



Jane Montero

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

presidentelect@miarted.org

"Surround yourself with great people - and don't be afraid to ask for help." (Whitmer, 2024, p. 49).

Our fall conference was a celebration of 75 years as an organization...but, not just any old organization; the Michigan Art Education Association, with a mission to promote quality visual arts education through leadership, service, and professional development. From the inspiring words and art by our keynote speakers, to the workshops from our membership, everyone came away with a stronger sense of what it means to be a community of art educators and had arms full of new projects to take back to their students. MAEA members showed up and from the opening night at The Broad Museum to the History Keynote, we learned more about our organization and the amazing accomplishments of so many former MAEA leaders.

Leadership is invaluable and I continue to learn from past leaders, especially Annie Howard and Sharon Stratton. From simple acts of kindness, to gratitude and humility, I am honored to follow their lead as we move into the new year. Up next for us is the 2025 National Art Education Association Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, March 20-22. I hope you can join us there! With our strong membership and consistent dedication to art education, let us be an example of authentic leadership, dedication to our field, and compassion for humanity. If you can't attend NAEA, I hope you will join us at our 2025 Fall Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort, November 13 - 16, 2025.



Reference

Whitmer, G. (2024). *True Gretch: What I've learned about life, leadership and everything in between.* Simon & Schuster.



(Photo from The Broad Museum. L - R: Erica Davis-Hernandez, Nancy Walkup, Maggie Malone, Jane Montero, Valerie Eninsche, Roger Drabant, Cindy Todd, Kimberly Cairy, Sherri and Illya Tolbert).

I am honored to serve MAEA as President and wish everyone a warm and peaceful winter season.

(E-Board at the Fall Conference Gala. L - R: Erica Davis-Hernandez, NAEA Delegate; Kristyn DeMint, Recording Secretary; Roger Drabant, Vice President; Illya Tolbert, President-Elect; Jane Montero, President; Jackie Whiteley, Membership Chair; Annie Howard, Past President; Sarah Griesinger, Treasurer).

Inside

President's Message	1
President-Elect's Message	2
Past President's Message.....	3
Vice President's Message.....	4
Higher Education Message.....	5
NAEA Delegate	6
Museum Education.....	7
Scaffolding a Simple Artist Statement	8
Retired Division	9
MAEA Educators of the Year.....	10
Membership Application	12

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Deadlines for submitting material to the MAEA *ArTeacher*:

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

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



**Illya
Tolbert**

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

presidentelect@miarted.org

Just attended another marvelous get-together with fellow art educators at this year's MAEA conference. If you did not make it to this year's conference in Lansing, it was a great gathering to celebrate the MAEA 75th anniversary. There were many workshops and keynote speakers. I have never been to a conference where I did not come back with some new ideas for my classroom.

I have learned everything from new ceramics techniques to a way to make cheap cardboard tripods for animation. The conference also had interesting keynote speakers. Judy Bowman showcased her inspiring examples of paper collage art. I learned from glass artist Eli Zilke about the fascinating glass making workshops for young people in Benton Harbor. Mark Chatterley is a ceramic artist who makes huge, bigger than life sculptures of human-like figures. I also participated with others in the wonderful 75th anniversary keynote address about the past, present and future of the MAEA. It was a reflection of MAEA history, our present status and what lies ahead.

Next year the MAEA conference will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. Start thinking about attending next November in 2025. You should also consider going to the national convention this coming March in Louisville, Kentucky (which is not a far drive from many parts of Michigan). I have been to the last few NAEA national conventions. It's a great opportunity to meet other art educators from around the county, see and hear outstanding keynote speakers, and participate in a wide variety of workshops.

Teaching can sometimes be isolating, especially for art teachers who may be the only art instructor in their school. Attending the MAEA conference or the NAEA national convention can provide a supportive environment where teachers can connect with peers facing similar challenges and receive encouragement and inspiration.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

pastpresident@miarted.org



**Annie
Howard**

As we closed the incredible 2024 conference, professional development (PD) remained on my mind. Thank you, Ashley, Erica, and Nathan, for chairing a wonderful conference experience for us.

We celebrated 75 years of professional development and growth for art educators through the Michigan Art Education Association. In my role on the Executive Board since 2016, council member since 2009, and member since 2005, I've had the privilege of helping to nourish the minds and spirits of educators throughout our great state. I'd like to talk about the appetite for knowledge and growth that drives us all—and the extraordinary ways we have come together to satisfy it.

