



The Transformative Power of Art: Webinar

Speaker Biographies



Shea Murray is the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator in the Office of Standards for the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). As the coordinator, he oversees the development of the student learning standards for the arts and implementation resources. Shea worked in public education for over 20 years. The positions he held include high school visual art teacher, high school assistant principal, director of special services, and adjunct jewelry/metals instructor. Shea is a practicing visual artist with a BFA in Jewelry/Metals and Sculpture and an M.Ed. in School Leadership.



Dr. Joseph Papeika joined the Youth Justice Commission (YJC) in September 2023 as the Director of the Office of Education. Prior to coming to the YJC, Joseph served as a school administrator in suburban and urban districts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. His background includes years of experience in school improvement through teacher evaluation and professional development, leadership coaching, and development of school culture. Joseph has a master's degrees in curriculum and educational leadership and a doctorate in Education.



Mario Ramos is an artist and visual storyteller driven by a vision of growth—through art, love, and community. His work centers on shaping an outer world that reflects these values, using creativity as both catalyst and connection point. Through his camera, Mario seeks to plant seeds of possibility in people’s minds, inviting them to imagine resilience, solidarity, and transformation. Organizations such as the Institute of Music, Groundwork Elizabeth, and the Climate Revolution Action Network have provided fertile ground for his work to germinate—amplifying stories of communities navigating systemic challenges, environmental harm, and narratives shaped by fear and division.



Alysia Souder brings over 30 years of experience as an arts educator and administrator. Beginning her career as a teaching artist, she has worked throughout the tri-state area, teaching acting, playwriting, and conflict resolution in schools, community organizations, and youth facilities. Deeply committed to the role of the arts in young people’s growth and development, Alysia’s work has consistently centered on expanding access to the arts—particularly for youth impacted by trauma.