



The MAEA News

An official digital publication of the
Massachusetts Art Education Association

Volume 1 - No. 2, Winter Digital Edition 2015

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President's Message



From Kristi Oliver

At this time of year, I find myself reflecting on the year, giving thanks, and planning for the coming year, with bright eyes and determination to make a positive difference. As a board, we look to the MAEA mission of advancing high quality visual arts education throughout the state by

empowering art educators to excel in the practice, instruction, promotion, and celebration of visual arts as a reminder of what is most important for the association and its membership. With this in mind, we conducted an analysis to identify our goals for the coming year. In 2016 our work as an association will be to focus on three key topics: Leadership, Engagement, and Organizational Vibrancy.

Keeping consistent with the initiatives coming from the national office, in the area of leadership, our board has voiced that they would like to focus on skills, processes, and structures that will help us become the best leaders we can be. We will be creating resources for those new to leadership and honing the skills of our experienced members to foster greater collaboration and empower creative leadership. We are also looking to NAEA for assistance and will be sending delegates to the National Leadership Retreat happening in Alexandria, Virginia this coming July. The last retreat left the MAEA leadership feeling invigorated and ready to implement important strategies at the state level. We are excited to continue our work in this area and encourage emerging leaders to join the board and engage with committee work, advancing our mission across all corners of the state.

In the past few years, we have been working to update our constitution and bylaws and have successfully reorganized and updated our processes and structures. As we continue this important work, our focus on organizational vibrancy will take a few forms. To this end, we will continue to revise our bylaws to fit the needs of all members, and ask for input and feedback as we implement processes and procedures. To assist everyone we will work to create a policy manual that will act as a resource for all of the programs, events, initiatives and processes we utilize. The hope is this manual will be available to all. It will assist in creating additional transparency, provide a valuable resource, and document our efforts. The Public Relations committee has been working with a designer on a rebranding project which will include an updated logo, print media, website redesign, and more. We are excited to have consistency across all of our media platforms and believe that this will assist us as we move forward with many of our programs and initiatives.

In the area of membership engagement, we have had an overwhelming request to increase our media presence, and offer additional events and resources that span the entire year. We plan to increase our commitment to committee work, and have a newly formed Student Recognition committee. The goal of this new committee is to create an awards program for students that is fair, equitable, and focused on student learning and achievement in visual arts. We are committed to continuing to offer content specific professional development through our annual conference and are currently working with local universities as well as the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in hopes of offering professional development in special needs art education as well as workshops in Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) specific to the needs of art educators. Additionally, we are working with other like-minded associations to create a liaison structure that we hope will offer members additional opportunities to collaborate and advocate for the arts.

MAEA Board members
Melissa Hayes, Laura Marotta,
Mary Geisser, and President
Kristi Oliver ensuring check-in
runs smoothly at the 2015
MAEA conference in North
Adams, MA



Photo: Stacy Lord

Letter from the Editor

By Melissa Hayes

Welcome to the second digital publication from the Massachusetts Art Education Association. Our goal with this publication is to share what is happening around the commonwealth in art education. In this publication you'll learn more about what is happening in the association, how you can participate in the association, and what to keep an eye out for in terms of how you can get involved!

It is our intent to provide useful information, and we hope that you will help us provide that information. MAEA does not work without all of its wonderful members. If you have something you'd like to share, we will be putting out three publications a year. One in the spring, one in the fall, and one in the winter.

To submit an article for the spring publication, please send it to editor@massarted.com by April 17, 2016. Please include high quality photographs that enhance your article.



Photo: Alice Gentili

North Adams, MA welcomed over 200 art educators for the 2015 MAEA conference this past November!

Are you on Social Media? If so, follow us on:

Twitter: [@MassArtEd](https://twitter.com/MassArtEd)

Facebook: [Massachusetts Art Education Association](https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsArtEducationAssociation)

Instagram: [@MassArtEd](https://www.instagram.com/MassArtEd)

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 19 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Location to be determined

February 25 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Location to be determined

March 28 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Location to be determined

April 25 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Location to be determined

May 17 6:00 to 8:00 pm – Location: Miscoe Hill Middle School, Mendon

June 14 6:00 to 8:00 pm - Location to be determined

Don't forget you can attend remotely by logging in via Zoom.

Please email secretary@massarted.com if you plan to attend a meeting.

Statewide Youth Art Month Celebration

On Display February 8 – March 31, 2016

Teacher registration closes January 8

[Click here](#) to register for the statewide Youth Art Month celebration

There is a \$15 teacher registration fee if you are not a member of the NAEA/MAEA

To become a member of the NAEA/MAEA [click here](#).