The theme of my thoughts is *Bon Appetit—an invitation to the table*, if you will, because art teachers are hungry. Hungry for knowledge, for connection, for inspiration. This desire spans generations: from new teachers entering the field, to our experienced educators, higher education faculty, museum professionals, and retirees. Together, we all bring a unique flavor to our shared table, and we're eager to be fed with new ideas, tools, and strategies. But just as important, there are those who are eager to serve us—our valued partners who have helped create a truly nourishing professional experience over the years.

Since 2016, the MAEA has provided a feast of opportunities to meet these needs. Our events have included workshops, inspiring speakers, hands-on art camps, and virtual experiences that connect us even beyond Michigan's borders. Through webinars from the National Art Education Association, we have learned from some of the best minds in art education nationwide.

We've also partnered with incredible institutions here in Michigan. These partnerships read like a map of Michigan's most inspiring educational and cultural hubs: Western Michigan University, Finlandia University, Grand Valley State University, Interlochen, Central Michigan University, Aquinas College, Michigan State University, and so many more. Our museums have been invaluable hosts and collaborators as well—the Detroit Institute of Arts, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Broad Art Museum, Meijer Gardens, and Muskegon Museum of Art have opened their doors and offered their resources to enrich our experiences and professional development.

Each of these experiences adds flavor and variety to our professional lives. Programs like the NAEA School for Art Leaders and NAEA's Professional Learning Studio are examples of how deeply we are investing in the next generation of leaders. And whether in the form of workshops, classroom support, virtual learning, or art camps, each opportunity is like a new dish on a diverse, dynamic menu that keeps us engaged and growing.

For this presentation, I've chosen an image of a place setting, with a plate full of logos representing our many collaborators. This image reminds me that we are not just recipients; we are part of a larger banquet of shared knowledge and passion. It also symbolizes our role as servers for our students, as we bring these experiences back to our classrooms, feeding their creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking.

In closing, thank you to each of our partners for setting this table so richly for us. And thank you, fellow educators, for continually bringing your appetite for learning and growth. Together, we are building an incredible, nourishing legacy that will support art education in Michigan for many more decades to come.

Bon Appetit! And here's to many more years of delicious professional development!

In other news, I'd like to thank the MACC for granting us \$18,400 for PD and our operational funds. This is an incredible gift to the organization. The grant process began this past summer and will run through our calendar year.



**Roger
Drabant**

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

vicepresident@miarted.org

With the Fall Conference in the rearview mirror, I want to reflect on how fantastic our MAEA community is. At this year's conference, I was a part of a round table discussion with Tammy Noiro, MAEA Retired Division Chair, and Dennis Inhulsen, former MAEA and NAEA President, titled *Where Am I Going and What Do I Do Now?* This workshop session had the three of us (veteran, retired art educators) speak with a wide swatch of soon-to-be art teachers as well as members that have been teaching for years. The conversation during that session put into my mind that MAEA has a role for everyone. During this conference weekend, I heard several people talk about the friends and "family" that MAEA unites them with. This feeling of belonging is directly connected to how open and inviting the entire membership and leadership team is to all.

In my roles with MAEA, I have found the support from others to be instrumental in the work that I have done. In the Spring/Summer 2024 issue of the ArTeacher, I wrote about being a lone "island" in water and the need to "build bridges and boats" to others in our profession. With this article, I want to talk about how each of us have a role within the organization and how you can return that support to the organization in kind.

Leadership in the Michigan Art Education Association comes in many forms; you can lead by presenting at a conference, by joining a committee, being a liaison or council member. There are so many ways for you to share your knowledge and skills with your fellow art teachers.

We all get so much by learning from the knowledge and experiences of each other. Whether our 75th anniversary conference in Lansing was your first conference or you have been attending conferences for decades, consider being a presenter. What are you doing in your creative space? What works for you? What advice do you have for future teachers, as well as those currently teaching? Perhaps consider co-presenting with others in your district's department or those within your region. This might seem like a small thing to do but each conference team looks for new presentations that can be included into the conference.

By simply being part of a professional organization like MAEA, you are already in a leadership role in Arts Education, as there are roughly 2,000 art teachers in Michigan that have not taken the opportunity to be part of the largest arts education organization in the state. There are many roles that MAEA offers including sitting on one of many committees. There are conference planning meetings that will be starting soon for the 2025 conference in Traverse City, there will be strategic planning meetings starting as we begin our next strategic plan, as well as council meetings that you are welcome to join to get an understanding of what goes into the work of this organization.

This year is an election year for the organization and each of the positions on the executive board are up for election. You can also help your region by joining the current liaisons as a co-liaison become a council member in several roles, both larger and smaller.

Thank you all for all you do to help make the Michigan Art Education Association the wonderful organization that it is. There's been enough looking in the mirror at the past, let's look forward to what each of us can do to support each other and MAEA in the future.

HIGHER EDUCATION DIVISION



Karen McGarry

Hello MAEA Members!

In this post-conference reflection time, I take solace from time spent in the extraordinary MAEA membership company. No doubt, each of us has generated meaningful memories to keep us rejuvenated for the remainder of this year and into the next. We may be facing troubled times on the horizon, but I am resolved in the fact that we will do what we have always done: rise and continue to soar. With a focus on Higher Education, I will share some memorable highlights I found that exemplify our persistent and agentive nature as educators.

It was wonderful to see so many of our preservice teachers (PSTs) take advantage of the MAEA Sponsorships, led by Erin Overmeyer – big shout out to Erin! Engaging our PSTs into the membership fold is a critical focus for all of us in the HE Division, and creating bridges toward artful professionalism was evident during the conference. These rich opportunities, for all of us, help us appreciate the full breadth of art education across museum education, K12, and into art-inspired community engagement.

Several sessions from HE faculty focused on areas of interest to everyone, like the impacts of AI, assessment and grading, artistic inspiration, and mindful reflective practice. What I find rewarding is the overarching nature of our presenters' interests as they make thoughtful choices to include a division-wide programming focus over siloed learning, often directed only at a limited audience. This is one thing I feel we do well at the state level: we generate inclusivity and embrace an authentic and holistic approach to our identities overall, as educators.

As the HE Division moves forward, it is my resolve to reach out to our HE members and begin to establish programming ideas as a collaborative team. I may sit as the council representative, but I cannot do this work in a vacuum. I need the support and guidance of my colleagues in HE departments throughout Michigan. Together we make a force for generative outcomes to bolster our HE programs in art education as we keep rising, because we are – all of us – diligent agents for continued and equitable access to educative, artful experiences for all learners.

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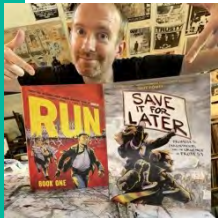


Erica Davis-Hernandez

NAEA DELEGATE

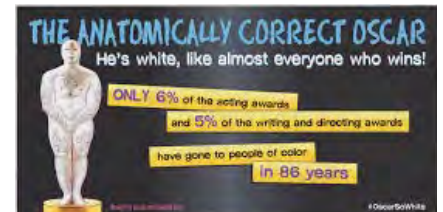
I've recovered from the 75th Anniversary Fall Conference and now I am planning my trip to Louisville, Kentucky for the national convention March 20th-23rd. Over 600 sessions are planned with keynotes, dozens of vendors, free admissions to museums and more. Plan on joining us for our annual Michigan meet-up too! You can register² now online through March 14th or in person. NAEA has resources¹ online to help you advocate for your attendance. This link includes a form letter of support, scholarship info and more. Post-convention, you can print your own certificate of attendance and purchase one college credit for \$85 through CHICO.

Keynotes are cartoonist, Nate Powell, anonymous art activists, Guerrilla Girls and ceramicist and activist, Robert Lugo.



Powell is a cartoonist and graphic novelist known for his award-winning graphic novels *Run* and *Save It for Later*. Powell has received the Eisner Award for Best Reality Work, National Book Award for Young People's Literature and Robert F Kennedy Book Award.

Guerrilla Girls is an anonymous group of feminists, female artists devoted to fighting sexism and racism within the art world. The center of the group's work is to highlight the inequities of gender and race within the greater arts community and society at large.



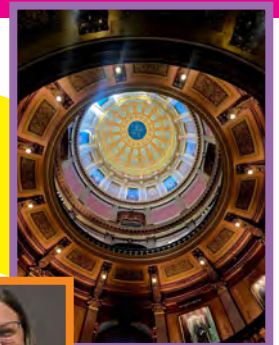
Lugo, currently an associate professor of ceramics at the Tyler School for Art and Architecture, places prominent African Americans, hip-hop imagery, and contemporary political commentaries on classic ceramic forms such as teapots and urns and his human faces are often obscured with floral motifs and typical Greek imagery and colors.

I look forward to seeing you in Louisville!

¹ <https://my.arteducators.org/naea25/naea25resources>

² <https://my.arteducators.org/naea25register?reload=timezone>

Fall Conference Fun!



MUSEUM EDUCATION



Grace VanderVliet

Here are a few phrases that have stuck with me from the state conference in Lansing:

"It's so good to see you in person!"

"These art card prompts are perfect for middle school gallery tours. Do they sell them in packs?"

"Can you take a picture of that slide and send it to me?"

"Oh, great suggestion. I've been wondering if we should switch to a checklist format for our intake form, and you've confirmed that we should move in that direction."

