

ArTeacher

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2023 SPRING SUMMER

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The Michigan Art Education Association's mission is to promote quality visual arts education through leadership, service, and professional development.

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

president@miarted.org

Hello MAEA Membership,

There has been so much to celebrate since our last ArTeacher. Some points of pride that I have I would like to acknowledge:

- * Congratulations to our own Cindy Todd on becoming NAEA President-Elect!
- *Yoga Melissa Hronkin is providing a wellness yoga session for our members on our group Facebook page. This opportunity has brought joy, cohesiveness, health, and relaxation to many. If you would like to join in, tune into our private Facebook page on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m.
- * Book Club We have had a variety of book clubs over the past year. Learning together is an excellent way to grow professionally and personally.
- ★ Conference Planning 2023 (Ann Arbor) A great team has been meeting to plan the next conference and really digging into the why of our conference and what our members desire.
- * Awards We have many National Award Recipients this year who were honored at the NAEA Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations!
 - > Roger Drabant Michigan Art Educator of the Year
 - > Kaitlyn Johnson National Preservice Art Educator
 - > Cam McComb National Art Educator
 - > Cam McComb Western Region Higher Ed Award
 - > Jane Montero Outstanding Teacher of the Year from the Arts and Media Technology Group
- * Keith Rayner was honored for his volunteerism at the Scholastic Awards.
- ★ Leeann McMicheal was awarded with the Michigan Excellence in Education Award.
- ★ Our brand new division chairs continued our long-standing tradition of honoring K-12 students and teachers in the State Art Exhibition.
- ★ Our association has met with other art education affiliates to advocate, discuss the future of the arts, and to draw attention at the state level to important points within arts education.
- ★ Our association has a NEW public Facebook page for advocacy, shareability, networking, thanking sponsors, community connections and public commenting. Families will be able to see tidbits about our organization. Please scan the QR Code to find that new PUBLIC page. The MAEA private Facebook group will remain private for our own sharing and networking purposes.

Wow! This is just highlighting a few of our impressive things happening. Great job, MAEA!

Would you like to get involved with the council, conference, or in another way? We would love to have you be an active volunteer in this great association. Please contact me at president@miarted.org

Have a great rest of the school year!



Annie Howard



PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

presidentelect@miarted.org



Jane Montero

At the time of this writing, I am in Detroit attending the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) conference at Huntington Place. The theme of this event, *Unboxing Education: Imagine, Innovate, Inspire* was a wonderful reminder of our roles as art educators, art mentors, and art creators. Attending and presenting at this conference was an amazing opportunity and I have many new ideas for engaging students in the art room using technology.

The opening day keynote speaker, Austin Kleon, author of *Steal Like an Artist*, shared his ten ways of operating; ending with this quote: "The best teacher remains a student. Don't worry so much about your teaching, worry about sharing what you are learning." This basic idea isn't aways easy to embed throughout our teaching day. Yet, when I pause and think about the best teachers I've had, the names that come to mind had a few commonalities: they shared part of their lives with me...they made me smile and they helped me learn. Sounds simple, right?

As we reflect upon the 2022-2023 school year, some guiding questions could include:

What stories did you share with your students?

What did your students teach you?

What made you laugh?

And, ultimately, what did you learn?

If we can identify when we felt we made an impact and why, perhaps we can build stronger connections to inspire our students. Connections lead to building community, and as one of the conference co-chairs for our fall 2023 conference in Ann Arbor, I am super excited to share our theme *Cultivating Community* with everyone. Roger Drabant, Rachel Jensen, and I are working hard to offer innovative learning opportunities around this theme, and our keynote speakers are excited to participate! See you there – October 26 – 29, 2023 at The Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor!

References

Kleon, Austin (2012). Steal Like an Artist. Workman Publishing.



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

vicepresident@miarted.org



March is one of the busiest months for me as an art teacher. I am often overwhelmed by no less than three art shows that take place during the same time as well as wrapping up the end of a trimester, navigating spaces and submissions for the MAEA K-12 Show, and overall feeling tired just before spring break. This year was no different, except I had great people helping me. My gratitude goes to Annie Howard, Jane Montero, Sharon Stratton, Val Eninsche and Kristin Walter- Elementary Co-Chairs, Rachel Jensen-Middle Level Chair, Roger Drabant and Keith Rayner-Secondary Level Co-Chairs. The professional demeanor and

Meredith Giltner

fortitude of all of these wonderful people made the MAEA K-12 Show a success.

My own involvement this year was not the best. I had too many emails, too many negotiations and too many questions I did not have the answer to. It wasn't my lack of trying. It was because I cared and failed that I am writing this. I have often thought that failure happened because somewhere along the way you stopped caring and things slipped through the cracks. I have heard teachers say that if only their students cared they would be successful and other teachers who say that students don't do the work because they don't see the benefit. But as adults we do this, too. Reflecting on these statements, I decided to claim my defeat and change my mindset and attitude.