Questions? Email youthartmonth@massarted.com

Visit www.massarted.com/yam.html for more information including important dates OR read the Youth Art Month article on page 7.

Art All-State 2016 – June 10 & 11, 2016

Submit your applications now through January 31 for the Art All-State program at

artallstate.slideroom.com

Questions? Email artallstate@umassd.edu

Visit www.massarted.com/art_allstate.html for more information

Ways to Get Involved

Youth Art Month Celebration

Volunteer to be a drop off location, to help hang the show, or to help take down the show. Dates for these volunteering opportunities are:

January 20-26: Drop off of artwork

February 5: Hang the statewide show

April 2: Take down the exhibit

Email: youthartmonth@massarted.com to sign up for one of the many volunteering opportunities.

Join a Committee

Interested in helping out, but can't commit to attending board meetings once a month? No worries, reach out to one of the committee chairs below to see how you can help out. Committee work is a great way to get involved with the MAEA, without a monthly commitment. By joining a committee you get to collaborate with other art educators from across the state to create programming, events, and opportunities for members and their students.

Awards Chair

Liz Rudnick Reiser @ awards@massarted.com

Public Relations Chair

Alice Gentili @ presidentelect@massarted.com

Student Recognition Awards Chair

Diana Adams Woodruff @ dwoodruff@abschools.org

Youth Art Month Chair

Helen Downey @ youthartmonth@massarted.com

Publications Chair

Melissa Hayes @ editor@massarted.com

Art All-State Chair

Kristi Oliver @ artallstate@umassd.edu

It's Time to Get Ready to Participate in YAM 2016

By Helen Downey



Begun in 1961 by the Art and Craft Materials Institute in cooperation with the NAEA, Youth Art Month is an annual celebration in March to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs.

The Council for Art Education (CAE) administers the national program that focuses on the following eight goals:

- To direct attention to the value of art education which develops divergent and critical thinking skills; multicultural awareness; and technical, communication and expressive skills.
- To increase community, business and governmental support for art education.
- To recognize that art is a necessity for the full development of better quality of life for all people.
- To expand art programs in schools and stimulate new ones.
- To increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through involvement in art exhibits, workshops, and other creative ventures.
- To provide additional opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in creative art learning.
- To encourage commitment to the arts by students, community organizations, and individuals everywhere.
- To recognize art education as a viable component in the total education curricula that develops citizens of a global society.

There are many ways to participate

1. Youth Art Month Flag Design Contest:

A project adaptable and open to all Massachusetts students, Pre K-12, you can build awareness of the *Power of Art* by having your students design a flag based on this theme. Display your flags in your school and community. Submit your best designs to MAEA by January 15, 2016. This year we will recognize all submissions with a certificate. There will be an honorable mention from each level (Pre K-K, Elementary grade 1-4, Middle grades 5-8, and High grades 9-12). The winning submission will

represent Massachusetts at the National Conference in Chicago.

More information is available at www.massarted.com/yam.html

2. Youth Art Month Statewide Exhibit in Boston:

All teachers are encouraged to submit up to six works to the only STATEWIDE exhibit of student artwork in Massachusetts.

In addition, while the exhibit is not juried for entry, there are certain opportunities for students to be recognized.

- Thirteen to fourteen student works, submitted by MAEA members, will be chosen to be displayed at the YAM Gallery at the National Convention to be held in Chicago.
- Sargent Art Supply will recognize one student of an MAEA member from each level, Elementary, Middle, and High. Both the student and the teacher will receive Sargent art supplies.
- One student of an MAEA member will have their work selected for The Sargent Award, which includes a trip to New York City to visit museums. The trip is all expenses paid for the student, a parent, and the teacher.



3. Regional and District wide YAM exhibits:

In addition to the MAEA statewide exhibit, there are several regional exhibits throughout the state. We encourage you to participate in the celebrations and exhibits near you as well. Or create a celebration in your school, district, or community. Share documentation of these events with us and we will post it on the MAEA website under YAM across MASS.

4. Ask local dignitaries to sign our endorsement certificate:

Download the certificate from our website linked above. We'd love to have copies to display at the statewide exhibit.

Reasons we've heard why you may choose not to participate, and why we think you should!

I already participate in a regional/district YAM exhibit.

- ❖ *Wonderful! The Boston show is not designed to replace regional/district shows. It's an additional opportunity to display student work at a statewide exhibit to truly show the power of art across Massachusetts in a public venue in our state capital.*

I can't travel to Boston with artwork.

