



2016  
DENVER COUNTY CULTURAL COUNCIL  
APPLICATION

Name Elise Roth Edwards  
Address 3504 Newton, Denver, CO Zip 80211  
Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) 303.589.9616  
E-Mail elise\_edwards@dpsk12.org  
Occupation/Employer Denver Public Schools, Early Education Partner  
Highest Level of Education or Degree Earned: Master's in Education Year completed: 2002  
Ethnicity: Caucasian

Are you a resident of the City and County of Denver? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you at least 21 years of age? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current board member or paid staff member of any organization applying for Tier III funding? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  → Denver Public Schools

Are you willing to disclose any conflict of interest? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

See attached

1) **QUALIFICATIONS:** What is your experience with arts, cultural, scientific or historical organizations? Describe the nature of your involvement, including the organization(s) and time period(s).

2) **EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:** Briefly describe your education and the knowledge and skills you would bring to the DCCC.

3) **VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** List and briefly describe your community and volunteer activities.

4) **REFERENCES:** List the name, phone number, and affiliation of 2 organizations/individuals with which you have worked in any of your community involvements in the past 5 years.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Please answer the questions stated above even if you attach a bio.
- If not selected for the DCCC would you be willing to serve on another volunteer panel? Yes
- Is there anything that would adversely affect public confidence in your appointment? If yes, please explain. No

Please submit applications to Tariana Navas-Nieves, Director, Cultural Affairs at [Tariana.Navas@denvergov.org](mailto:Tariana.Navas@denvergov.org)



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Elise Roth Edwards

1) QUALIFICATIONS: What is your experience with arts, cultural, scientific or historical organizations? Describe the nature of your involvement, including the organization(s) and time period(s).

I haven't served on a cultural council previously, but I briefly consulted with the Children's Museum of Denver around family and school outreach, in 2012.

2) EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS: Briefly describe your education and the knowledge and skills you would bring to the DCCC.

I have a bachelor's degree in studio arts (with an emphasis in painting) and a master's degree in education (with an emphasis on language and literacy). My full time work is dedicated to training and supporting preschool and kindergarten teachers in the Denver Public Schools, with one of my overarching goals being to maintain creative, experientially-based educational structures for children. We also work to connect our teachers (and the families they work with), with the arts, cultural, scientific and historical organizations in Denver.

3) VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: List and briefly describe your community and volunteer activities.

I regularly volunteer with the neighborhood school that my two children attend. I work with the PTSA, in order to organize and host an annual Literacy Night, "Build-It" Night, and a Family Dance.

In the past I have served as an Americorps summer volunteer in Santa Rosa, California, and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala. I am fluent in Spanish, and use those skills often in my work with children, families, and teachers, here in Denver.

4) REFERENCES: List the name, phone number, and affiliation of 2 organizations/individuals with which you have worked in any of your community involvements in the past 5 years.

Cheryl Caldwell – Director of Early Education, 720-423-2633

Lucy Davis – Manager of Early Education, 303-949-7013

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- Please answer the questions stated above even if you attach a bio.
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**Elise Roth Edwards**  
**3504 Newton Street**  
**Denver, CO 80211**  
**303-589-9616**  
**elise\_edwards@dpsk12.org**

## Education

- **Harvard Graduate School of Education**, Cambridge, MA  
2002  
Master of Education in Language & Literacy  
Reading Specialist certification program
- **Lewis & Clark College**, Portland, OR  
1993-98  
Bachelor of Arts in studio art  
National Merit scholarship recipient  
Barbara Hirschy Neeley full tuition scholarship recipient

## Experience

- **Instructional Specialist and Early Education Coordinator and Network Partner** , Denver Public Schools, 900 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203  
(7/2007-9/2008 and 8/2009-present); 40+ hrs/week; Supervisor: Cheryl Caldwell – 303-423-8207)
  - Duties and accomplishments: Support early childhood educational programs, instruction, and curriculum throughout the district by providing coaching, and staff development to teachers, principals and facilitators. Plan, coordinate and teach early childhood education professional development sessions. Promote cultural competency through thoughtful examination of curricular and instructional choices.
- **ELA-S Kindergarten Teacher**, Cowell Elementary, 4540 W. 10<sup>th</sup>, Denver, CO 80204  
(8/2006-6/2007; 40 hrs/week; Supervisor: Principal Tom Elliot – 303-571-0617)
  - Duties and accomplishments: Instructed a group of 25 native Spanish speaking students in the foundations of literacy (speaking, listening, reading, and writing), mathematics, English language development, social studies, and science. Maintained high academic and social expectations for every student.
- **Elementary Literacy Specialist**, Denver Public Schools, 900 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203  
(7/2005-7/2006; 40 hrs/week; Supervisor: John Youngquist – 720-423-8300)  
Duties and accomplishments:
  - Provided in-school demonstration and coaching to teachers and literacy coaches in all components of the Denver Public Schools literacy program, including the reading, writing, and skills block.
  - Conducted bi-monthly meetings with area literacy coaches to analyze student work, review classroom assessment information, and plan for both instruction and professional development at the school level.
  - Conducted literacy coach study group sessions on components of the literacy program.
  - Served as a member of various school leadership teams to plan and coordinate implementation of the literacy program and to orchestrate program improvement efforts.
  - Participated in school and classroom learning walks to engage teachers, administrators, and others in identifying examples of effective classroom practices. Use information gathered to plan the focus of coaching visits, grade-level meetings, and teacher study groups.
- **Literacy Coach**, Cowell Elementary School, 4540 W. 10th, Denver, CO 80204  
(8/2004-6/2005; 40 hrs/week; Supervisor: Principal Tom Elliot – 303-571-0617)  
Duties and accomplishments:
  - Provided in-school demonstration and coaching to teachers in all components of the Denver Public Schools literacy program, including the reading, writing, and skills block.
  - Conducted grade-level planning meetings with teachers to analyze student work, review classroom assessment information, and plan for instruction.
  - Conducted teacher study group sessions on components of the literacy program.
  - Served as a member of the Cowell leadership team to plan and coordinate implementation of the literacy program and to orchestrate program improvement efforts.

- Participated in classroom learning walks to engage teachers, administrators, and others in identifying examples of effective classroom practices. Used information gathered to plan the focus of coaching visits, grade-level meetings, and teacher study groups.
- Participated in an extensive professional development program to deepen understanding of effective practices in teaching reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
  
- **Reading Specialist**, Smith Middle School, 9201 Seawell School Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (8/2002 – 6/2004; 40 hrs/week; Supervisor: Principal Valerie Reinhart – 919-918-2145)  
Duties and accomplishments:
  - Worked with small groups of struggling readers to improve fluency, develop comprehension skills, and increase vocabulary acquisition. Motivated students by collaborating on literacy projects directed to students' diverse backgrounds and personal interests.
  - Supported core and elective teachers by providing professional development workshops, resources, and consultation.
  - Served as advisor to the Battle of the Books team during weekly meetings and competitions.
  - Founded, led, and advised school garden project, incorporating natural themes into curriculum and supporting a middle school team-building model.
  - Actively promoted first and second language literacy for English Language Learners.
  - Taught summer school courses in both remedial reading and accelerated reading.

### **Skills, Abilities and Interests**

- Fluent in Spanish – reading, writing, and speaking.
- Training in Cognitive Coaching (Days 1-4)
- Adaptive Schools Training, 2014
- Facilitated Leadership Training, 2015
- Large Center Director Qualified - Colorado (meets CDHS licensing requirements as an on-site center director for DPS preschool programs)
- Presented “Art from the Start” workshop (2013) and “Take the Best, Leave the Rest” workshop (2015) at the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference