



Vendor and Teacher bios T2 2016-17

- **ACAI** Founded in 2008, the Allied Capoeira Arts Initiative (ACAI) promotes and fosters the understanding and practice of Capoeira and Brazilian culture by bringing together people of diverse ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds, and by providing a vehicle for improving their health physical fitness and cultural awareness through the art of Capoeira. www.acaiarts.org
- **Allergic to Salad:** *"Real Food Makes No Excuses"*. We realize many claim to be are "allergic to salad"— a convenient and understandable excuse in this era of pre-packaged industrialized food. Our work combats this widespread "allergy," while increasing skills, technique, and familiarity with healthy foods, and creating a platform for a lifetime of nourishing exploration through hands-on, activity-filled classes.
- **Bref** is based on the French Elementary School curriculum standards with a focus on reading and writing as well as expanding of vocabulary, orthographic & grammar skills. Our goal is to provide language support to help reach grade level French. www.bref.nyc
- The **Brooklyn Music School** views music and performance as the birthright of all people, an essential way that human beings connect with others and explore their creativity. The study of music has been demonstrated to enhance academic learning and helps to develop discipline and confidence that will serve children well throughout their lives www.brooklynmusicschool.org.
- **The Brooklyn Fencing Center** opened in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, in January 2003. We are proud to be Brooklyn's first competitive fencing club, and our mission is to make the excitement and joy of fencing more accessible to Brooklynites of all ages. www.brooklynfencing.com
- **Brooklyn Seeds** believes in treating children with respect while teaching them to take care of the earth around them. Eman practices a method called Non-Violent Communication (NV), whereby listening, reflection, compassion and kindness are used in every-day teaching. Gardening teaches children about the earth, and allows them to connect to nature. The act of learning to care for living things around us is an empowering one. Gardening can help calm children while also thrilling them to the core. www.brooklynseeds.net
- **Carlita Ecktor, Ballet/Modern, Hip Hop** is a NYC-based, NC native and a UNC Greensboro graduate. Favorite credits - National Tours: Respect, Chuck Davis & The African American Dance Ensemble, Madagascar Live. New York: Glee Project Promo featuring Darren Criss (Lead Singer), The Color Purple (Nettie) at WPPAC. Carlita uses her K-12 Dance Teaching license to teach dance worldwide, including an Annual Dance Teaching Tour featuring Master Classes in Safety Release Technique, Hip Hop, West African, Musical Theatre Dance and more. www.carlitaecktor.com
- **Chess NYC:** *"More than a Game, it's our culture."* Founded in 2007, the Chess NYC philosophy is to emphasize sport and fun and provide as much Chess instruction as each child can bear...but not overload...In providing supervised, spirited play, each student associates Chess with fun, and therefore larger numbers of them ultimately excel or at least become proficient in the great, significant, game of Chess...From there?... Excellence!
- **Construction Kids:** Real Tools For Small Hands. Kids love to make things and be creative. It's how they learn about the world around them. They just need their imagination, some great materials, and a safe, encouraging environment. Our kids work on projects that are adapted for small hands, using real tools. Surrounded by other kids and great instructors, we see their creativity come alive. And most of all, they have fun. www.constructionkids.com
- **Court 16** is the 1st and the only kids' tennis club in Brooklyn. With perfectly kid-sized courts and a modern approach to training, our community gives new and seasoned players the right foundation to play with imagination, energy and a whole lot of heart. www.court16.com
- **Created by Kids** is an arts program that provides the skill and materials for your child to explore their artistic abilities in a encouraging, engaging environment. www.createdbykidsnyc.com

- **Kiko Open Source:** KOKO Open Source is about seeing and doing. Ideas over technique. Organized by Open Source Gallery, we combine Open Source's mission to support socially engaged art and environmental sustainability with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, ART, and math) programming. We believe the only bad ideas are the ones that go unexplored. KOKO's innovative, learner-centered art workshops enable participants with a range of abilities and learning styles to shape their own experiences through a peer-to-peer learning strategy. We nurture and fuel children's creativity and curiosity, encouraging visual thinking as a means of self-expression. Our goal is to create a greater understanding of art and technology and help your child develop problem-solving skills that will benefit them in school and for the rest of their lives. www.open-source-gallery.org/koko
- **Ibrahima Kolipe Camara** was the lead drummer of the national ballet from Guinea, West Africa: Les Ballets Africains. After touring the world extensively, he moved to New York in 2006. He performs with many groups including Drum Cafe, Kakande, Feraba and works as a teaching artist with many organizations such as 3rd Street Music School, BAC and Arts Horizons.
- **Lango Kids** www.langokidsnyc.com
- At **Laughter and Language Studio** their integrated approach specifically engages the child in lively and creative activities to enhance developmentally appropriate skills in a foreign language. Classes are activity-based, full language immersion classes that will engage students in a circle of interesting and age-appropriate activities and experiments. Instruction is experiential and hands on with a focus on children's individual needs and interests. We help children to recognize and do their personal best to grow as happy learners. At LLS, it is our goal to help lay a foundation for the long-term appreciation of learning a foreign language, revealing the rich cultural and linguistic wonders that French and Spanish have to offer. www.thelanguageandlaughterstudio.com
- **LDBA L'Ecole Des Beaux Arts** offers artistic and skill-based classes taught by artists and educators in the neighborhood and from around the world. Our program focuses on fine art and hands on education. Using NYC as our inspiration, we explore artists/ work from galleries, museums, and studios, and create projects based on what we learn. We look at famous, unknown, local and global artists, who inspired us to be creative and expand our minds. www.ldbabrooklyn.com
- **Maker State** believes in **Standards-based STEM education**. MakerState's curriculum and instructional approach follows these key sets of standards: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), NYC DOE STEM Framework, Common Core State Standards (CCSS), International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) Student Standards, Computer Science Teachers Association Guidelines. www.maker-state.com
- **The Piano School of New York** has made it its mission to make a positive impact on the lives, and broaden the perspectives of all children by providing exposure to and availability of piano and music instruction by highly-trained musicians. Small-group classes in piano performance, music theory, and music history support our main goals of fostering self-esteem and early, direct participation in music. www.pianoschoolofnyc.org
- **Powerplay Kids:** Our mission is to facilitate an environment that creatively instills self-esteem and confidence in children of all ages through their participation in sports and play. Since 1999, Powerplay has offered a unique mix of activities and special events. Contrary to many gymnastics programs, our primary goal is not only to teach gymnastics skills but to utilize them as tools for teaching life success skills. We believe children learn best in a supportive environment which allows them to Explore, Discover and Play! www.powerplaykids.com
- **Studio In A School** has a mission is to foster the creative and intellectual development of youth through quality visual arts programs, directed by arts professionals. Studio hires only professional artists to teach in its programs. Working artists are particularly suited for teaching art, not only because they have extensive knowledge of the history and culture of art and strong technical skills, but also because they are able to model an artist's way of thinking and working. This enthusiasm is conveyed to their students, who learn that art is more than skill - it is a process of exploration and discovery. Every year, hundreds of artists apply for teaching positions with Studio; from the talented group, only the most qualified are chosen. www.studioinaschool.org
- **Sunset Park Martial Arts** www.sunsetparkmartialarts.com
- **Woodshop Brooklyn:** "Look What I Made". Four wonderful little words. This is what WoodShop is all about. We're building a sense of wonder. A feeling of accomplishment. And something that will last beyond the class. No hammer or nails. Our tools are

fingers, brushes, paint, markers, crayons and most importantly Imagination. As an added perk, the end result fits in with any décor! www.woodshopbk.com