- ❖ *We understand. That is why we have set up drop-off locations across the state. A list of the established sites may be found on the YAM page.*
- ❖ *Drop-offs not close enough? Consider being a drop-off or create a relay of drop-offs. Contact us at youthartmonth@massarted.com to discuss this further.*

My students won't be able to see the show.

- ❖ *The show this year will be open through February vacation in attempt to make it more available, but we know some students just won't be able to travel to Boston.*
- ❖ *If addressed as a special honor to have artwork submitted to this show and told their work will also be displayed on the YAM gallery at www.massarted.com we have found most students are excited to have their work in the show regardless of whether or not they can see it in person.*

Important Dates

January 8: Last Day of Teacher Registration for the MAEA Statewide show

MAEA members register for free/\$15 registration fee for non-members

January 15: Flag Design submission deadline

January 20-26: Drop off of artwork (Specific dates and times vary by site)

February 5: Hang the statewide show (Volunteers welcome and needed)

February 8 to March 31: Show is open to the public weekdays 9am-5pm

Closed weekends and Presidents' Day, Monday, February 15

February 28: Family Celebration (Please join us if you can)

April 2: Take down the exhibit (Another opportunity to get involved and have fun)

More ideas, teacher registration, and everything you need to know is available on the YAM page under SPECIAL INTERESTS at www.massarted.com

Reflections of an Award Winner

By Mary Beth Eldridge

Photo: Mary Beth Eldridge



It was exciting to receive the Secondary Art Educator of the Year Award at the *Curiosity, Inquiry, Wonder* conference last month. When I learned of the award, I felt both honored and a little embarrassed. I have spent my career learning from others, so the real award winners should be the amazing, inspiring people I've learned from—professors, artists, educators of all stripes, and

students. I have learned through challenges set by administrators, and by a custodian, a draftsman by trade, who taught me a few lessons when my class was set up to make perspective drawings in our school hallway. My embarrassment? It takes a village to raise an art teacher, and I owe a huge debt to the members of my village. They are the award-winning arts educators. I am a work in progress. So this award comes with an I.O.U.!

I believe one way I have begun to repay this debt is through facilitating the Professional Learning Network of Berkshire County Arts Educators. In 2012, Race to the Top funds allotted to the Readiness Center at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) funded a director and provide a modest stipend for a number of facilitators who would work to provide high quality, relevant professional development to educators in the county. As the facilitator for arts, music, theater, and dance educators in the Berkshires, I have spent the past three and a half years organizing professional development for my colleagues. The network bridges gaps and provides connections between arts educators in our county of small cities and rural towns, many of whom are isolated in their own small schools and districts. Our educators themselves provide much of the knowledge shared. It is inspiring to witness the wealth of knowledge we have in this group.

Early on, I met Lisa Donovan, PhD, now the Director of Arts Management at MCLA, and with her expertise, set up opportunities for studying arts integration.

Educators and professionals from the rich collection of cultural institutions in Berkshire County have become a part of our network as well, sharing their resources, and assisting in many ways with providing information, support, and high quality professional development for arts educators.



Photo: Mary Beth Eldridge

Following a model that had been carried out by the Norman Rockwell Museum in 2011, I worked with our Director, William Ballen, to provide a county wide professional development day for arts teachers each fall. We met at the Rockwell Museum for another year, two years at Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and this past November 4th at the Berkshire Museum. Topics have been built around the evaluation model, the development of core arts standards, arts integration, and presentation skills. Teachers are enthusiastic about these days, happy to be engaged with relevant material, and cite the opportunities for networking with colleagues as a key benefit.



Photo: Mary Beth Eldridge

With Race to the Top funds gone, the county superintendents support our group and the other networks. This funds the full day in November. The budget is modest, and largely, presenters donate their time. This is true for the half day or after school workshops held 4 times a year. It continues to be a challenge to find and write grants to keep our network going. However, it is a worthy goal. I look forward to continuing this work, and continuing to learn from my colleagues. My artistic and educational upbringing will never be complete, and I continue to learn, and happily share with others.

Curious Encounters

Members Exhibit, MAEA 2015

By Mary Geisser

Photo: Greg Nesbit



The exhibition *Curious Encounters* celebrated teachers and educators as artists in their own right. This juried exhibition featured work in a variety of media including: painting, photography, fibers, mixed media, prints, drawing, digital art, and sculpture. Educators that teach art to students from early childhood through graduate level, as well as community arts programs around the

state were represented in this juried exhibit. Jurors included Julia Morgan of Williams College, Jay Clark, Curator at the Clark Art Institute, and Denise Markonish, Curator at MASS MoCA.

This exhibition was scheduled in conjunction with the annual MAEA fall conference, *Curiosity, Inquiry, Wonder*, that took place on November 7 and 8 at Mass MoCA, MCLA, and the Clark Art Institute.

