

2021 AEP Virtual Gathering

Tradition, Technology & Healing: Using Digital Tools to Transmit Oral Traditions

Presenters

Mei Kazama, Teaching Artist, City Lore

Sahar Muradi, Director Education Programs, City Lore

Samira Sadeque, Teaching Artist, City Lore

Session Title

Tradition, Technology & Healing: Using Digital Tools to Transmit Oral Traditions

Session Description

In what ways can young people draw connections between their lives today and oral traditions or culturally rooted poetry traditions that span generations? How can technology be employed to make traditional arts accessible in a remote learning environment? How can it serve students' social and emotional learning in meaningful ways? What are the creative strategies teaching artists can use to center marginalized or unfamiliar traditional art forms while also helping their students center their own experiences? These are some of the questions we will address in this session facilitated by City Lore Director of Education Programs and poet Sahar Muradi and featuring teaching artists Mei Kazama and Samira Sadeque.

Mei Kazama will present on their experiences teaching the art of kamishibai, a traditional Japanese narrative form that brings together illustration, text, oral narration, performance and community engagement. Samira Sadeque will share on teaching poetry traditions such as haiku duels and praise poems by integrating video, anime, virtual guest visits and other tools and strategies. The session will convey the surprising potential we discovered in combining oral forms, technology and personal narratives in cultivating a healing space for young people to process their experiences of the last year, with a specific emphasis on the opportunities for culturally responsive and sustaining teaching through traditional culturally based art forms. We will share insights, resources, technology tools and sample lessons we developed, and invite the audience to share their thoughts and experiences and insights.

Learning Objectives

Objectives should be action oriented and may include verbs such as: design, evaluate, create, compare, connect, or interpret. Proposals must also include a detailed narrative that clearly explains what will occur during the proposed session, with a focus on engaging participants in active learning.

1. Participants will learn how teaching artists employed digital tools and creative solutions to teach traditional poetry and oral forms
2. Participants will learn strategies for enhancing young people's social and emotional well-being in a virtual art-making context
3. Participants will share their own experiences of using technology for art-making and community-making

Session Outline and Summary

In what ways can young people draw connections between their lives today and oral traditions or culturally-rooted poetry traditions that span generations? How can technology be employed to make traditional arts accessible in a remote learning environment? How can it serve students' social and emotional learning in meaningful ways? What are the creative strategies that teaching artists can use to center marginalized or unfamiliar traditional art forms while also helping their students center their own experiences?

These are some of the questions we will address in this session, facilitated by City Lore Director of Education Programs and poet Sahar Muradi and featuring teaching artists Mei Kazama and Samira Sadeque. Mei Kazama will present on their experiences teaching the art of kamishibai, a traditional Japanese narrative form that brings together illustration, text, oral narration, performance, and community engagement. Samira Sadeque will share on teaching poetry traditions such as haiku duels and praise poems by integrating video, anime, virtual guest visits, and other tools and strategies. The session will convey the surprising potential we discovered in combining oral forms, technology, and personal narratives in cultivating a healing space for young people to process their experiences of the last year, with a specific emphasis on the opportunities for culturally responsive and sustaining teaching through traditional culturally-based art forms. We will share insights, resources, technology tools, and sample lessons we developed, and invite the audience to share their thoughts and experiences and insights through multiple modes.

Supplemental Materials

- <https://citylore.org/>
- <https://www.homer2hiphop.org/>