



Each institution has its own specific needs. Highly effective workshops may be delivered in a few hours. Education Through Music needed to enrich its program by empowering 40 of its "visiting artists" that teach in schools in NYC with a culturally-rich Spanish workshop composed of traditional Spanish children's songs, dances and other activities. The full case study appears below:

Profile

Founded in 1991, Education Through Music (ETM) is a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of music in inner-city schools and schools in disadvantaged areas, as a means of enhancing students' academic performance and general development. By providing yearlong, in-school music education programs, ETM makes music education a reality for thousands of children who would otherwise have limited or no exposure to the arts. Our current activities focus on elementary, middle and K-8 schools.

Challenges

Education Through Music scheduled a half-day teacher-training workshop for a group of about 45 educators that act as "Visiting Artists" at schools in New York. ETM required a facilitator that was knowledgeable in the area of Spanish musical material to present traditional songs from Spanish speaking countries to be used at the early childhood/early elementary grade levels.

Actions

The morning workshop included a presentation of songs and games that could be readily implemented in the classroom. Teachers were actively engaged with instruments, props, lyrics and translations to enhance understanding of the material and to learn the correct pronunciation for the songs and activities. This was a morning of sharing, learning and fun!

Results

A post-workshop evaluation showed that 100% of the teachers said they would recommend this workshop to others, 99% felt that the workshop represented a good investment of their time and 100% said they learned new cultural information and materials. The organizers were very satisfied with the variety and amount of work that was presented in such a short time.

Testimonial

"I've had the pleasure of participating in two professional development sessions given by Yolanda Borrás of I'm Bilingual!®. The first was at the MENC National Conference held in Milwaukee in 2008. I was struck by her knowledge of heritage and history and how she incorporated them into such fun and interactive activities. It was clear that she was an authentic source on the subject and that she had years of real teaching experience to support it."

"... our Teaching Artists found the presentation to be very helpful, and greatly appreciated her expertise- both in the area of Latin American songs and as an early childhood teacher. I also appreciated her professional manner and flexibility".

Chris Marolf, Education Through Music Field Supervisor, New York City
ETMonline.org