IN PERPECTIVE

AAEA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2025



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

As we step into another exciting school year, we want to take a moment to wish each of you a smooth and successful transition back to the classroom. Whether you're returning to familiar routines or embarking on new educational adventures, we hope the year ahead is filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable moments.

To all our students, educators, and families: we send our best wishes for a productive, inspiring, and joyful year. Remember that you have the support of your AAEA community every step of the way. Let's continue to encourage each other to achieve great things!

Stay Colorful! AAEA Board

MISSION

Arizona Art Education Association:

A vibrant and creative community that inspires, supports, and advocates for innovative learning in the visual arts.

REGIONAL UPDATE...

WHAT

Educator Arts Day & Cultural Resource Fair @ The Phoenix Arts Museum **AAEA will be there!**

WHEN

Saturday, August 23rd @8am-4pm

Register to Attend @ Eventbrite

FREE!

CALL FOR POSITIONS!

ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

Did you know that our association is completely run by volunteers?

That means we need dedicated educators like yourself to step up and help run the Arizona Art Education Association.

At our Fall Conference this year in Tempe, we will have an election to vote for positions for the 2026-2028 AAEA Board. These positions begin after the NAEA Conference in March 2026. The positions that we will be voting on are Secretary, Treasurer and President-Elect. Jenni Feidler-Aguilar, current President-Elect, will move into the President position, and Candace Greene, current President, will become Past-President. All other Council and Conference positions are appointed and do not need to be voted on.

Are you interested in being on the ballot for one of these positions? Is there another position or job that you would like to volunteer for? If so, please fill out this quick form or email aaea.presidentelect@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

CANDACE GREENE



PRESIDENT-ELECT

JENNI FEIDLER-AGUILAR



SECRETARY

BETHANY BERGMAN



TREASURER

DANI JENSEN



COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: Jodi Biasiucci aaea.newsletter@gmail.com
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YAM: Laura Namerow aaea.yam@gmail.com
Website: OPEN aaea.website@gmail.com
ED&I: Megan Drivinghawk aaea.edichair@gmail.com

AAEA CHAIRMEMBERS

REGIONAL CHAIRS

Regional Liaison: Christa Knox
aaea.regionaleventspd@gmail.com
Regions:
Central: Ellen Merchant-
ellenmerchant@alhambraesd.org
North/East: Laura Pontel
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South: Jane Peterson-
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West: Jodi Biasiucci-
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CONFERENCE CHAIRS

Conference Co-Chairs- Candace Greene & Jenni Feidler-Aguilar
aaea.president@gmail.com
aaea.presidentelect@gmail.com
Awards Chair- Bethany Bergman
aaea.awards@gmail.com
Vendor Chair- Xochitl Valdez
aaea.vendor@gmail.com
PDSF Chair- Laura Pontel
aaea.pdsf@gmail.com

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Elementary- Deb Adams
aaea.elementarychair@gmail.com
Middle Level- Terri Mickelson
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Secondary- Aaron Abbott
aaea.secondarychairhs@gmail.com
Higher Ed/Pre-Service/Student- Dr. Mary Stockrocki- Higher Ed.
Retired- Roxie May
may_thayer@yahoo.com
Museum- Wade Weber
aaea.museumchair@gmail.com
Arts Advocacy Chair- Dustin Loehr
dustinloehr@outlook.com
Membership- Colleen Collins & Beth Maloney
aaea.membershipchair@gmail.com

CALL FOR POSITION

Considering a leadership position with AAEA? We will be holding elections this November at the Fall conference for President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. If interested, please email Candace Greene at aaea.president@gmail.com and Jenni Feidler-Aguilar at aaea.presidentelect@gmail.com to be included in the ballot.

If you are interested in getting more involved as a volunteer or council member, we would love to have you, just let us know!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

zoom link will be sent a few days prior to Saturday meetings

Sept 6th- Conference @1030 & Council @1130
Sept 20th- Conference only @1030
Oct 4th- Conference @1030 & Board @1130
Oct 18th- Conference only @1030
Nov 1st- Conference @1030 & Council @1130

NEW ARRIVALS

WELCOME NEW AAEA MEMBERS!