As the school year slowly comes to an end, I am vowing to have a positive mindset to finish the school year. Being positive is contagious. Smiling can change someone's day or week or moment. These are the lessons I have gleaned from assorted daily meditations I do everyday thanks to Calm.com with Jay Shetty and DailyOM.com. These practices make me less anxious and stressed but it is not a cure all. Breathing in for a count of four and breathing out for a count of eight helps me reset. But what makes me feel the most positive is when I smile at my students at the beginning of class and when I tell them to have a great day when they leave. I ask them to please do their work and thank them when they turn it in even when it is late. And I know when they hear me because they tell me to do the same.

This gesture on both of our parts tells me that we are building a community of caring and compassionate children. I see this in the way they thoughtfully chose their subject for art projects and how these emotions carry over into their work. Sometimes it is symbolic and sometimes it is abstract which requires an artist's statement to convey. Overall, they are connecting with art in a positive way.

Compassion for my students, those I come in contact with as well as myself, has been hard to transition to. I was so used to being empathetic but truly feeling compassion has been a great adjustment to my attitude. I hear more of what people are saying instead of my emotions getting in my way. I can think clearer and I can offer more wisdom when asked for it.

May your school year end on a high note. May you appreciate all that you and your students have accomplished and failed. May you be inspired to rest and restore when you can, which hopefully will include creating art. And even if you run out of time to do that, take time to acknowledge and affirm all the art around you.

NAEA DELEGATE



Adrienne DeMilner

REMEMBER THE ALAMO! An Art Filled Visit to San Antonio, Texas

The Alamo: This famous battle became a symbol of resistance to oppression and a struggle for independence. Teachers also rally together in the same way to resist misinformation and political interference threatening their teaching practice and forge their own path daily. We win our independence from a system that values core



subjects over creativity. We do this through camaraderie and seeking out opportunities to learn more about our craft and the impact of the arts on student lives. We do this by attending conventions like the one held recently in San Antonio, Texas.

This amazing event brought together over 4,000 art educators, thirsty for new inspiration and feeding their souls through art. One such inspiration was an author by the name of **Gabby Rivera**. Her joyful demeanor and captivating story made her an instant hero with the audience. She is not a visual artist, but her strong message about childhood



and acceptance of differences spoke directly to our student struggles. Gabby is the first Bronx born, Puerto Rican, queer female writer for Marvel Comics. Her journey was not without pain or controversy, but she emerged as a strong proponent for LGBTQ students. She wrote a series of books to help children understand their journey of self-discovery. School librarians loved her books and that led to an offer from Marvel Comics to create a

female superhero and use their collection of artists to create her image. Her message was simple: fight for those kids in your art class that are different and encourage them to succeed. We also heard from social activist and photographer, **Latoya Ruby Frazier**, whose work presents social commentary. She suggests bringing together working-class people with benefactors and letting them have conversations. In her words, "Art has the power to make people do what's right."

As always, the chosen city had much to offer including a Riverwalk filled with art/sculpture and unique culture. The architecture was incredible and the Western art



Michigan Gathering at the Stargazer Sculpture

stunning. I have not been to a convention yet that has not had much to offer for all the senses. Consider joining your fellow colleagues at a NAEA convention in the future. Upcoming events include: Minneapolis 2024 – Louisville 2025 – Chicago 2026 – and NYC 2027. As you move forward into summer, look for PD opportunities that feed your soul. Plan for the upcoming conference in Ann Arbor this fall and continue to advocate in the best of ways for your students.

I have enjoyed representing Michigan as NAEA delegate, getting to know other state reps and voting on position statements. In the words of NAEA President-elect, Dr. Wanda Knight, "Art is not about power but empowerment; this is our passion; we step into it with grace."

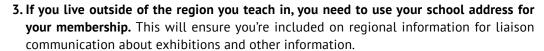
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

membership@miarted.org

REGISTRATION SUGGESTIONS

Hello Members! It was so good to see everyone who attended the 2022 Grand Rapids Conference. As we approach the 2023 Ann Arbor Conference, I have a few suggestions to help with registration.

- **1.** Please try to renew your membership and register early for the conference. If for any reason you have a problem registering, email me with proof of your renewal and personal information so that I can quickly add you into the database for registration.
- 2. Registering and paying for the conference DOES NOT INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. This is a separate fee. You must pay for your membership and be an active member in order to attend the conference. The fastest way to do this is to update your membership online through the NAEA website (arteducators.org). Once you are an active member in the NAEA, you are also active in the MAEA but it will not show up in the MAEA system until the next calendar month. Email your receipt to the membership secretary and she will put you into the database manually so that you can register for the conference.



- **4.** If you are not receiving information from your region, please let me know so that we can get you connected.
- **5.** Take advantage of your membership and attend the state and national conference, utilize your state and national websites, and connect with art teachers all over.
- **6.** Please encourage your art colleagues to join the MAEA so that they can benefit from all that it has to offer.
- **7.** If you'd like the MAEA to send a card of sympathy or celebration to a member, please contact me with your requests.



