



**Christopher  
Bruce**

## President's Message

Dear Members,

As I sit here, attempting to write my last letter as your president, I'm struck by the sheer number of possibilities as to what to include.

Should I provide a recap of our 2019 annual conference? A conference held in Port Huron, a part of our state we have rarely visited, and which provided a stunningly intimate setting for some absolutely passionate discussions and presentations. A special thanks goes to our dedicated co-chairs, volunteers, and countless members who made the event the success that it was.

Should I discuss my proudest moments from the past two years of my presidency? For those of you who know me well, you know that I am a total nerd obsessed with the efficiency of our organization and the systems that we have put in place to ensure that we continue to thrive and provide the highest quality learning experiences and resources for generations of teachers and students to come. I'm particularly thrilled with our investment in and roll out of new technology-driven practices to ensure greater access for our members to the workings of the organization, be it streamlined communication policies, updated website infrastructure, or easier conference registration (onsite and off).

Should I look to the future to provide some insight in what comes next? This isn't my place to comment. We have a killer team and a fantastic new president to lead us in the years to come. I have no doubt that the years ahead will be some of the brightest for our organization and I will leave the exciting announcements for this group to deliver.

Instead, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you. MAEA's success is due wholly to the passionate efforts of our membership. Nothing that your leadership achieves is possible without your dedication and support. You truly are the best that our state has to offer.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. ;)

With Love,  
Christopher

P.S. I'm not done yet. You still have to put up with me for two more years as past president.

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[www.miarted.org](http://www.miarted.org)  
[inhul2@gmail.com](mailto:inhul2@gmail.com)



**Adrienne DeMilner**

## Seeking Cultural Relevance in the Art Class

Art teachers probably know more about the impact of art on cultural understanding than any other core teacher. We acquire this knowledge through careful study of artists throughout history and relay their stories to our students. We give our students the tools to make art, to copy the master, and

ultimately hope that they will become inspired to create more meaningful pieces in the future. Those of us with diverse classrooms try to use specific artists within their cultures to bring that unique inspiration in an authentic way. A genuine art educator is one that seeks to leave a legacy with their students for the short time they have them – perhaps inspire them to someday create and pull some meaning from their own lives into their art.

We had the honor recently to hear such an artist/educator speak to us about her journey through art and the legacy she hopes to leave behind. At the Port Huron conference recently, keynote speaker **Sydney James** enlightened, entertained and educated us about the true meaning of art in her life. Sydney is an artist who can't be defined in one word. She's an illustrator, a muralist, a story teller, a set designer, an educator, an activist and a true to herself artist who is constantly thinking of her next move. Sydney has filled her native Detroit with meaningful murals and traveled the world to paint even more. She truly believes that "art belongs to everyone" and that our duty as art educators is to get students to believe it. She is on the front line of artists making a difference with current issues, such as the violence that is currently in the headlines. Sydney made a decision to paint women as the strong, dignified individuals that they are and inspire a whole generation of youth to look up and believe in themselves. She takes on apprentices who want to use art as their vehicle to create and express their own issues, and hopes to continue her



legacy in new ways in the future.

I heard another speaker at an NAEA convention that also spoke about his cultural legacy. His name is **Dwayne Edwards** and he spoke about growing up in Los Angeles wanting to become an artist against all odds. He found his way to becoming a top shoe designer and made his big break designing Michael Jordan's shoe line. Dwayne told us the impact that art teachers had on him and about his tenacity to achieve his dream. He now has a university in Portland, Oregon called Pensole University to help other diverse students become artists. His legacy will continue through his graduates and his story.

Our organization not only seeks these amazing speakers out to inspire, but also encourages us to share our best practices with each other. We can use ideas from each other to key into the cultures at our own schools. When I present workshops I always learn more from my attendees that can enrich my own lesson and make it appeal to a more diverse population. As we move forward with our school year, I encourage you to seek out more stories about contemporary artists to share with your students. Attend our conferences and the national convention if you are able to. Learn about the struggles and successes of practicing artists and inspire your students to persevere through their art and tell their own stories. Leave a legacy!

MAEA ArTeacher is published three times per year: January, May, September, by the Michigan Art Education Association.

The Winter publication is in micro-newsletter format with the full edition posted on our website. The Fall and Spring/Summer editions are published both full and posted on the website. Annual Membership includes membership and publications for both the National Art Education Association and the Michigan Art Education Association: \$95 [Active Membership], \$95 [Associate], \$65 [Retired], \$80 [first-year Professional], \$45 [student], \$220 [Institutional].

Post Master send address changes to:

Jane Inhulsen  
18674 Goldwater Road  
Westfield, IN 46062

Deadlines for submitting material to the MAEA ArTeacher:

April 1 – Spring/Summer  
July 1 – Fall  
November 1 – Winter

To submit please email articles to: inhul2@gmail.com.



## **Tammy Noirot**

How marvelous it was to watch freighters passing by during meals while in the main convention hall or while taking a break between sessions. There was no end to the opportunities offered by this site along side the Blue Water Bridge for sketching, painting, photos, etc. The messages from the keynote speakers: Thom Knab, Marvin Bartel, and Sydney James were truly inspiring, and Dan Phillips' werewolf make-up demo really gave me a chance to get my geek on.

A special thank you goes out to Terri Cafcalas and Mary Kozlowski for co-presenting the Masters' Medley along with me, and to Pam Signorelli for helping with sign in. Thanks also to the 45 attendees who enabled us to raise \$225.00 for the student scholarship fund.

Art educators are busy and passionate about their interests and retirees are no exception to this rule. Our two newest retirees were unable to attend the conference this year. An update on their current activities follows...

Cindy Semark, who retired from her school job on September 3rd, has been super busy with the nonprofit

## **Retiree News**

As I am writing this, I am watching the first snowfall of the season... not exactly the "treat" I was expecting on Halloween. What was a treat was this year's fall conference, "Bridging Creativity in the Blue," held in Port Huron.

farm she started in 2011. She is looking at writing as a sideline career and writing copy of all types. She is also doing design/art work for the farm as well as lots of volunteer work for other organizations. Cindy enjoys singing and is a soloist with her church choir.

Kathy Valentine had another commitment, "Bras for a Cause," an event to raise money for Gilda's Club which is a cancer survivor support organization. As a three-time cancer survivor herself, she feels the need to give back. She has designed a bra for a fellow breast cancer survivor to model on the runway. She has found great pleasure in designing and creating an item that will be auctioned off, thus generating income for Gilda's Club. She feels this event allows her to continue creating art and is a great use of her time during retirement. Kathy has enjoyed being a part of MAEA and has enjoyed her experiences at the conferences over the years. She feels this is a fabulous way to offer continuing ED to art teachers. Her favorite aspects of the annual conferences are sharing best practices and renewing old friendships.

Congratulations and best wishes to both of these dedicated women.

I wish all of you continued success with your own personal creative endeavors and a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

## Save the Date!

2020 Conference  
Mackinac Island  
October 23-25, 2020













## Professional Sharing • Teacher as Conceptual Artist • Call to Advocacy

Written by Dr. Cam McComb, Associate Professor of Visual Art Education, Eastern Michigan University

Greetings fellow division members. It was great seeing many of you at this year's conference in Port Huron. It is clear that the work you are doing gets at the heart of why we all teach: You care deeply about your students. While at conference I learned that *Katalin Zaszlavik* (GVSU) and I share an interest in using video to help our students to grasp the meta-cognitive shift that needs to occur as preservice students become teachers. It turns out that *Cindy Todd* (KCAD) and *Hsiao-ping Chen* (GVSU) share an interest in Design Thinking and how we might use its principles for Data Visualization. *Nicholas Leonard* (NIU) made the drive from Illinois to show us how to Think Outside the Box and to Digitize Physical Objects, while *Guey-Meei Yang* (EMU) proved that TAB structures can be successfully applied to college level classes focused on technology education. Finally, *Grace VanderVliet* (UM) shared how UMMA is using Words and Pictures to Collect Responses from those visiting the museum. This, my friends, is the reason why I go to the state and national conference every year. Art education is a place for innovation.

This past summer I attended the International Society for Education through Art (*InSEA*) World Congress held in Vancouver, BC. Seeing art educators from around the world was thrilling. I learned that there is a network of seven northern countries who have joined forces to make artistic responses to climate change. I spent time with indigenous art, walked in the most beautiful garden I have ever seen, and laughed, ate, and danced with five art educators from Australia. While attending one of many sessions, I discovered the work of Art Education Professor *Jorge Lucero* (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). Those of you who are art makers will appreciate Lucero's assertion that the teacher is a conceptual artist. He states that: "Teacher as conceptual artist is a way of thinking about one's teaching practice/existence through the permissions of conceptual art." Working with scholars in Amsterdam, Lucero identified six permissions, or modes for working/thinking:

1. Consider the institution as material
2. Attain energy via accumulation
3. Use closeness
4. Co-construct
5. Embrace invisibility
6. Present narratives

