The Goal: To help students notice that our fellow humans communicate with us in many different ways. And if we pay attention, we might make meaningful new connections with others.

The Art Form: Capoeira Angola is an African-Brazilian folk art that allows students to express and communicate with:

- Martial arts
- Hand gestures
- Basic rhythms
- Music & singing
- Play
- Storytelling
- Facial expressions
- Dancing with physical disabilities

The Artist: “Baba” Skher is one of less than 10 American-born artists in the United States who have reached his ranking in this African-Brazilian art form. He is the only MSAC and YAMD certified teacher-artist of Capoeira Angola in the state of Maryland.
Program Description

The Residency

This residency is well-suited for learning in inclusive settings that incorporate those with behavioral, social, emotional, and/or physical disabilities.

Good communication skills are some of the best indicators of future success in the workplace. Over 90 percent of communication is non-verbal, yet most people receive minimal instruction on how to pick up on the many silent messages that mediate social and personal relationships. This residency develops students’ non-verbal communication skills through the body language of a unique African-Brazilian martial arts dance-game called Capoeira Angola.

Inclement Weather

DON’T WORRY! Artists will follow school closings and delays and will work with you to reschedule the performance if necessary.

Young Audiences Contact Number 410-837-7577

Call 410-837-7577 and follow the prompts to be connected with a staff member on call for After Hours or Emergency.

Contact Young Audiences for more information on this and other programs • 410-837-7577 • www.yamd.org
Young Audiences/Arts for Learning  2600 N Howard Street, Suite 1300  Baltimore, MD 21218
“Baba” Skher is one of less than 10 American-born artists in the United States who have reached the level of “Contra-Mestre” in this African-Brazilian art form. For more than 20 years, he has studied Capoeira Angola under the tutelage of a renowned master from Salvador, Brazil. This traditional dance-fight art form led him to live in South America, learn Portuguese, and to literally “stand on his head.” As a teacher, he gains student trust as an authority figure that is committed to nurturing their character development. He has also served as an on-going teacher for Goucher College and Towson University.

Baba Skher’s ensemble, The Dancing Warriors, has mesmerized audiences with acrobatic choreography at dozens of school assemblies throughout the state of Maryland. Students are transported through time and across the Atlantic Ocean to learn about the origins of Capoeira Angola’s unique culture, dance, and music.

Inside this guide:

- Artist Bio
- Standards
- List of Resources
- Background Information
- Content Examples
- Professional Development Strategies
- Teacher Prep
Maryland State Curriculum Fine Art Standards:

**Fine Arts Content Standards in Dance**

**Standard 1.0 Perceiving, Performing, and Responding: Aesthetic Education**
Students will demonstrate the ability to perceive, perform, and respond to dance.

**INDICATOR**
1. Demonstrate knowledge of how elements of dance are used to communicate meaning

**OBJECTIVES**
- a) Explain how the elements of dance are used to communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings in movement sequences

**Standard 3.0 Creative Expression and Production**
Students will demonstrate the ability to create and perform dance.

**INDICATOR**
1. Develop the ability to improvise dance

**OBJECTIVES**
- c) Improvise dance studies individually and with a partner

**Fine Arts Content Standards in Music**

**Standard 2.0 Historical, Cultural, and Social Context:** Students demonstrate an understanding of music as an essential aspect of history and human experience.

1. Develop the ability to recognize music as a form of individual and cultural expression through experiencing music as both personal and societal expression.

**List of Resources**

**ONLINE**
- Adult Capoeira Practitioners: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omqt7PrbKJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omqt7PrbKJQ)
- Youth Capoeira Dancers: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5ohbZLtwas](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5ohbZLtwas)
- Capoeira FICA Youth Camp: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MzLULWo4d4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MzLULWo4d4)
CAPOEIRA MUSIC
CD Title: “Capoeira Angola from Salvador, Brazil.” Grupo de Capoeira Angola Pelourinho with Smithsonian Folkways. code SFW40465

CD liner notes from “Capoeira Angola from Salvador, Brazil.”

ONLINE
Search YouTube for videos and Google for images of “Capoeira Angola”

ORAL TRADITION

MAAFA
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maafa

BOOK

Background/ Additional Information

Capoeira Angola:
1. A martial arts tradition that began in Central Africa and perfected in Brazil by enslaved descendants of Africa.
2. Capoeira Angola is an African-Brazilian folk art that combines dance, play, music, theater, and martial arts into a unique experience.

Rites of Passage: a series of special lessons, experiences and/or tests that prepare children for adulthood. Every society has some form of coming-of-age rites to introduce its youth to adulthood.

Enslaved: a term that refers to the human condition of living under forced servitude. “Enslaved” or “Enslaved African” is preferred to the de-humanizing term of “slave” or “African slave.” The former speaks to the individual’s unjust human condition, while the latter defines the victimized by his or her victimization.
Content Examples

Non-Verbal Communication (NVC) Games: Students pick up on ideas, emotions, and meaning with silent games using facial expressions, gestures, and body postures.

Spatial Direction Awareness: Students use instrument sounds and hand, head and eye movements to signal changes in directions for classmates.

Professional Development Strategies

Teachers can expand their usage of non-verbal communication (music/sound, lights, movements, gestures, positions, etc) into the routines and procedures used for classroom management.

Teacher Prep

Attend required planning and information session.

It is encouraged to explore the List the Additional Resources above to gain an understanding of the art form prior to Baba Skher’s arrival.