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April 6, 2017

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Virginia Hoffman for an art educator position.

Virginia and I worked together through a partnership between Visionaries + Voices (V+V), where she was the Education Coordinator from September 2014 - August 2016 and WordPlay Cincy, where I was the Program Director. During our collaboration, Virginia was responsible for bringing Teaching Artists with differing abilities to WordPlay once a month where they led creative workshops for up to 20 urban K-8th grade students. Lessons included visual narratives, observational drawings, book illustration, everyday objects, family trees, architecture, design, building, nature assemblage, and more. Yet, the deeper learnings of this partnership encouraged empathy towards others, better understanding of your place in a neighborhood, and a single moment of shared experiences between different generations, cultures, and abilities.

Virginia did an outstanding job facilitating artistic and educational experiences in our space and possesses a true gift for interacting with others, including both the Teaching Artists from V+V, and WordPlay's kids. Virginia embraced our philosophy of getting messy, being flexible with time if needed, and celebrating everyone's efforts.

I also appreciated Virginia's keen organization and detail-orientated skills, which were visible through her ability to prepare teachers for the art activity, provide engaging and age-appropriate presentations, and facilitate spontaneous interactions between Teaching Artists and Wordplay participants. Her preparation and guidance allowed for teachers to reach their highest potential as leaders and for our students to enjoy unique arts experiences they would otherwise not have access to.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Virginia, and came to know her as a truly valuable asset to any team. She is honest, dependable, and incredibly hard-working. Beyond that, she exudes kindness, patience, positivity and joy, which she will no doubt bring to your program.

I confidently recommend Virginia for a teaching position and look forward to watching her grow in her Arts Education career as she shares her gifts with your community.

Please feel free to contact me at 513-541-0930 should you like to discuss Virginia's qualifications and experience further. I'd be happy to expand on my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Zook
Grants & Operations
WordPlay Cincy

