

Daria Collins Bio

Daria L. Collins has had a passion for the arts since early childhood and built upon that interest through exposure to and exploration in a variety of media. As a youth she received a number of awards and certifications for her talents and decided to study fine arts professionally. Daria L. Collins graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the renowned *School of Visual Arts* in New York City where she concentrated her studies in fine art and graphic design. Simultaneously, she received an internship as design editor for the *Harlem Times Newspaper* where she implemented her learned graphic and photography skills. Subsequent to receipt of her degree, she became the design editor for a start up magazine titled *NYtes Out magazine* (i.e., *Nights out magazine*) where she was responsible for the design and lay out of the magazine. In her spare time, Daria enjoys photojournalism, graphics, painting and silkscreen art. She has most recently photographed the Ambassador of Liberia here in Atlanta.

Born in Ithaca, New York, Daria attributes her worldly views to travel experiences, both domestic and abroad. Daria has traveled to Nigeria, Morocco, Spain, France, the Netherlands, England, Hawaii, St. Croix, St. Martin and many states throughout the USA. Observing similarities in art throughout her travels gave her an appreciation for art as a form of expression that allows us all to communicate no matter what language we speak. She uses her travel experiences as an inspiration for students to see where their passions can lead them.

Before moving to Atlanta, Daria held various positions in the White Plains, NY School District where she gained a wealth of educational experiences. In White Plains, Daria worked with special needs students in a self-contained class, served as a Kindergarten Teaching Assistant and a 3rd Grade Teaching Assistant, served as 1st grade Enrichment Teacher for Project Early Read, and as an Art Instructor for the Club Excel Middle School Enrichment Program. She loves teaching and is passionate about art education. After 5 years of passionately serving the White Plains School District, she decided to relocate to the peach state, Atlanta, GA.

Last year, Daria completed her second year with the Atlanta Public School system serving as Art Instructor for both CW Hill and ES Cook Elementary schools. Daria continues to add to her skill sets as an art instructor by participating in professional development. She recently completed the Arts APS Critical Aesthetics and Response course. Daria uses an innovative design model in the classroom that not only excites students about art, but also cultivates insights about science, math, language arts, social skills and cooperation. Currently she is proud to be the Visual Art Instructor for Springdale Park Elementary where her goal is to continue working as an artist in the classroom, to provide a rich art program that impacts and inspires the lives of our students.

Ms. Collins taught art at Springdale Park last year.