Participating Artists:

Diana Adams Woodruff, Simone Alter-Muri, Aimée Archambault, Ginger Armstrong, Martin Boyle, Maggie Carberry, Alyssa Champagne, Mariel Daniels, Meghan Drew, Mary Beth Eldridge, Michael Frassinelli, Mary Geisser, Bob Hepner, Katie Lee Haley, Lisa Jacobson, June Krinsky-Rudder, John Krenik, Simone Kivett, Eva Kearney, Nicole Maynard-Sahar, Laura Marotta, Christine Neville, Dean Nimmer, Daniel Nicholson, Kristi Oliver, Alisa Rodny, Lesliejohn Roche, Lauren Savoia, Jose Santos, David Stockbridge, Erin Sutton, Carolann Tebbetts, Cheryl Wildermuth.



Photo: MCLA Photographer

NAEA Research Delegation to Finland

By Diana Adams Woodruff

Photo: Bob Sabol



NAEA Research Delegation to Finland, Helsinki, November 2014

During November, 2014 I was one of fifteen members of the National Art Education Association Research Delegation to Finland. This delegation included elementary, secondary, and university art educators from twelve states in the United States. NAEA began international research delegations in 2011, the first to Cuba, with subsequent

delegations to India in 2012; Myanmar in 2013; Finland in 2014; and Cuba again in 2015. The focus of these delegations has been to gather information about curriculum, teaching environments, student assessment, teacher training, as well as the influence of local art and culture on teaching and learning.

The 2014 delegation met with Education Ministers, Leo Pahkin and Mikko Hartkainen, at the Finnish Ministry of Education in Helsinki, who briefed us on Finnish education - its history, current policies, and the nine year Comprehensive Curriculum, which encompasses school years 1 through 9, ages 7 -15.

Photo: Diana Adams Woodruff



Left: NAEA Research Delegation Team Briefing at the Finnish Ministry of Education

Photo: Bob Sabol



Right: Education Ministers Leo Pahkin and Mikko Hartkainen, with NAEA Past President Bob Sabol, Delegation Leader.

In the 1960's, the decision was made in Finland to provide free education for all – from pre-primary to higher education. Before this time education was private. There are still private and international schools, but they are a small percentage of the total number of all schools in the country. These private and international schools follow the national core curricula and qualification requirements.

It is important to note the differences between current global education movements and Finnish education:

Focus of Global Education Movements (Including the US)	Focus of Finnish Education
Standardization: Standards for schools, teachers, and students to improve the quality of outcomes.	Flexibility and Diversity: School-based networking and curriculum development.
Literacy and Numeracy: Basic knowledge and skills in reading, writing, math, and science.	Equal value to all aspects of an individual's growth. Includes moral and creative, as well as knowledge and skills.
Consequential Accountability: School performance is closely tied to inspection, and ultimately rewarding or punishing schools and teachers.	A culture of trust that values teachers' and headmasters' professionalism in judging what is best for students and in reporting progress of their learning.

There are Five Cornerstones of Finnish Educational Policy identified by the Ministry of Education:

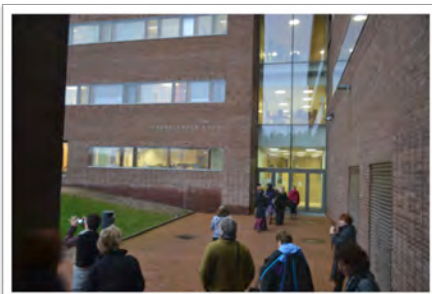
1. Consistent long-term policy
2. Commitment to a knowledge based society
3. Education that is free of charge to all, including books, meals, transport, health care, and well-organized and effective special education. *(Basic principles of personalized learning and differentiation as the foundation.)*
4. Devolution of Power and Authority: local authorities plan local curriculum and organize general assessment, and use this data for evaluating education policy; the headmaster works as a pedagogical director.
5. A Culture of Trust: no inspectors, no national exams.

The new Visual Arts Curriculum (2016) focuses on:

- Promoting creative and critical thinking
- Strengthening cultural competency/cultural literacy
- Emphasizing the significance of art making for the well-being, health, and quality of life
- Developing competency needed to strengthen participatory and communal life for the sustainable future ¹

Acceptance into a teacher-training program is very competitive. Only about 10% of applicants are accepted. The emphasis is on rigorous pre-service education rather than measuring the effectiveness of in-service teachers.