Jorge Lucero is changing the way we think about our role as teacher. I encourage you to explore this exciting work for yourself at the links provided below:

<https://www.jorgelucero.com>

<https://www.jorgelucero.com/teacher-as-conceptual-artist-amsterdam>

[https://www.ahk.nl/media/ahk/docs/lectoraat/AIR\\_Lucero\\_leaflet.pdf](https://www.ahk.nl/media/ahk/docs/lectoraat/AIR_Lucero_leaflet.pdf)

Call to Advocacy: I previously wrote about the need to speak up about issues that impact the teaching of art. One voice may gain attention, but a few hundred voices, all convening at once, makes a noise. I ask you to please take 15 minutes from your day to reach out and send 1-4 letters/emails to Michigan Representatives. I have drafted a sample letter to help get you started. Feel free to copy and paste, or modify the letter to reflect your own educational concerns.

### Sample Letter

The Honorable (fill in name),

I am a dedicated Michigan art educator. As such, I have committed myself to helping Michigan children to become some of the most creative and critical thinking individuals in the nation. I, along with other members of the Michigan Art Education Association invite you to join this effort. As you lead the education committee I ask you to 1) make art education a right for all children, not only those living in affluent districts; 2) acknowledge that class size matters and help us to stop "student overload" in art rooms; 3) pass measures restricting school districts from making art teachers travel to more than two school buildings in a day; and 4) require school administrators to allow art teachers to seek professional development that is directly related to the teaching of artistic skills and concepts. The legacy of art education and its impact upon the children of our state lies within all of our hands. Your leadership in this matter is urgent.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

Dedicated Art Educator and Member of the Michigan Art Education Association

Write/email the Chairperson of the House and Senate Education Committees:

1. Chair of the Senate Education Committee:  
State Senator Lana Theis (R: SD22)  
<https://www.senatorlanatheis.com/>
2. Chair of the House Education Committee:  
State Representative Pamela Hornberger (R: HD 32)  
<http://gophouse.org/representatives/southeast/hornberger/>

Write/email your local representatives:

3. <http://house.michigan.gov/>
4. <https://senate.michigan.gov/>

I wish you a strong end to fall semester and a happy and joyous holiday season.



## Congratulations to our MAEA Art Educators of the Year!



Art Educator of the Year  
Elementary Art Educator of the Year  
Erica Davis-Hernandez



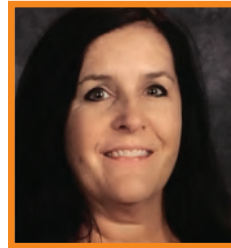
Secondary Art  
Educator of the Year  
Melissa Wilson



Middle Level Art  
Educator of the Year  
Annie Howard



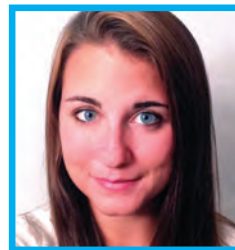
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Art Reach  
of Mid Michigan



Professional Development  
Award Recipient  
Susan Briggs,  
Dearborn Public Schools  
Art Department



MAEA Student  
Memorial  
Scholarship  
Recipient  
Molly Sell



MAEA Student  
Memorial  
Scholarship  
Recipient  
Katelyn Brown-Reyes

To read their bios, visit [miarted.org](http://miarted.org); click *Resources > Awards*

Upcoming  
Council  
Meetings

Saturday, January 11, 2020  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
MSU Broad Art Lab  
565 E. Grand River - Suite One  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Saturday, March 7, 2020  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Michigan Education Association  
1216 Kendale Boulevard  
East Lansing, MI 48823



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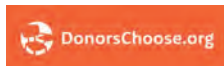




