

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Samra's Journey Around the World program has been designed to approach traditional education in innovative ways. American students often lack opportunities to acquire a deeper understanding of historical and contemporary cultures. By integrating the arts into cultural and historical studies through active participation, students will be able to form deeper connections with that knowledge.

## OBJECTIVES

In order to advance the cultural understanding of students, the Journey Around the World will:

- Engage students in age and gender-appropriate activities in various art forms as a way to learn more about various cultures.
- Foster the appreciation of each art form as it relates to the social structure, history, geography, economy, beliefs and values of a culture.
- Promote understanding of various peoples by comparing other cultures to their own in both material culture and intangible aspects.
- Improve the self-esteem of participants by helping them learn more about themselves while discovering other cultures.
- Promote good health and agility by engaging the body in enjoyable exercise.
- Promote aesthetic growth by helping participants develop skills in music, dance, art, writing and theater.
- Enrich the learning of core academic subjects by linking them with the arts – thus providing an outlet to various forms of intelligence and thinking processes.

## ACTIVITIES

Program activities are designed for any group – including K-12, college, and adult education. K-12 programs are aligned to state educational objectives. Activities include:

- Study and implementation of the techniques used in each art form (music, movement, theatre, & writing)
- Exploration of the impact of geography, history, climate, and available resources have on each culture's art forms
- Discussion of how art, dance and music are outlets for the creative aspect of humanity in all societies, from ancient times to the present



## ABOUT SAMRA

Iara Kendrick (Samra) is an educator with over 20 years of experience in public schools and higher education. Samra has a Master's degree in Education, with post-graduate work in Psychology. Samra is also fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Samra has worked as an outreach instructor for William King Arts Center, teaching art as it relates to Ancient Cultures. She has also taught cultural arts classes in the Summer program of the Virginia Governor's School program.

Samra received an "Excellence in Education" award from Virginia Tech for designing a program correlating all art forms to the teaching of Spanish. She has been featured in various multimedia materials, including instructional and fitness videos.

Samra has taught workshops across the USA and other countries including in Brazil, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Indonesia. She has also traveled to Europe, Mexico, Canada, Egypt, Turkey and Bali to immerse in their cultures and learn more about their dances.

Samra specializes in Middle Eastern, Latin, and Polynesian dances, in addition to continued study in other ethnic styles. Her performances are enhanced by her passion for interpreting dances of other cultures, her technical skills, and her use of authentic costumes and music.

Samra lives in Southwest Virginia and has traveled all over the world, sharing her unique approach to arts in education. Further information and references will be provided upon request.



## SAMRA'S EXPRESSIONS

*A Journey Around the World –  
Through Movement & Arts*

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