Belle Sherman Outdoor Learning Space & Nature Trail Development – PHASE ONE**

Lead ICSD Applicant: Daniel Breiman With ICSD teachers from both Belle Sherman and Caroline Elementary, Cornell Architecture students, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Teachers, specialists, teacher assistants, and teacher aides to plan across grade levels and buildings to develop engaging, authentic curriculum around a new nature trail at Belle Sherman Elementary School. The grant project will build and strengthen local connections through the vast resources and expertise at Cornell University, Belle Sherman, Caroline Elementary, and locally. The grant will also provide some materials and supplies to support the planning and development of the nature trail.

## **Round 2**

### **Communicating Science through Exhibits and Demonstrations**

Lead ICSD Applicants: Elizabeth Quadrozzi and Yvette DeBoer, DeWitt Middle School

With teachers: Rob Arena, Anne Bechert, and Carol Hoffman

In order to teach students about effective design of, and communication through an exhibit, we will expose our students to a variety of exhibits. A wide range of community organizations will be invited to present an exhibit to students, and then explain how the components of the exhibit were chosen. Through this process students will learn to critique what they see, determining what they considered engaging, which facets of the exhibits they thought did and didn't work, and any components they might like to include in their own exhibit or demonstrations. Students will then research, design, build and facilitate an interactive demonstration or exhibit that explores a topic in science. The topic will be of their choosing, from something covered in class, or an outside interest the student may have.