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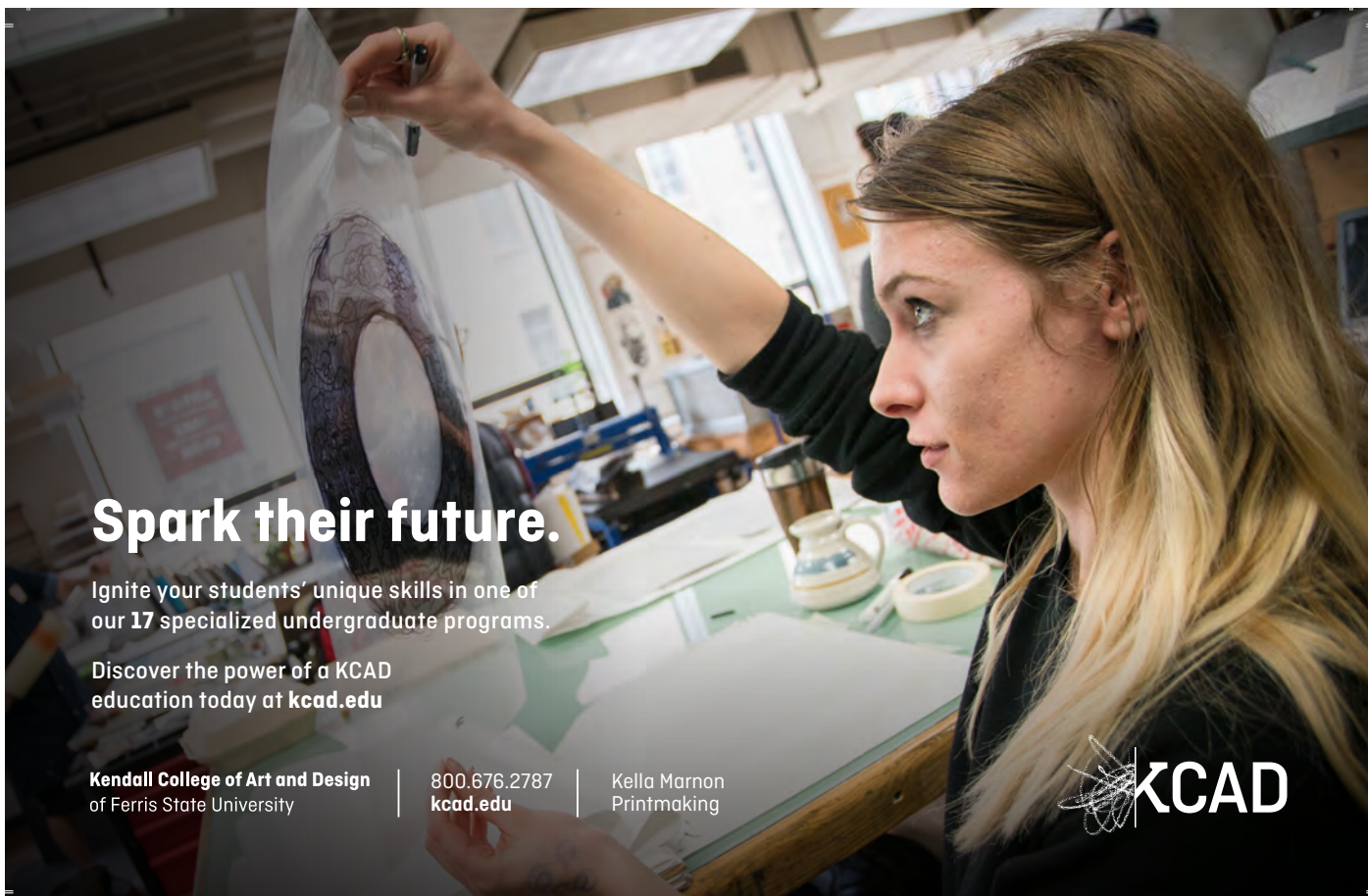
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## NAEA/MAEA Membership Application

**Membership with MAEA is membership to both NAEA and MAEA:**

Mail to: MAEA Membership Chair: Annie Howard, 3274 Northmor Drive W, Adrian, MI 49221  
-OR- Membership online: [www.miarted.org](http://www.miarted.org) click on *About*, then click on *Membership*

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### Please Print All Information Below:

☐ New ☐ Renewal - I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St./Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MI County you teach/work in: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership 104/204

Categories: Dues:

☐ Active \$95

☐ Associate \$95

☐ Retired \$65

☐ First Year Professional \$80

☐ Full-Time Student \$45

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Institutional \$220

SUB TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription Option:

☐ Studies in Art Education \$20

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Students: Attach photocopy of current student I.D.

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### Please check ONE professional level where you spend over 50% of your professional time:

☐ Elementary ☐ Middle Level ☐ Secondary ☐ Museum ☐ Higher Ed

☐ Supervision/Administration ☐ Full Time Student ☐ Retired Member

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### Payment Information

☐ Check Enclosed -- **PAYABLE TO NAEA** (Tax deductible) 501 C3 Membership

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Charge by phone 1(800) 299-8321

Membership dues include \$25 for a membership subscription to Art Education and \$15 for a membership subscription to NAEA News. A separate rate is established for non-member subscriptions.