I was struck by how connected I felt to other Museum Educators and K-12 teachers in such a short time. Through a presentation feedback session, a shared dinner, and a lively open house at the MSU Broad Museum, I was able to gather concrete suggestions that I've already begun to implement. Perhaps more importantly, I was reminded that we're in this endeavor of working to uplift students' voices together. Sharing time, food, and ideas is an essential part of keeping us going. Thanks to everyone who organized, presented, and attended the conference!

Meghan Collins, Museum Educator for K-12 and Family Programs at the MSU Broad, received the MAEA Museum Educator of the Year award at the banquet on Friday evening. Meghan has consistently worked for equity and inclusive practices. She coordinates a program called In the Making: Young Minds at the MSU Broad Art Museum, which pairs MSU undergraduates and young visitors. This marks the fourth year of her leadership with the Global DEI Through Art program, and she has also recently joined the MSU Art Education faculty. She is a model for the field!

To recap the Museum Education topics and presentations:

- > *Amplifying Global Artist Voices*, presented by the Michigan State University Broad Art Museum Education team and partners: Meghan Collins, Angie Valbuena Rojas, Dominic Hateka, and Katie Bielecki. This shared strategies for integrating global art into K-12 curriculum.
- > *How Expanding Access for a Few Students Benefits Many More*, presented by Grace VanderVliet from the University of Michigan Museum of Art and Liz Celeste from the Dennon Museum at Northwestern Michigan College. This explored specific programs and materials that the two museums offer to improve accessibility for all types of learners.
- > *Social and Emotional Learning at the Detroit Institute of Arts*, presented by Morgan Hollemans, Jack Gruszczynski, and Leanne Young. These three Gallery Teachers at the DIA shared a new standards-aligned SEL tour and other innovative resources that could be adapted for classroom use.

We'll see you next fall in Traverse City!

Fall Conference Fun!





Dr. Cam
McComb

SCAFFOLDING A SIMPLE ARTIST STATEMENT

When I ask preservice teachers to write an artist statement, they often write a process statement instead. A process statement can be useful in a personal journal or portfolio as it often explains how a work was made. It might explain decisions and inflection points created along the making journey; however, process statements rarely offer insight into the larger concepts at play in an artwork.

By contrast, an artist statement is a simple statement written to accompany an artwork. A well-crafted artist statement offers insight into the complex thinking and intentional design required in creating an artwork (or a body of work). To assist preservice teachers in writing effective and simple artist statements, I analyzed writing created by grade 12 students participating in the New South Wales Higher School Certificate examination. Analysis revealed a clear structure that was easily adapted to classroom instruction.

Five Sentence Structure

1. Write a broad and simple statement of interest: *This statement communicates your overall thinking and gives the viewer context for relating to the artwork.*
2. Make a specific claim within the area of interest: *This claim establishes your positionality; it presents a cognitive point of view, if you will.*
3. Connect the material to the area of interest: *Talk about the material in a way that helps the viewer to see a connection between your artwork and the area of interest.*
4. Point out significant visual design aspects used in the work: *Revealing one-to-two specific aspects of design demonstrates the intentionality of the design in communicating meaning.*
5. Issue an invitation to the viewer: *An invitation encourages the viewer to carry the viewing experience along; or cues the viewer to continue seeing these ideas in the world. It's a nice way to conclude the artist statement.*



The Hidden Cost of Femininity
layered mono and block print:
acrylic paint and block printing ink
Avianna Pope, Eastern Michigan University

Here is a sample print and accompanying artist statement written by one of my preservice teachers. I share this scaffolded structure, website, and sample in hope that you too will be able to assist your students in writing effective artist statements.

I am interested in women's issues and gender inequality. Historically, though, where there has been movement toward gender equality, economic prosperity has taken precedence, often at the expense of women. This print depicts the "pink tax" on women's products, weighing down and inhibiting full equity for women. In the print, I use various line depths to bring visual weight to the foreground and emphasize the financial burden placed on women in favor of economic gain. I invite the viewer to question the state of inequity between the sexes as it relates to women's health and wellbeing.

¹ <https://artexpress.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/>

² I use the term material to refer to anything used to make art (graphite, paint, clay, paper, etc.). I prefer the word material over media since the word media now refers to digital platforms (digital media, social media, or news AKA: the media).

