

East Asian Studies Center's Arts Initiative

Brings Renowned Japanese Artist Migiwa Orimo to Columbus Preparatory Academy

Project Description

In Autumn 2012, EASC's arts initiative continued with a large-scale project which brought renowned Japanese artist Migiwa Orimo to Columbus to work on Japan-themed art projects with school children and to share her work with the larger community through an exhibition at a municipal building. EASC Program Manager Michelle Attias-Goldstein led the project which secured external funding from both the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council.

EASC selected a local charter school, Columbus Preparatory Academy, as its partner school and worked closely with Orimo and art teacher Kristen Pyshora to design the Japan-themed program for the 800+ students. Programming began with elementary school and middle school assemblies at which Orimo presented on her work as an installation artist while contextualizing it through introductions of elements of Japanese culture, such as traditional festivals and the connection with nature. Students then spent the next three weeks working on Japan-themed projects in art class, such as writing their name in Japanese, origami, kirigami, fans, kimono patterns, haiku, brush painting, wish boards, and more. Orimo then returned to the school and used the student projects to construct a large installation in a hallway off of the school lobby. The space was transformed into a personal, reflective space containing the collective contributions of the entire school.

Impact

800+ students at Columbus Preparatory Academy were given a presentation by artist Migiwa Orimo, introducing students to a working installation artist and contextualizing common cultural elements of Japan. For four weeks, they participated in a series of Japanese-themed art lessons and produced their own Japanese inspired artifacts. After, Orimo completed a separate installation at the school using the artifacts made by the students. Students were witness to the artist's process in assembling the materials and transforming the school's lobby into a gateway to Japanese culture.

Ohio State Colleges/Units

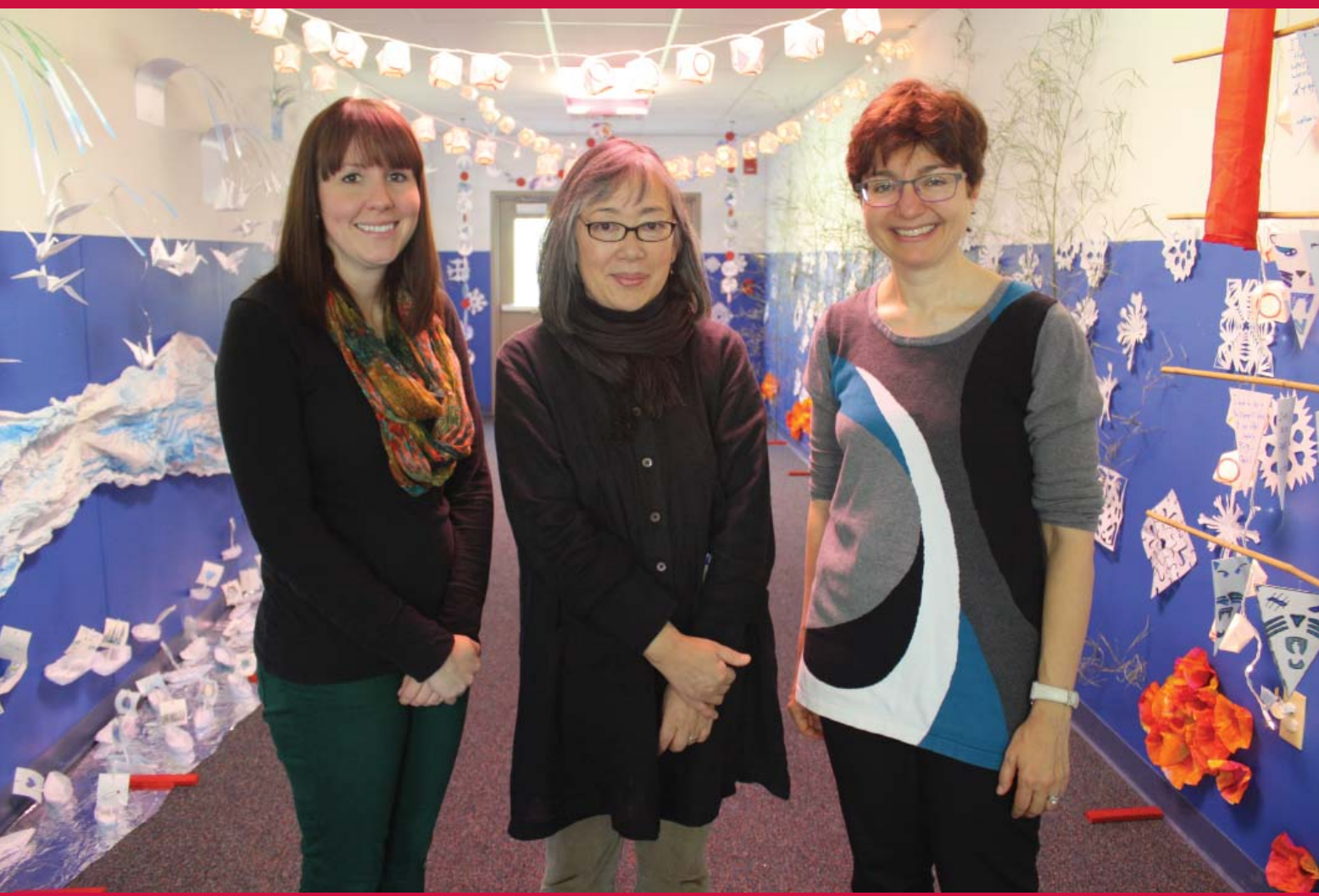
East Asian Studies Center
Office of International Affairs & the College of Arts and Sciences

Community Partners

Ohio Arts Council, Greater Columbus Arts Council (Franklin County Neighborhood Arts Program), Columbus Preparatory Academy, Upper Arlington Concourse Gallery and artist Migiwa Orimo.