“In Finland, teachers often say that they are professionals akin to doctors, architects and lawyers. This means, they explain, that teachers are expected to perform in their workplaces like pros: use professional judgment, creativity and autonomy individually and together with other teachers to find the best ways to help their students to learn. In the absence of common teaching standards, Finnish teachers design their own school curricula steered by flexible national framework. Most importantly, while visiting schools, I have heard Finnish teachers say that due to absence of high-stakes standardized tests, they can teach and assess their students in schools as they think is most appropriate. The keyword between teachers and authorities in Finland is trust.” ²



Photos: Diana Adams Woodruff

Suanalahti School, Espoo, built in 2012, is the first multipurpose school that houses the school, a daycare center, public library, youth center, and afterschool activities.



Photos: Diana Adams Woodruff

Maininki Secondary School, Espoo

The briefing at the Education Ministry, as well as visits to schools and universities where we interacted with students, teachers and principals, helped us gain a better understanding of Finnish Education. In Helsinki, we visited Aalto University, School of Arts, Design, and Architecture; the Academy of Fine Arts, University of Helsinki; Annantalo (an independent school of the arts); in Espoo the Saunalahti School; and Maininki Secondary School, among others.

Another goal of this research delegation was to gain an understanding of the influence of local art and culture in framing the role of the arts in Finnish society. To accomplish this we visited a broad range of historical and cultural sights. We toured Porvoo, the second oldest town in Finland (dating from the 13th century): the Suomenlinna Fortress, (a World Heritage site dating from 1748); visited Sibelius Park, the site of the sculpture, *Passio Musicae*, which is dedicated to the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius; the Anteneum Art Museum; TempPELLIAUKIO Kirkko, (Rock Church); Didrichsen Art Museum: Kamppi Chapel (Chapel of Silence), an exhibit of children’s book illustrators’ artwork at Helsinki City Hall.



Passio Musicae



TempPELLIAUKIO Kirkko



Kamppi Chapel

Photos: Bob Sabol

As for previous research delegations in which I have participated, the richness of first hand experiences in other countries, learning about educational policy, history and practices, in interactions with teachers, students, education officials, framed by the experiences of visiting cultural and historical sites, has certainly led to much reflection about the present educational climate in this country. The contrast between the market-based education reform movement in the United States and Finnish education is especially stark. In the United States, standardization for schools, teachers, and students; emphasis on basic skills in reading, writing, math, and science; consequential accountability where school performance is closely tied to high-stakes testing, that ultimately leads to rewarding or punishing schools and teachers, versus Finland's flexibility and diversity with school-based networking and curriculum development; equal value placed on all aspects of an individual's growth including moral and creative, as well as knowledge and skills; a culture of trust that values teachers' and headmasters' professionalism in judging what is best for students and in reporting the progress of their learning.

¹. *Differences of Educational Focus, Cornerstones, and Visual Arts Syllabus from the Finnish Ministry of Education briefing, Helsinki, November 2014.*

². Pasi Sahlberg, "Do Teachers in Finland Have More Autonomy?"
theconversation.com/do-teachers-in-finland-have-more-autonomy-4

Pasi Sahlberg was previously the Director General of the Finnish Ministry of Education in Helsinki, Presently he is a visiting professor at Harvard Graduate School of Education

Navigating the Imagination

NAHS Exhibit, MAEA 2015

By Jessica S. Daviso

The Massachusetts National Art Honor Society recently celebrated student achievements in art with its annual juried student art exhibition, *Navigating the Imagination* at MCLA's Press Gallery in North Adams, Massachusetts. Student artworks from nine area high schools were featured in the exhibition: Newburyport, West



Photo: Greg Nesbitt

Springfield, Falmouth, Marblehead, Marlborough, Taconic, Milford, Medfield, and Andover. Works ranged from traditional drawings, like *Through the Lens*, a pencil drawing by Christina Lysko of Marblehead, to textile artworks, like *Identity Thief*, a wearable artwork by Fiona Jungmann of Andover. The show also featured several ceramic works like *The Chase*, a teapot by Lilly Paine of Falmouth. Several bright and bold artworks like Newburyport student Cecily DeAngelo's *Mixer* and Medfield student Shannon Delaney's *Introspective Self*, adorned the walls of Press Gallery, giving the space a fun and eclectic feel. The opening reception, held on November 7, 2015, was well attended by students, families, NAHS chapter sponsors, and other MAEA teachers and professionals.



Cecily DeAngelo's *Mixer*
Newburyport



Shannon Delaney's *Introspective Self*
Medfield



Fiona Jungmann's *Identity Thief*
Andover



Christina Lysko's *Through the Lens*
Marblehead



Lilly Paine's *The Chase*
Falmouth



Photo: Greg Nesbit