



Trying Together

Finding Joy through Playful Learning

February 3-4, 2021

February 9-10, 2021

Finding Joy through Playful Learning aims to bring together educators, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who have a variety of experiences related to education, play, and learning. The conference will take place via Zoom over the course of several days covering six topics related to playful learning. The goal is to generate dialogue among different stakeholders and share best practices to support children and families in learning through play.

Activating Communities Around Playful Learning

**February 9, 2021
3-5 PM (ET)**

Play fosters opportunities for children to learn and develop communication, problem solving, and creativity skills. What does it look like for communities to elevate playful learning? This workshop will highlight ways individuals and organizations can activate playful learning including the why and how.

Opening and Introduction – Roberta Golinkoff, PhD

Featured Speakers

Ariana Brazier, ATL Parent Like a Boss

Bettye Ferguson, Belmont Alliance Civic Association

Justin Forzano, Open Field

Shari Hersh & Gamar Markarian, Mural Arts

Sarah Siplak, Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative

Round Robin Breakout Rooms

Closing and Feedback – Roberta Golinkoff, PhD

Moderator

Roberta Golinkoff, PhD

Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Ph.D., Cornell University, is the Unidel H. Rodney Sharp Professor of Education at the University of Delaware. She is also a member of two other departments: Psychological and Brain Sciences and Linguistics and Cognitive Science and director of the Child's Play, Learning, and Development laboratory. She has held the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, the James McKeen Cattell sabbatical award, and the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Service Award as well as the Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contribution to Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society. In 2015, she received the James McKeen Cattell Fellow Award from the Association for Psychological Science. Golinkoff was also named a Distinguished Scientific Lecturer by the American Psychological Association and in 2017, she was awarded the Society for Research in Child Development's Distinguished Scientific Contribution award. In 2018, she was awarded the American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Public Communication of Education Research Award.

Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the LEGO Foundation. In addition to over 150 journal publications and book chapters, she has authored 16 books and monographs. Passionate about the dissemination of psychological science for improving our schools and families' lives, she and Hirsh-Pasek (her long standing collaborator) also write books for parents and practitioners. *How Babies Talk* (1999); the award-winning *Einstein Never Used Flash Cards* (2004) and *A Mandate for Playful Learning in Preschool* (2009). Her latest book, *Becoming Brilliant: What Science Tells Us About Raising Successful Children* is with APA Press and reached the New York Times best seller list.



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Featured Speakers



Ariana Brazier

Ari is an English, Critical & Cultural Studies Doctoral Candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research considers Black children and families, housing insecurity and poverty, and cultural play practices. She has conducted three years of in-field ethnographic research with Black children and their communities in the southeast United States. Ari is the CEO and President of the 501c3 nonprofit ATL Parent Like A Boss, Inc. (Parent LAB) whose mission is to enhance generational literacies through play in underserved African American communities. They are an intergenerational group of Black women with diverse experiences in community-based education. They care deeply about preserving the cultural legacies and traditions that joyfully sustain Black families. In addition to family-oriented community-based programming, Parent LAB hosts both signature and tailored workshops. Their workshops are grounded in an anti-racist, social justice framework and based on their research and knowledge of best practices regarding child development and family engagement.



Bettye Ferguson

Bettye Ferguson is the President and Founder of the Belmont Alliance Civic Association, CDC, a Community Based Incorporation situated in the Belmont District within West Philadelphia. Bettye's background in Civic Engagement, Youth Development and Non-Profit Management has led her to manage outreach programs providing low-income families with free Infant/Toddler and Adult Diapers, personal care items, clothes, coats, books and resource Information that will help one gain a better life.



Justin Forzano

Justin Forzano is the founder and CEO of Open Field, a Pittsburgh-based Sport for Social Impact organization with the mission to improve the lives and futures of youth through soccer by promoting health, education, equity, and peace. Under Forzano's leadership, the organization engages nearly 1,000 youth in year-round educational soccer programming in Cameroon, Africa, and Pittsburgh, PA. In addition to leading the organization, Justin is an active coach mentor, facilitating programming for immigrant and refugee youth in the Pittsburgh community. He holds a Master of Public Policy Management from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and is a graduate of the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering. Forzano is an Albert Schweitzer Fellow for Life and was named one of Pittsburgh Magazine's '40 Under 40' in 2018.



Shari Hersh

Shari Hersh, Director of Environmental Justice Department at Mural Arts Philadelphia, organizes social practice art projects and processes in the public sphere that convene people of diverse backgrounds and disciplines in horizontal collaborations to mobilize for Environmental Justice in their neighborhoods and across Philly. The projects center the brilliance, expertise and a wide range of skill sets across social divisions with leadership of people from marginalized communities. Hersh precipitates encounters, exploration, discussion, and learning that deconstruct white supremacy and colonialist notions of service to reveal the necessity of mutuality and to build a more just future.

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Gamar Markarian

Gamar Markarian is an Armenian Lebanese designer, urbanist and systems thinker, interested in media and communication. She received my BS in Landscape architecture in 2006, an MS in Design and Urban Ecologies in 2016 and a graduate certification in Documentary filmmaking in 2018. Currently living in New York, Gamar collaborates with The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program as a design strategist focusing on the design and implementation of playful participatory research and design processes.



Sarah Siplak

Sarah works for Trying Together as a contractor overseeing the work of the Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative, an initiative dedicated to advancing the importance of play in the lives of children, families, and communities in the Pittsburgh region. Prior to joining Trying Together, Siplak served as the Director of Programs at Saturday Light Brigade, an educational community radio program.



Acknowledgements

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The opinions expressed in this conference are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the William Penn foundation.