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MākEdu
Making Education

Presenter: *Tambra Harris*
Presentation: *Space Is the New Place: Highlighting the "A" in STEAM!*
Presentation Abstract: *Visual and performing artists make incredibly significant contributions to educational environments. When provided with models and examples of how to incorporate and activate the "A" in STEAM, educators open themselves up to unique and engaging methods of teaching and sharing their content. This presentation is designed to share an idea/event that has worked at Drew Charter School.*



Tambra Harris was born and raised in Oakland, CA where she began studying dance as a sophomore at Skyline High School under the tutelage of Dawn James. Once in Atlanta, she continued to dance during her college career as a member of the Spelman College Dance Theater, the Harry Bryce African-American Dance Theater, and Ayoluwa African Dance Ensemble. Some of her performance highlights include KATONGA, a Broadway style musical in Busch Gardens Tampa, FL, TLC's music video Girl Talk, and reality TV shows like Real Housewives of Atlanta, A Closer Look, and Love at First Sight which spotlighted actors taking West African Dance classes with Tambra and other company members. To add to her credits she has studied and performed under the direction of world renowned African and Contemporary dancers and choreographers such as Abdulaye Camara, Assane Konte, Youssouf Koumbassa, Marie Basse Wiles, Djian Tie, Omelika Kuumba, Kwame Azalius Ross, Abdel Salaam, Ronald K. Brown, Jawole Zolar, Deborah Vaughn, Dr. Veta Goler, Pamelah Maragh, and Debbie Allen.

With a Bachelors of Science degree in Exercise Science from Georgia State University, Tambra inspires total health and well-being while teaching and performing. For the past 20 years she has been a dance and drum performer, choreographer, teacher, organizer, and rehearsal director of Giwayen Mata- specializing in dances, songs, and rhythms of the African Diaspora. She currently teaches dance at Charles R. Drew Charter School where she has successfully developed a K-12 dance program at Atlanta's first charter school. Tambra's work at Drew Charter School and with Giwayen Mata afforded her the opportunity to be a featured choreographer with the National Black Arts Festival at the High Museum of Art. Her work in both places is an intersection of art, culture, social justice, and interdisciplinary educational and performance experiences. In a recent partnership between Giwayen Mata, Dancing SOL Productions, and

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Georgia State University School of Music, Tambra initiated and directs Mo' Motion Dance Fitness Camp for Youth which is designed to fight obesity in girls ages 8-15.

As the founder of Dancing SOL Productions whose mission is to promote health, unity, and philanthropy through events and activities that highlight dance for performance, education, exercise, creative expression, and cultural exchange, Tambra is able to do her life's work of Dancing to Save Our Lives (SOL).