

# 2013 SACRAMENTO PLAY SUMMIT

Saturday, September 7 • 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM Central Library • 828 I Street, Sacramento







#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

#### Dr. Melissa Arca



#### Child's Play: On protecting the most important work of childhood

Free play is highly underrated in today's media laden and goal oriented society. But without it, children miss out on maximizing their emotional, physical, and cognitive health. It is truly the most important work of childhood.

Dr. Melissa Arca is a pediatrician, mom of two, writer, and child advocate. She believes in the importance of free play as being essential for the overall health of children. And like you, she does the daily work/family life juggle.

Keynote Address 1: 9:30 – 10:15 AM

#### Barney Saltzberg



#### Think you are too old to be creative and play? Think Again!

Wake up your inner child during this session on creativity and play for grownups. Those who think they can't draw a straight line, sing in key and are convinced they lack a creative bone in their bodies are encouraged to sit in front.

Author/Illustrator/Singer/Songwriter, Barney Saltzberg has published about 40 books and has recorded four CD's for children. He has traveled to China and Russia as part of a cultural exchange program with the US State Department, sharing thoughts on creativity and play.

Keynote Address 2: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Followed by Book Sales & Signing

#### Myla Marks



#### Promoting Meaningful Play in School and Youth Programs

Playworks is a national nonprofit organization that provides play and physical activity at recess and throughout the school day. Learn about Playworks' mission and history, as well as: ways to present play and physical activity to children that are fun, safe, and inclusive; the benefits of youth being physically active; and tools to feel confident and excited about implementing play and physical activity within your schools and youth programs.

Myla Marks has more than 10 years of experience in the fields of environmental education and nonprofit management. As Trainer Manager at Playworks, Myla supports trainers, also known as play experts, to engage children in play that boosts physical activity and promotes learning.

Keynote Address 3: 3:45 – 4:30 PM

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### **Breakout Session 1: 10:30 – 11:15 AM**

#### Francie Dillon

## The Power of Play in Reading: The Playful Side of Moving Children Towards Independent Reading



Reading is a complex learned skill requiring years of practice. Creating a playful environment around the reading experience is essential in helping children develop the necessary skills required for independent reading. In this workshop, learn the power of play in quality and age-appropriate book selection as well as read-aloud techniques.

Francie Dillon is an Adjunct Professor at Sacramento State University and a nationally recognized educator and artist. Her efforts in promoting language, literacy and the arts have reached over 125,000 elementary students regionally and thousands of children and families statewide.

#### **Kathy Fleming**

#### How They Play in the UK



Child's play is taken seriously in the United Kingdom and Europe. Charters on play, professional training programs for play workers, networks of adventure playgrounds, and policies on access to play ensure that children are able to exercise their right to play.

Kathy Fleming is the Executive Director of Fairytale Town, where she has developed a variety of play-based education programs for children and families. In 2011, she spent three months in London learning about the vibrant play sector in the United Kingdom.

#### **Becca Niles**

#### Outdoor Play: Playing In Your Neighborhood Parks



It is understood that parks help increase the value of one's home. But they also increase the value of one's health. This workshop will discuss how to get the most out of your neighborhood park through play.

With over 10 years of experience in both the private and public sector, Becca Niles has made it her job to teach people of all ages how to play through education, recreation, and interactive experiences.

#### Session 2: 1:45 - 2:30 PM

Bridget Alexander

# The Creativity Muscle: Making Spaces and Experiences that Spark Inventive Thinking



Creativity is a muscle that needs working, and we can offer environments that encourage and support creativity. Learn new ways to make art a process rather than an end product. You will leave with plenty of ideas on setting up a home or classroom that works the imagination.

Bridget Alexander is the founder of ArtBeast Children's Studio and mom to nine-year-old triplets. She also directs Tubman House, a community for young, homeless parents and their children. In all these roles, she believes in offering environments of relentless possibility.

### Ph.D.

#### Lisa Jorgensen, Play: It is Not All Fun and Games



Explore the science of play as it relates to the development of important life skills, its transformational attributes, and the overall wellness of society. The types of play, definitions of play and inhibitions to play will be discussed. This workshop provides a deeper understanding of the importance of play, so we may provide more supportive play opportunities for our communities.

Lisa Jorgensen, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the department of recreation, parks and tourism administration at Sacramento State University, where she was named the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Teacher in 2012. As a generalist, Dr. Jorgensen's expertise is teaching concepts and professional competencies pertaining to managing leisure. recreation and play opportunities.

#### Session 3: 2:45 - 3:30 PM

#### **Patty Donald**

#### Bringing the Adventure Back into Play



The Berkeley Adventure Playground is the wild west of playgrounds. Using recycled materials, wood scraps, and low risk elements, this vibrant playground promotes a unique environment for play learning. Important "must have" play elements, staff training, parent education and more will be discussed in this workshop.

Since 1979, Patty Donald has served as the Coordinator of the Berkeley Marina Experience programs, which includes the Berkeley Adventure Playground. The Berkeley Adventure Playground is the longest operating adventure playground in the United States that is open year-round.

**Felipe Ferraz** 

#### Play, Music and Movement



Explore the realm of play through folk music and games. You don't need to play an instrument. Just come ready to sing and move, be at the edge of your comfort zone, and take a few risks.

Felipe Ferraz has been an educator of young children for over 25 years. He holds a Master's in Education from Sacramento State University, and he was named the Natomas Unified School District Teacher of the Year in 2009.

Christie Hamm & Rivkah Sass

#### Play to Learn at Your Library



Play is an important building block for early literacy. Find out how and why the library uses play for all ages, especially the youngest learners. Tips and tricks to use at home will also be included.

Christie Hamm is Manager of Youth and Community Services for Sacramento Public Library. She has a passion for early literacy and the mission of public libraries to have a positive impact on their communities and the individuals in them. Rivkah Sass is the Director of the Sacramento Public Library. She has done every possible job in libraries and is passionate about helping children in our community love to learn and read and have fun in the process.