On March 26, 2016 arts education, elementary education and fine arts students from across the state of Utah converged at the University of Utah’s Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts and Education Complex for the second annual ArtsLINK Conference.
Conference presenters this year included Jana Shumway, dance educator and artistic director for BYU’s Kinnect Dance Co. and Paul Heath a lifelong SLC artist and BTSALP visual arts specialist.

ArtsLINK provides workshop opportunities, professional development and hands-on learning experiences for preservice teachers interested in the added benefits the arts can bring to their teaching practice.
Music instruction was provided by Rebecca Penerosa, doctoral candidate in music education, and drama instruction was provided by Penny Caywood, artistic director for the U’s Youth Theatre Program.
“Funding for arts experiences in public education has waned in recent history,” says Kelby McIntyre-Martinez, assistant dean for arts education and community engagement for the U’s College of Fine Arts. “However, because the value of those experiences is so rich both academically and personally for students, local educators and researchers have created ways to integrate these practices in classrooms in new ways. We are thrilled to be sharing this new knowledge with prospective teachers and shaping what happens in classrooms across the state of Utah.”

The afternoon portion of the conference provided participants opportunities to implement what they learned as they led local elementary students in the creation of a culminating performance.