



Comparative Anatomy and the Visual Arts: An ART+ BIO Collaborative Workshop for Educators

July 21, 22, and 23, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

In this workshop educators will explore ways to combine the arts and life sciences to engage students in creative artmaking and deeper learning of advanced scientific concepts. Working from museum specimens and exhibits, participants will use biological illustration to learn about comparative anatomy and evolution and learn how to design creative art+science collaborations for their own classrooms. As a culminating project, educators will get first-hand experience teaching comparative anatomy through the visual arts by facilitating the creation of a crowd-sourced collaborative art piece. This workshop is ideal for art and science teachers (grades 6–12) as well as artists, students, and educators interested in interdisciplinary, creative teaching and learning approaches. No previous drawing or science experience is required.

- Learn the components of a successful art+bio collaboration
- Develop skills and techniques for drawing from observation and illustrating biological forms
- Discover new ways to use museum galleries to extend classroom learning
- Brainstorm ways to design creative collaborations in your own classrooms, schools, and studios
- Learn how to encourage reluctant artists
- Discuss evolutionary concepts such as comparative anatomy and homologous and analogous traits that can be seen in museum specimens
- Hear from scientists and artists about current scientific research that can be shared with students
- Share teaching strategies and activities with colleagues
- Guide museum visitors in the making of Citizen SciArt, a crowd-sourced collaborative public art piece

This program supports **NGSS Standards** for grades 6–7 and High School Biology, **Visual Arts Learning Standards** for grades 6–12, and the **Interdisciplinary Connections Strand**. Teachers of all grade levels and informal educators welcome. Participants will earn 15 PDPs.

Fee: \$120 - Some scholarships available. [Register online.](#)

For questions about the program contact Jennifer_peterson@harvard.edu. For help registering contact Cathy at reservations@hmn.harvard.edu or 617-495-2341.

Comparative Anatomy and the Visual Arts will be taught jointly by instructors from the [ART+Bio Collaborative](#) and the Harvard Museum of Natural History Education Department.

ART+Bio Instructors

Stephanie Dowdy-Nava, M.A., is an artist, arts administrator, art educator, and Co-Founder of ART+Bio Collaborative. She has taught art professionally at Pre-K through Adult levels in public and private schools and nonprofit settings.

Saúl S. Nava, Ph.D., is a biologist, artist, Assistant Professor of Biology at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Research Associate in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University, and Co-Founder of ART+Bio Collaborative. His research focuses on the ecology and evolution of animal behavior, communication and vision.

Stephanie and Saul lead [ISLAND LIFE](#) and [DESERT LIFE](#), Field Studies of Art+Nature travel programs that creatively explore the tropical and desert habitats of Puerto Rico and the American Southwest.

Jennifer Cross Peterson, M.S., is Senior Educator at the Harvard Museum of Natural History. She has extensive experience teaching and creating programs for K–12 students as well as teachers and other adult learners.