



Moving Field Guide



Dancing Your Environment: A Teacher Training Spotlight

The Moving Field Guide is an **outdoor experience that integrates movement, storytelling, sensory and observation experiences, and environmental literacy**, giving people across generations the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of—and connection to—the natural world. Conceived by Dance Exchange Executive Artistic Director Cassie Meador, Moving Field Guides move participants along a path of recognition, appreciation, and ultimately stewardship of and advocacy for the environment.

Dance Exchange's Moving Field Guide Training for Teachers supports educators in building tools and strategies for kinesthetic approaches to environmental education in their classrooms, schoolyards, and communities. Through customizable sessions developed in collaboration with partner schools, school districts, nature centers, and other educational organizations, teachers have opportunities to experience a Moving Field Guide in action, to try new facilitation tools, to integrate new strategies into existing lesson plans and curricula, and to build community with other educators.

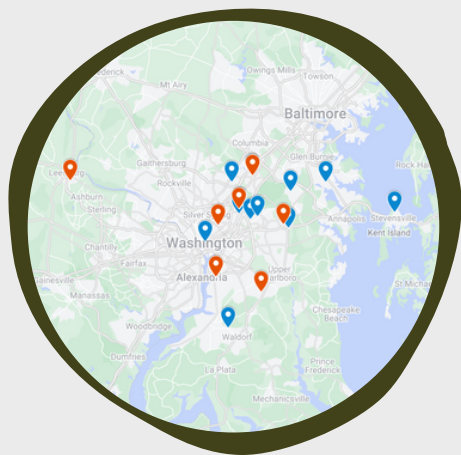


Moving Field Guide Teacher Training Case Study

Prince George's County Public Schools



Since 2017, Dance Exchange has partnered with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) in Maryland to develop a hands-on, interactive Teacher Training Program that leads educators through implementing and integrating Moving Field Guide into their lesson plans and into their district's Growing Up Green environmental education curriculum. With support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Dance Exchange has developed a strategy for connecting Moving Field Guide's kinesthetic learning approaches with the PGCPS Growing Up Green curriculum and the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience, a learner-centered framework used nationwide. This spotlight shares an overview of the 2021-22 Teacher Training series and its impact on educator skills and capacities as well as on learning outcomes for Kindergarten students in the participating schools.



14 teachers from 7 schools across Maryland completed the training



School Location



Teachers' Home Communities

An additional 6 physical education teachers joined for select sessions to enhance collaboration and integration of Moving Field Guide tools and practices within schools.

Training Overview

Module 1: Introducing Arts Integration & Environmental Literacy

Module 2: Building Dances by Observing Nature

Module 3: Practicing and Applying to Our Classrooms

Module 4: Lesson Planning with Kinesthetic Approaches

Module 5: Expanding Your Creative Toolkit & Integrating into Existing Curricular Frameworks

Between training sessions, educators explored Moving Field Guide approaches in their classrooms and shared successes, challenges, and discoveries during reflection sessions and via surveys.

In addition to delivering training, Dance Exchange also partnered with Prince George's County Public Schools to develop and design three model lesson plans integrating Moving Field Guide and Growing Up Green.

Student Skills and Capacities

% teachers rating their students Above Average or Exceptional

Ability to understand and retain environmental knowledge

18% → **45%**
Before After

Understanding and investment in environmental issues and concerns of their own communities

9% → **70%**
Before After

Ability to demonstrate environmental concepts through movement activities

10% → **40%**
Before After



According to educators,

the most meaningful part of the training was...

"Being able to bring this back to my school and use it in multiple subject areas."

"Collaborating with teachers from different schools to see how they have been utilizing this new learning."

"[Its] focus on the human body, importance of nature, inclus[ion] of different learning types."

Educator Skills and Capacities

% teachers answering Strongly Agree

I have the knowledge and skills to PLAN, TEACH, and ASSESS lessons that include kinesthetic approaches to environmental education

18% → **30%**
Before After

I am confident in my ability to integrate kinesthetic approaches to learning in my classroom

18% → **44%**
Before After

I understand the value of integrating kinesthetic approaches to learning in my classroom

27% → **50%**
Before After

I, myself, experience a sense of personal connection to and responsibility for the environment

36% → **50%**
Before After

Ready to get involved?

Past and current Moving Field Guide partners have included U.S. Forest Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and North American Association for Environmental Education. There are many ways to partner with Dance Exchange on the Moving Field Guide, including:

- **Professional Development:** training for classroom teachers and educational leaders.
- **Creative Engagement:** workshops and field trips for schools, students, youth, and families.
- **Extended Residencies:** engagement through short-term and long-term residency partnerships that support student and participant learning over time.
- **MFG Discover:** video series exploring the environment through dance to discover a deeper connection to the world around us.

Contact us at MFG@DanceExchange.org to start a conversation about how your school or organization can bring the Moving Field Guide to your communities via in-person and/or virtual engagement. Learn more and find additional resources and videos at www.danceexchange.org.



The Moving Field Guide training and resources is made possible with major funding support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Others who have contributed to the funding, research, development, and feedback that make our Moving Field Guide Training Program possible include:

Dr. Jamé McCray, Corina Iona Dalzell, and Luisa Aviles, Dance Exchange Partnering Artists and Lead Moving Field Guide trainers

Marlo Castillo, Arts Integration Resource Teacher, Prince George's County Public Schools, Department of Creative and Performing Arts, Thomas Claggett Teacher Leadership Center

Jhanna Levin, Environmental Literacy Outreach Teacher, Department of Environmental Education @ The William S. Schmidt Center, Prince George's County Public Schools

2021-2022 Growing Up Green, Moving Field Guide, and Meaningful Watershed Education Experience training Educator Cohort: Alisa Aubin, Sarah Carr, Corenne Chatman, Catherine Claros Cruz, Leontia Collins, Karen Donovan, Akeema Elliot, Lauren Golkow, Kelsie Proulx, Kenya Russell, Anna Skarbek, Karen Swezy, and Amy Dunham

About Dance Exchange

Founded in 1976 by Liz Lerman and under the artistic direction of Cassie Meador since 2011, Dance Exchange is a non-profit dance organization based in Takoma Park, Maryland. Dance Exchange collaborates across generations, disciplines, and communities to channel the power of dancemaking as a means for dialogue, a source of critical reflection, and a creative engine for thought and action. The work we cultivate and steward today grows from a legacy and commitment to intergenerational and community exchange, artmaking at the intersection of social relevance and community participation, and moving as a way to notice our world and noticing as a way to move our world. Learn more at www.danceexchange.org.