Jackie Whiteley



Registration Opens in Early 2023

10% off course fees
Discount Code: MAEA2023





HIGHER EDUCATION DIVISION

Celebration | Recruitment and Retention



Dr. Cam McComb

cmccomb@emich.edu

NAEA 2023 was so much fun! It was my first national conference since February 2020 and aside from my blood pressure getting a bit out of whack, the conference was thrilling. There is nothing quite like walking around a hotel, conference hall and city filled with art educators. 4,000+ art educators, teachers and advocates who celebrate diversity in all forms. I would like to thank Annie Howard for checking in on me and helping to navigate the stress of being in public again. I would like to thank Jane Montero and the entire Michigan contingency for cheers and making me feel loved and appreciated as I accepted recognition as the 2023 National Art Educator and Western Region Higher Education Division Awardee. My commitment to art education continues to be supported by dedicated Michiganders. Most of all, I want to thank past MAEA/NAEA President Dennis Inhulsen for his vision and leadership in establishing the NAEA School for Art Leaders. SAL gave me the skills and community needed to make a successful transition from teaching 5/6 grade art in Ohio to working with preservice art teachers in Michigan. I can truly say that I love my job and attendance at the NAEA conference affirms that every year! Dennis: May you have a long and happy retirement.

I am excited to report that I have been selected to serve on the NAEA Recruitment and Retention Task Force. For the next year I will meet monthly with other art educators on the task force to identity issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of quality art teachers. Our charge is to study the issue and to make recommendations to the NAEA Board next spring. To help me gain a sense of the scale and scope of the issues, I am asking MAEA members to take 15-minutes to respond to an informal Google Form Survey that I have created to help me to better assess what is happening in Michigan. My hope is that through our collective efforts we can put forward some strong ideas for improving the educational landscape for everyone.

You are invited to complete the Art Education Recruitment and Retention Survey found at this link:

https://forms.gle/VJwzPrGMFovyo5AE7

Remember: We are the best advocates for art education. Our students listen to how we talk about the profession. If we want to attract engaging people to art education then we need to focus on the positive, include everyone, advocate for equity, and embrace the rich diversity of our communities.

May you all have a wonderful and restorative break with time to make and view art. Or as Joseph Capbell would say: "May you follow your bliss" this summer.



MUSEUM EDUCATOR'S MESSAGE

In theory, summer should be a time to live at a human pace. To recharge ourselves and refresh our curriculum. I dream of long stretches of time reserved for developing and tweaking lesson plans. I imagine full, but balanced days of walking in the woods, organizing my Google Drive, and mapping out a tight gallery guide for each grade level. But something urgent always tugs at me and the days slide into one another, and then it's August 24th.

This summer, my goal is to carve out time with a sketchbook and pencil – to write, to journal, to doodle. Even for 15-20 minutes. Instead of an update on featured exhibitions in Michigan art museums, my focus is on the connection between writing and art. How could we support our K-12 colleagues by writing in the art classroom, and how could they incorporate art into their practice? How might we encourage our students to express themselves more fully? And how can we grow personally?



Grace VanderVliet

Here are a few prompts to get started:

- Sentence completion: Choose one image and kick off a creative writing piece with sentence starters such as: "I am standing ... I can hear ... Next to me is ... It smells like ... I worry about ..."
- Opposites: Find contrasts in the image (color, texture, light, movement). Make a list and use that as the basis for tension in a poem.
- Movie Script: Use the present tense to write what is occurring now. Begin with the word, "Suddenly..."
- Choose two portraits and pit them against each other. Imagine them in a reality TV show. What has one done to offend the other? What might they argue about?
- Explore an object's thoughts: What would a Greek vase reveal? What would a Yoruba headdress say on coronation day? What has a Medieval prayer book witnessed?
- Zoom In / Zoom Out: Choose one specific area and zoom in to write about tiny details. What is living under the water? What are the distant cowboys discussing? Then Zoom out: Who might be lurking in that canyon? Where does the river flow?

I hope everyone has a luxurious summer with time to refresh yourself and your lessons. Please reach out for more ideas about how to integrate writing + art or for image recommendations for these prompts.



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Adrian Center for the Arts MAEA Courses

July 11 - 13, 2023

Link to the classes:



https://adriancenterforthearts.org/classes/

Adrian Center for the Arts is proud to continue our relationship with MAEA and art teachers by providing professional development opportunities. This year's MAEA camp offers new courses and new instructors. These courses are designed to inspire you as artists and easily translate to your classrooms.

We look forward to seeing everyone in July!

Ann Arbor MAEA Conference

October 26-29, 2023 Kensington Hotel

Get Ready to reconnect with fellow Creatives as we continue to CULTIVATE COMMUNITY

Co-Chairs Jane Montero Rachel Jansen Roger Drabant conference2023@miarted.org







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NAEA/MAEA Membership Application

Membership with MAEA is membership to both NAEA and MAEA:

Mail to: NAEA Membership, 901 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Make a copy for your records.)
-OR- Membership online: www.miarted.org click on *About*, then click on *Membership*

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