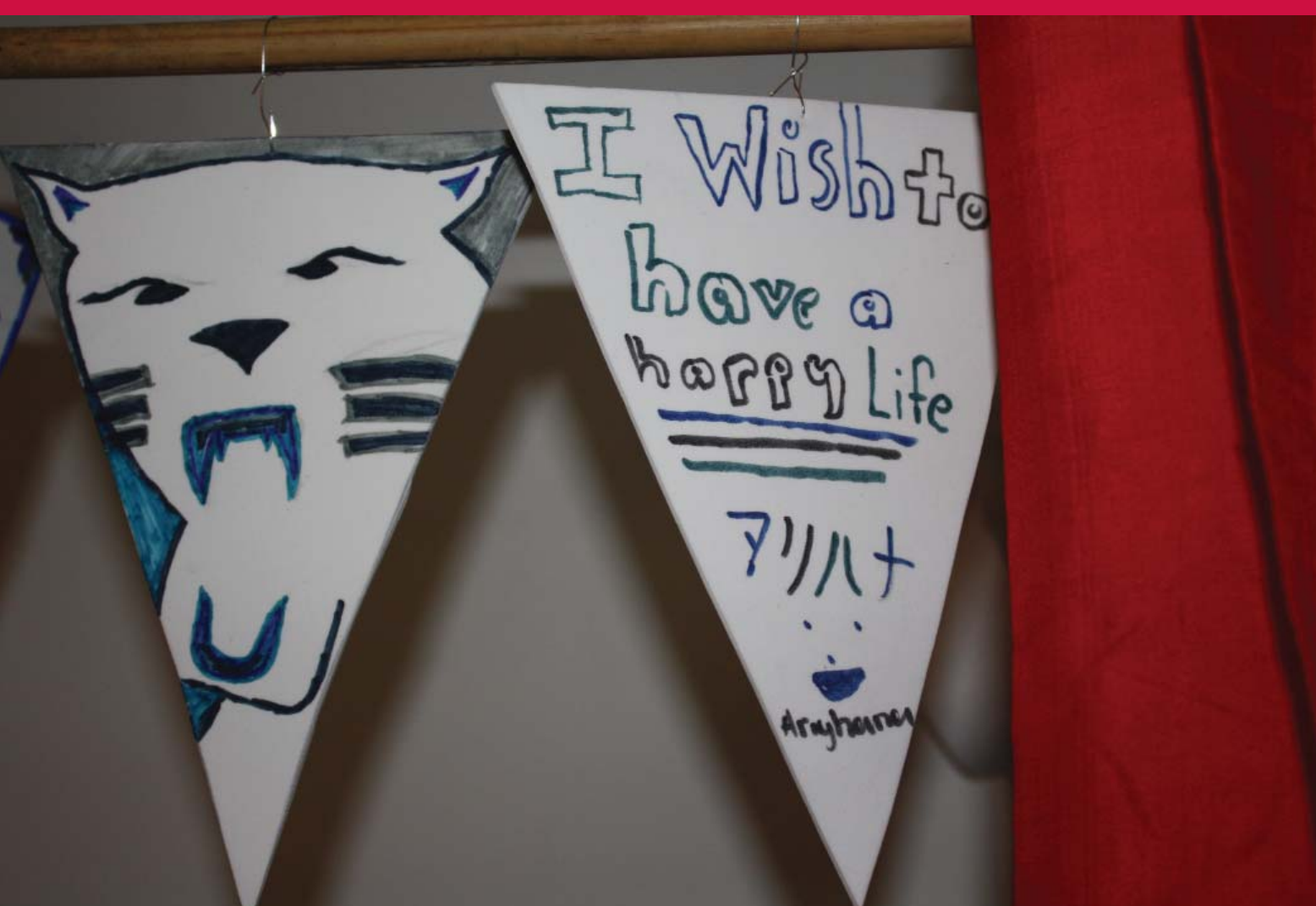
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT, CONTACT: MICHELLE ATTIAS-GOLDSTEIN, EASC PROGRAM MANAGER AT ATTIAS-GOLDSTEIN.1@OSU.EDU.



ABOVE: TEACHER KRISTEN PYSHORA (LEFT), ARTIST MIGIWA ORIMO (MIDDLE), AND DR. PATRICIA SIEBER (RIGHT)

"The art installation at CPA opened a new door of experiences that enlightened and engaged my students. They were in awe of meeting Migiwa and watching her at work. I really enjoyed working with the EASC and collaborating with Migiwa on such an exciting project. This was a one-of-a-kind experience that has been embedded in me and will inspire many future endeavors."

**Kristen Pyshora, art teacher,
Columbus Preparatory Academy**



ABOVE: CLOSEUP OF STUDENT "WISH" BOARD, WITH STUDENT'S SIGNATURE IN JAPANESE.

BELOW: ARTIST MIGIWA ORIMO (FRONT LEFT) AND ART TEACHER KRISTEN PYSHORA (FRONT RIGHT) PRESENT AT THE CPA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

