



**STEM to STEAM:
*Learning at the Intersection of Art & Science***
Date: Saturday, December 1, 2012 | Location: Save the Bay

This session will be co-designed and co-facilitated by two of our exceptional master teaching artists -- Kurt Van Dexter and Dan Bisaccio. Join us for a full day of professional development primarily for math, science, engineering, technology and SPED teachers (members of secondary interdisciplinary teams are also invited to attend). This hands-on workshop will model and teach innovative STEAM curriculum designed to help secondary teachers utilize the arts to engage students, while reaching a deeper level of knowledge and understanding in STEAM subject areas.

Dan Bisaccio, Brown University, Director of Science Education and lecturer in education. Dan Bisaccio's on-going research with the Smithsonian Institution's Biodiversity & Monitoring Program involves secondary and college students with authentic field research opportunities at several tropical sites in Central and South America as well as the South Pacific. His work has been recognized by the United Nations Environmental Program (Convention on Biological Diversity) where he is an active contributor to their international biological diversity education outreach committee and has presented, with his students, pedagogical as well as biological research at United Nations Conferences on Biological Diversity (Montreal, CA – May, 2007; May, 2008 -Bonn, Germany). Dan has been the recipient of many national, state, regional teaching awards – including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching as well as authoring several articles on educational pedagogy and practice.

Prior to joining Brown University's Education Department in 2008, Dan Bisaccio was the Math/ Science/ Technology Division Head charged to develop and implement a program to meet the needs of all students for the 21st Century at Souhegan High School (a public school in Amherst, New Hampshire). At SHS, Dan has taught advanced biology, tropical ecology, and a Conservation Biology & Literature senior seminar as well as developing and teaching ongoing professional development workshops for teachers and interns. Dan also leads a number of international professional institutes and biodiversity research projects for teachers and students annually. His teaching methodology and research has been highlighted in several books, on National Public Radio, and on a CBS TV special focused on public education.

Kurt Van Dexter is a practicing artist, registered landscape architect, and a certified K-12 visual arts educator. Since 1994, Kurt has been collaborating with schools, guiding them through the process of developing schoolyard gardens and educational landscapes. Incorporating art, design, math, science, written, oral, and visual presentation, and sometimes history, he guides students, teachers, and members of the community through the design process from initiating goals, objectives and a scope of work, to working in scale, visualizing, planning the structural space of a garden, researching and selecting plants appropriate for the site and climatic conditions, to constructing and then celebrating the completed space. Kurt also works with the school to plan for periodic maintenance of the space.

In 2005, Kurt co-founded the Children's Garden Network, a statewide initiative to create engaging garden spaces at all schools. Kurt also travels to work with schools in other parts of the country as well. He is currently writing a book on the design of schoolyard gardens. In his spare time, Kurt raises rosemary and lavender plants on his small farm, Good Karma Farma. After a long hiatus, Kurt is painting again, exhibiting and selling his work. He plays the button accordion and still performs with the dance troupe he co-founded 28 years ago.