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# Christa Flores

Maker Education and Science Literacy Specialist

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I am passionate about science literacy and research and design in K-12 learning environments. I have been fortunate to be a part of a growing community of progressive educators who want to change the world by giving kids agency through making, inventing and solving problems.

## EXPERIENCE

### Asheville Museum of Science

*June 2017 - present*

#### Chief Curriculum Specialist

Design of learning experiences for ages 0-100. Science Pub adult science speaker series. Saturday STEAM community science partnerships. Preschool STEM programs. STEM badge workshops for Girl Scouts of America. Make & Mingle, adult project-based date night. Micro-manufacturing, using CNC, CAD, technologies.

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### Center for integrating Science, Math and Computing (CEISMC) Georgia Institute of Technology

*October 2016 - March 2017*

#### k-12 Outreach Specialist

Co-created learning experiences in K-8 settings with teachers and administrators that foster creative problem solving and a love of authentic scientific work. Utilized my passion for documentation and research into the benefits of constructionism in formal and informal educational settings through blogging and sharing work. Designed and facilitated professional development for STEM teachers around creative technology use.

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### Hillbrook School

*August 2012 - August 2016*

#### Makerspace Coordinator/Problem-based Science Facilitator

Developed the school's K-8 makerspace dedicated to science, technology, engineering and design. Duties include keeping materials and tools stocked, scheduling the use of the makerspace, providing professional development for faculty, and teaching STEM electives.

Designed a problem-based (constructionist) approach to science literacy, which emphasizes practicing the skills of a scientist and inventor. The problem-based method uses math, art, creative technologies, and the principles of design thinking and deep projects to expose students to basic engineering and design. Problem-based Science is currently taught for a full year in 5th grade with a focus on material science, structures and systems.

# The School at Columbia

August 2009 - June 2011

## Science Teacher

8th grade science teacher. Liaison for science faculty and working scientists at Columbia University. I designed and facilitated a professional learning committee to encourage adult science literacy. Diversity committee member. Robotics coach. Mentor to student teachers.

### EDUCATION

## Teachers College, Columbia University

September 2000 - June 2005

### M.A. Secondary Science Education

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## The New York Consortium of Evolutionary Primatology

August 1998 - June 2000

## University of California, San Diego

September 1995 - June 1997

### B.A. Biological Anthropology

### SKILLS

TinkerCAD, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, CorelDRAW, EV3 LEGO Robotics, basic electronics, sewing machines, wood working, TIG welding, Scratch, Blender, 3D printing, architectural drawing, Google docs and sites, iMovie, Garageband, Processing, Arduino, ALTRU, Mailchip, WordPress, Twitter.

### PUBLICATION

## Problem-based science, a constructionist approach to science literacy in middle school

November 21, 2017

International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction

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## Making Science: Reimagining STEM education in Middle School and Beyond

November 11, 2016

Constructing Modern Knowledge Press

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## Meaningful Making: Projects and Inspirations for FabLabs and Makerspaces

November 2015

Stanford FabLearn Fellowship Program, Creative Commons