



**Pre-Columbian Art and Music: Clay Instruments and Masks**  
**Artist: Samuel Bacerra**



Samuel Bacerra

**Grade Level:**  
K-Adult, After School

**About the Artist:**

Samuel Becerra is a musician and sculptor who specializes in pre-Columbian music, history and artifacts. He introduces students to the cultures of Mexico and South America. Samuel had had 20 years of experience as a musician. For the last 14, years he has taught in schools throughout Oregon. He has participated with Audiences (PDX), Lane Arts Council, Arts Central, the Art Center (Corvallis), Umpqua Valley Arts Association and the Oregon Library Association. Samuel is bilingual and can teach in both English and Spanish.

**Objectives:**

- To share with students the history, music and art of the Americas before prior to Columbus.

**Activities:**

Pre-Columbian music presentation including an introduction to a broad range of musical instruments and sounds. Clay workshops: Mayan mask making, Teotihuacan mask making, Pan Flute building, Clay Flute building, Clay Calaveras workshop. Students can perform on their clay instruments in musical ensembles if the length of the residency allows.

**Sample Lesson Plan and Schedule for a 6-day Residency**

**Day 1-** Presentation of musical instruments from ancient Mexico and South America

**Day 2-**Clay workshop begins

**Day 3-**Clay project finishes, musical ensembles formed

**Day 4-**Further exploration of Music before Columbus, music ensemble

**Day 5-**Clay project painting: instruments and masks, music ensemble

**Day 6-** Student music presentation with clay instruments

**Workshop Size Limits:**

- No more than 40 students

**Special Equipment:**

- NA

**Space Needed:**

- Classroom with desks, chairs and access to water

**Connections to the Curriculum:**

- Art history, art, design, language arts, music, social studies and performance