RETIRED DIVISION



Tammy Noirot,
Chair

The fall conference was quite the experience. Thank you to all the retirees who helped both in presenting and behind the scenes to help make the 75th anniversary celebration so memorable. I would like to recognize this year's retirees:

>> 2024 RETIREES <<

**Congratulations to this year's retirees.
You've worked hard and now it's your time to shine.**



Cyndi (Koppelman) Timoszyk began her teaching career as a 4-12 art teacher for Olivet Community Schools. After five and a half years she accepted a position at Saline High School where she taught for twenty-five years. While at Saline High School, she served as a class advisor, art department chair and National Art Honorary Society Advisor. Cyndi has a BA in Art Education from Adrian College and a MA in Art Education from Eastern Michigan University. In 2014, she was awarded the Secondary Art Educator of the Year from MAEA. Cyndi has been an active member of MAEA presenting at the annual fall conference, serving as Region 3 liaison, MAEA Recording Secretary, and NAEA Delegate.



Sharon Stratton retired after 17 years as the art teacher at Fennville High School. While there, she enjoyed being an advisor for four classes as well as being the advisor for the National Honor Society chapter. During that time, she also served as MAEA President, Recording Secretary, conference mentor, conference co-chair and Region 9 liaison.

In retirement Sharon looks forward to spending time with her husband Bill, daughters and granddaughters as well as other family and friends who took a bit of a backseat during those years teaching and serving MAEA. Sharon and her husband enjoy camping, boating, and are planning their first trip to Europe in the spring. She also looks forward to spending more time creating her own art.



For 28 years **Roger Drabant** taught high school art at Fraser High School. And although he stepped out of the classroom, he is staying active in the metro Detroit art scene, with MAEA, and with his company, Motor City Art Tours, a company that puts together custom art tours in metro Detroit.

"I have cherished my roles with the MAEA over the past 15 years which have included representing Region 6 as a co-liaison, being the ED&I co-chair, as well as the Secondary Division co-chair. I was honored and humbled to be named the MAEA 2023 Art Educator of the Year and am privileged to have co-chaired both the 2019 MAEA Conference in Port Huron as well as this last year's conference in Ann Arbor."

"In my roles through MAEA, I have seen firsthand how dedicated, passionate, and inspiring our members are and how each one of us brings our own voice to the organization. My joy in this organization is only seconded by the years I spent with my students as they achieved more than they initially thought was possible in their art work. I have eight former students who are now art educators and countless more still pursuing their passions in the arts."

2025 MAEA Educators of the Year Award Recipients



**Art Educator of the Year
and
Elementary Art Educator of the Year**

Emily Miller

• MAEA Educators of the Year •



**Middle Level Art
Educator of the Year**

Sarah DeKett



**Secondary Art
Educator of the Year**

Keith Rayner



**Emeritus Art
Educator of the Year**

Christine Hesch



**Museum Art
Educator of the Year**

Meghan Collins

You can read their bios on our website miarted.org under Resources/Awards.

2025 MAEA Distinguished Service Award Recipients

These two individuals and one university have demonstrated support and the advancement of art education.



Amy Armand
College of Creative Studies -
Retired



Audra Pieknik and
The Art Experience



WMU Gallery
Grand Rapids

MAEA Student Memorial Endowment Scholarship Award Recipient



Melanie Kerbelis is a Grand Valley State University student. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Here is a quote from her personal narrative portion of her application:

“Art education should inspire students to think critically and creatively. It is my job to supply students with the tools they need to create amazing things. For many, art is a way for people to find belonging and identity.”

Sponsored Students for the MAEA Fall Conference

Eastern Michigan University preservice art teachers **Lynnlee Voge** and **Jasmine Crigger** were awarded MAEA sponsorship to attend the 2024 conference in Lansing.

In reflecting upon the experience **Lynnlee wrote:**

Attending [the MAEA Conference] for the first time as a preservice teacher opened my eyes to the network of supportive and inspiring professionals in the field of Art Education. I spent time in sessions, watching keynotes, and speaking to vendors learning about resources. I am excited to enter my career with a greater knowledge of the systems that I can rely on.

Jasmine (AKA Jazzy) says:

This is the second time I've received the award. It's great to experience how the workshops flow, see the behind-the-scenes set up, and learn how each person organizes their materials to present. I learn so much from the MAEA Conference, especially as a preservice teacher, since I don't have the skills veteran teachers have been refining. I also learn more about procedures they've set in place. Sharing this knowledge and skills with everyone is super valuable. And... You get into the ticketed workshops for free! That's pretty cool too!



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Artist:
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Lesson Plan for Grades 3-8



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Wrap: Cover sphere with fluff fibers or weave with fluffy yarn.

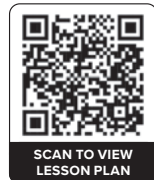


Create: Transform the sphere into an animal by adding details with felt and other craft materials.

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Membership 104/204

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