

Hillary Kay, Education Manager
Richmond Performing Arts Alliance
600 E Grace St, Ste 400, Richmond, VA 23219
hkay@rpaalliance.com
(804) 592-3381

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to highly recommend LaShaunda Craddock as an exceptional Teaching Artist and Storyteller. Since 2017, LaShaunda has been an integral part of our Teaching Artist team at the Richmond Performing Arts Alliance, consistently showcasing empathy, creativity, and passion in her role. In addition to her performance and teaching artist work she has done with us, LaShaunda has also become a leader and mentor to our newer Teaching Artists, and is incredibly generous in sharing her songs, stories, and insight.

LaShaunda's commitment to her craft and community is evident in the way she engages with teachers, students, and parents through her work with the Greater Richmond Wolf Trap program. She makes everyone feel welcome in the spaces she creates, inviting all to join in and collaborate. Through this program, she has conducted many community workshops and classroom residencies, and one example that comes to mind is her adaptation of the story Imani's Moon, which I have seen her present in a classroom residency. A tale of aspirations and perseverance, the story also demonstrates how to deal with difficult social situations and stay true to yourself. LaShaunda takes the story off the page, and through the use of movement, song, and character voice, the teacher and students all take part in shaping the narrative of Imani's journey to touch the moon despite the doubts of her peers. Throughout the experience, LaShaunda asks the students to predict what might happen next and invites the teacher to take on characters with her. Her work inspires teachers to adopt these creative practices to amplify the stories they read and share in the classroom as well.

This is just one example of LaShaunda's consistently excellent work, and I am confident she will be a wonderful addition to your program. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,
Hillary Kay