MAY

Amy Brett

JUNE

Samantha Groff, Kasey Stuart, Patricia Tabaczynski, Jazlynn Do Le, Hakartawblu Garibary, Yihui Hua

JULY

Lauryn Austin, Shawn Barker, Pricilla Bendorovicz, Carson Bilger, Caitlin Breyfogle, Valeri Conti, Charity Cordova, Suzette Deboard, Desiree Devirgilio, Arianna Devlin, Haley Fortney, Sally Fromm, Paul Golfen, Jami Hinkhouse, Eric Johanni, Lisa Lapedes-Slovis, Kathryn Michelle Lindsay, Matthew Mayo

JULY

Marie McCarty, Charlotte Mitchell, Michelle Moore, Allison Moyers, Tyler Novak, Trina Quandt, Jordan Trey, Michelle Rich, Marisa Sandoval, Michelle Siek, Lauren Threet, Alissa Wahl, Nathalie Weale, Anne Wilkins, Ilena Witenstein

MEMBER FEATURE OPPORTUNITY!

Would you like to be featured in our seasonal newsletter? If so, email: aaea.newsletter@gmail.com with a quick intro, some career highlights and 3 interesting facts about yourself.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

ELLEN MERCHANT

Central Chair Phoenix

I have taught for 32 years, with the last 12 of them teaching art. I have been the Central Chair for 2 years. I have taught several classes at the conferences and participated in Artists' Market. I love to teach fiber arts of any kind. My Art teacher pet peeve is when the students do not close the glue bottles. 😂 I love to crochet.



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

WHEN

November 13th-15, 2025

WHERE

Doubletree in Tempe

SESSIONS

REGISTRATION

CHECK IT OUT

NOW OPEN!!!!

HEARTS OF GOLD

AAEA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO

Candace Greene at
aaea.president@gmail.com
OR
Jenni Feidler-Aguilar at
aaea.presidentelect@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Conference Feature:

Museum visit to Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West on November 13th @ 7-9pm

For updated information, check out the Conference Hub

CHECK OUT OUR KEYNOTES

AT CONFERENCE THIS YEAR!





KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Title

Arts Integration: Making Connections for a Well-Rounded Education

Description

Arts Integration programs have been shown to foster creativity, boost academic achievement and improve overall school engagement. "Through arts integration, students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both' (The Kennedy Center). In this session, ADE's Title IV-A Arts Education team will empower art educators by outlining key components of successful arts integration programs and sharing ideas for overcoming some common pitfalls. Participants will see examples of successful arts integration programs and brainstorm next steps with colleagues. Together, we can provide a well-rounded education for Arizona students.

MARK HODGE, ADE (ARTS DIRECTOR)

MARK HODGE IS THE ARTS EDUCATION DIRECTOR FOR THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WHERE HE PASSIONATELY ADVOCATES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ARTS INTO THE EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK. WITH 28 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A SUCCESSFUL HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR, MARK HAS DEDICATED HIS CAREER TO INSPIRING YOUNG MUSICIANS AND FOSTERING A LOVE FOR THE ARTS IN HIS STUDENTS. HIS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED WITH THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD ON TWO OCCASIONS, SHOWCASING HIS TALENT FOR CREATING IMPACTFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES. MARK CONTINUES TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ARTS EDUCATION IN ARIZONA, ENSURING THAT CREATIVITY AND EXPRESSION REMAIN VITAL COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

KELLY MONTANO, ADE (TITLE IV-A SPECIALIST)

KELLY IS THE TITLE IV-A ARTS EDUCATION SPECIALIST AT THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ADE). AS A FORMER EDUCATOR, INSTRUCTIONAL COACH, AND CURRICULUM SPECIALIST, KELLY IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC ADVOCATE OF WELL-ROUNDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR EVERY CHILD. SHE HAS DEVELOPED K-12 PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM FOR A VARIETY OF CONTENT AREAS INCLUDING FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING, AND GIFTED EDUCATION. KELLY IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING RELEVANT AND IMPACTFUL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY ARTS EDUCATION.

CONFERENCE REMINDERS!

PDSF AUCTION BASKET

Don't forget a PDSF basket for auction! Baskets can be any size, contain themes OR be totally random. The creativity is at your fingertips!

PRESENTER?

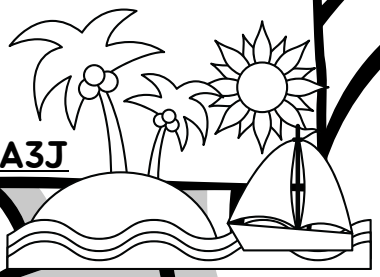
We will reimburse you up to $80 for your supplies- head to the registration page and fill out the reimbursement form!

