

World Culture in Context

Remotely connecting students with artists and cultures from across the globe.

Bringing the World to your Classroom

As educators have turned to new modes of remote learning in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, **World Culture in Context** utilizes these emerging virtual tools to create exciting opportunities for student cultural engagement and arts enrichment. World Culture in Context takes students on a virtual field trip, connecting them with renowned performing artists and community tradition-bearers from across the globe. Students will see participating artists perform in the places that have profoundly shaped their work and have the opportunity to engage with them in live dynamic conversations about creativity, belonging, and culture. World Culture in Context encourages students to look outwardly at the world's distinct cultural expressions in order to create new pathways of understanding and to gain enhanced perspective and appreciation for the cultural traditions that thrive in their own lives and communities.



Bluesman Jontavious Willis is his childhood church, Greenville, Georgia

World Culture in Context: Program Components

Virtual Presentation

Students will watch a short (18-20 minute) custom-created video of a renowned, culturally distinct artist demonstrating community-based performance practice in its traditional context: such as a Lakota hoop dancer on the flat, grassy plains of Wyoming; a blues singer on the porch in the Delta region of the United States; a Korean hour-glass drummer in rapidly changing neighborhood in Seoul; or a Tuvan throat singer in a yurt on the Mongolian steppe. In each video the artists share their music, what drives their passionate for it, and its larger importance within their culture.

Virtual Visit

After students have viewed and discussed the video the featured artist will join the students live via Zoom or a similar school-approved platform, exploring the artist's culture and craft, and providing an opportunity for students to better know these performers as artists and keepers of community-based cultural practice. Conversations will be tailored to particular age groups and guided by an experienced educator with a deep knowledge of the artist's work and context.

Teacher Resources

Each artist visit will include an age-appropriate T.A.P. Learning Guide for classroom teachers, tailored to corresponding standards of learning. This simple to follow guide breaks down the Tradition covered, the essential biographical information on the Artist the students will meet, and information on the Place depicted in the video where the artist lives and works. The T.A.P. Guide provides educators with suggestions for engaging classroom activities and additional teaching resources to maximize the impact of the videos and best prepare students for the artist remote classroom visit.

*Students participating in the **World Culture in Context** program will gain a deeper sense of the diversity of human expression, a broader respect for world culture, and a greater understanding of how unique expressive voices are fostered within family, community, and place the world over.*



Drummer Kim So Ra, with partner Hyun Seung Hun, in the Euljiro neighborhood of Seoul, South Korea

What Makes World Culture in Context Unique?

Place matters. While in person classroom visits effectively provide students direct exposure to diverse cultures and artists, these programs lack the critical component of cultural context. Allowing the students to view the visiting artists in the spaces in which they create and perform provide them with a deeper understanding of who they are and the prominence of their artistic expressions to their daily lives and cultural communities.

World Culture in Context leverages the tools of distance and online learning to provide vibrant new avenues of equity in arts enrichment. Through their participation in World Culture in Context, students will forge meaningful connections with artists and cultures from across the world without leaving their classrooms or homes, providing access to school communities that might not otherwise have had the opportunity due to cost, technical capacity, or geographic location. While there is a suggested fee for schools to participate in this program, no schools will be turned away due to financial barriers.

World Culture in Context was created by Josh Kohn and Jon Lohman, PhD, who have 40 years of combined experience as presenters and facilitators of diverse artistic programming and cultural exchange. Lohman and Kohn have long collaborated on public programs that engage the arts and humanities to bring forth positive changes in our communities. Their deep knowledge of and infectious enthusiasm for the arts infuse programs that engage, inform, and inspire audiences across the world.

World Culture in Context is a program of:



Center For Cultural Vibrancy creates and cultivates opportunities for cultural connections that support living traditions and energize communities. We are creating a more empathetic world—where people respect and celebrate one another's cultural expressions—through the sharing of traditional arts, customs, and lore that promote cultural exchange, understanding, and honor artistic mastery.



Creative Alliance builds communities by bringing together artists and audiences from diverse backgrounds to experience spectacular arts and education programs and engage in the creative process. They provide support to artists, act as a positive force in their community, and advocate for cultural expression rooted in a sense of place.