

CTTA Arts Partner Profile



“More than any other time in our history, it is important for children to become sustained in their own creativity.”

J'miah Nabawi

Yes, it's the information age, and we are raising the first generation of techno-kids, each of whom has, or aspires to have, their own computer, email address, cell phone and whatever else the high-tech marketing gurus say they need for survival in the twenty-first century. In this fast-paced, digital world, are kids still able to enjoy the arts just for art's sake? Well, you be the judge...

Enter J'miah Nabawi, professional storyteller and teaching artist. Using a variety of dramatic and comedic techniques, The Storybook Man engages young audiences with tales and folklore from around the world. Known for his impromptu antics and lively programs, J'miah has been captivating audiences with his interactive performances since 1986.



The folk tales he tells are hundreds of years old, but they take different twists and turns when J'miah encourages his audiences to make “the moral of the story” their own and help him dramatize the details. When asked to define his teaching philosophy, J'miah offered the following insight. *“More than any other time in our history, it is important for children to become sustained in their own creativity. Encouraging their input in my stories gives them ownership in the finished product instead of just experiencing the creativity of others.”*

J'miah's philosophy is consistent with the **Character Through The Arts program**. An avid arts partner, J'miah participated in the **Artful Learning™** training offered to our program teachers and artists by grant partner **The Grammy® Foundation**.



And how did the 17 year teaching-artist veteran feel about the training? *“The training Grammy gave us was inspiring and engaging, and I am already using what I learned in the classroom. The Artful Learning™ methodology of “Experience, Inquire, Create, Reflect” allows teachers and teaching artists to skillfully blend core academic subjects like science and math with character education and the arts in a seamless transition.”* Left: J'miah and the Jasper Elementary School Players relax together after their performance of the African play, “Talk.” Principal , Peggy Andrews, (front, right) stole the show with a performance on the xylophone that students helped J'miah build during his week-long residency. Photo courtesy of Stephen Berend, Savannah Morning News the classroom. The Artful Learning™ methodology of “Experience, Inquire, Create, Reflect” allows teachers and teaching artists to skillfully blend core academic subjects like science and math with character education and the arts in a seamless transition.”