WHAT TO BRING???

- Bring some art supplies to work on your own projects and journaling, such as pens, markers, colored pencils, pencils, glue sticks and scissors. We will have a Journaling Station with lots of materials, but we encourage you to bring your own preferred art supplies.
- Prepare an outfit that shows off your creativity in the theme of 'Hearts of Gold' (Art Deco style) for Friday night's dinner and awards!
- Cash or card for PDSF baskets and auction prizes. We will have QR codes to pay with Paypal, Venmo or Zelle.

ARTIST MARKET @ THE CONFERENCE

- Artist Market- Our on-site artist market is a space for artists to showcase and sell their artwork at the conference! If you are interested in selling your work, please choose 'I am interested' in the Artist Market section of registration and you will be contacted by the coordinators.
  - Paypal Link to pay for table
    - Artist market https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/592WKNCWANA3J



CONFERENCE CENTERPIECES

INTERESTED????

Would you like to make a centerpiece to donate for silent auction at this year's conference? If so, please contact Tina Rey @480-849-3010









ALTER CLOCKS TO BECOME CENTERPIECES

Let's get your creativity ticking to think outside the 'clock' to make a timeless masterpiece. A 'CLOCK' of art shall we say. Any theme and design welcome for your piece of unique art. Don't let time pass you on this opportunity to create! You can bring it to the conference or arrange for pick up by Tina before September 15th. All silent auction proceeds will go to AAEA's scholarship fund for educators to attend conference.

YAM "THE WORLD NEEDS ART"

WHAT

Annually during the month of March, school and community organizers coordinate a variety of events and activities, including art shows, special exhibits, and fundraisers, to celebrate and highlight the importance visual art education.

STATE FLAG CONTEST

This Fall @ conference!
Have your interested students CREATE the next NAEA state flag for this upcoming year! Artwork should also include elements that help identify that the flag represents the state of Arizona.



CONTACT

Laura Namerow at aaea.yam@gmail.com for more information and criteria on YAM & State Flag Contest details

SEEKING YAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are seeking Yam Committee members. Involvement includes meeting to plan and execute the March YAM Exhibit and the State Flag Contest. If interested, please reach out to Candace Greene at aaea.president@gmail.com OR to Jenni Feidler-Aguilar at aaea.presidentelect@gmail.com

A POWERFUL COMMUNITY!

To our current members: We encourage you to share the benefits of AAEA membership with your colleagues, friends, and peers who are also passionate about art education. Let's continue to grow our community and strengthen the voice of art educators across Arizona. You can help us spread the word by directing potential members to our [AAEA WEBSITE] where they can easily sign up.

Together, we are creating a powerful community that champions the value of art education for all students, and we are grateful to have you as part of this journey. Thank you once again for your continued support, and we look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead!

Enhance Your Membership

AAEA is always looking for dedicated and inspired members to contribute to the wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion for art education within our organization. Download the AAEA Job Descriptions to learn more about how to become more involved. AAEA Job Descriptions. Contact aaea.president@gmail.com with your interest.

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Video on Instagram



Materials

https://www.dickblick.com/categories/ceramics-sculpture/clay/

Website

www.dickblick.com

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NAEA PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

NAEA MISSION

The National Art Education Association (NAEA) champions creative growth and innovation by equitably advancing the tools and resources for a high-quality visual arts, design, and media arts education throughout diverse populations and communities of practice. Our core values are creativity, interconnectivity, inclusivity, ingenuity, and responsibility—discover how these values are manifest in our work.

SEPTEMBER WEBINAR

Unlocking Funding for Your Visual Arts Program: Leveraging Federal and State Resources to Enhance Arts Education



OCTOBER WEBINAR

Honoring Indigenous Lands and Peoples: Addressing Myths, Stereotypes, and Misconceptions to Support Art Educators



AUGUST 12-OCTOBER 2

MEMBER EXHIBIT

Call for Artwork

CURATED COLLECTIONS

YOUR AD HERE

Interested in purchasing an ad spot from AAEA?
Contact: Xochitl Valdez at aaea.vendor@gmail.com
for more information

Why ads?

- [ ] Brand recognition opportunities to target audiences
- [ ] Sales & Educational Opportunites for engagement
- [ ] Corporate reputation and impact

Who sees it?

- [ ] Public Viewing
- [ ] ALL AAEA Members through our exclusive newsletter
- [ ] Viewers of our Facebook, Instagram & Twitter accounts