

PERSPECTIVES



**Alabama Art
Education Association**

FALL 2025
NEWSLETTER



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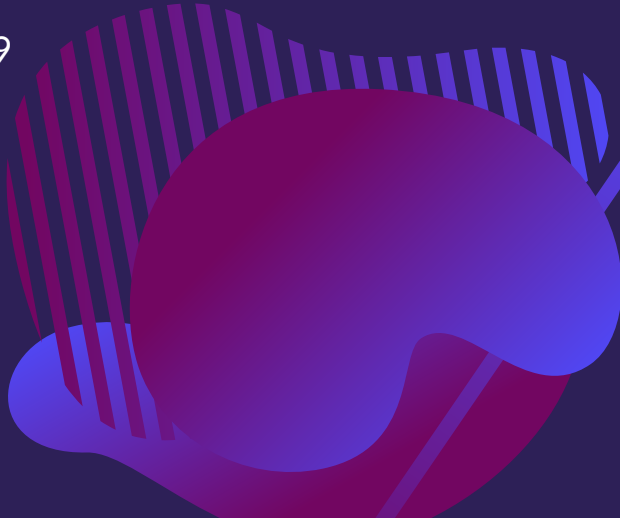
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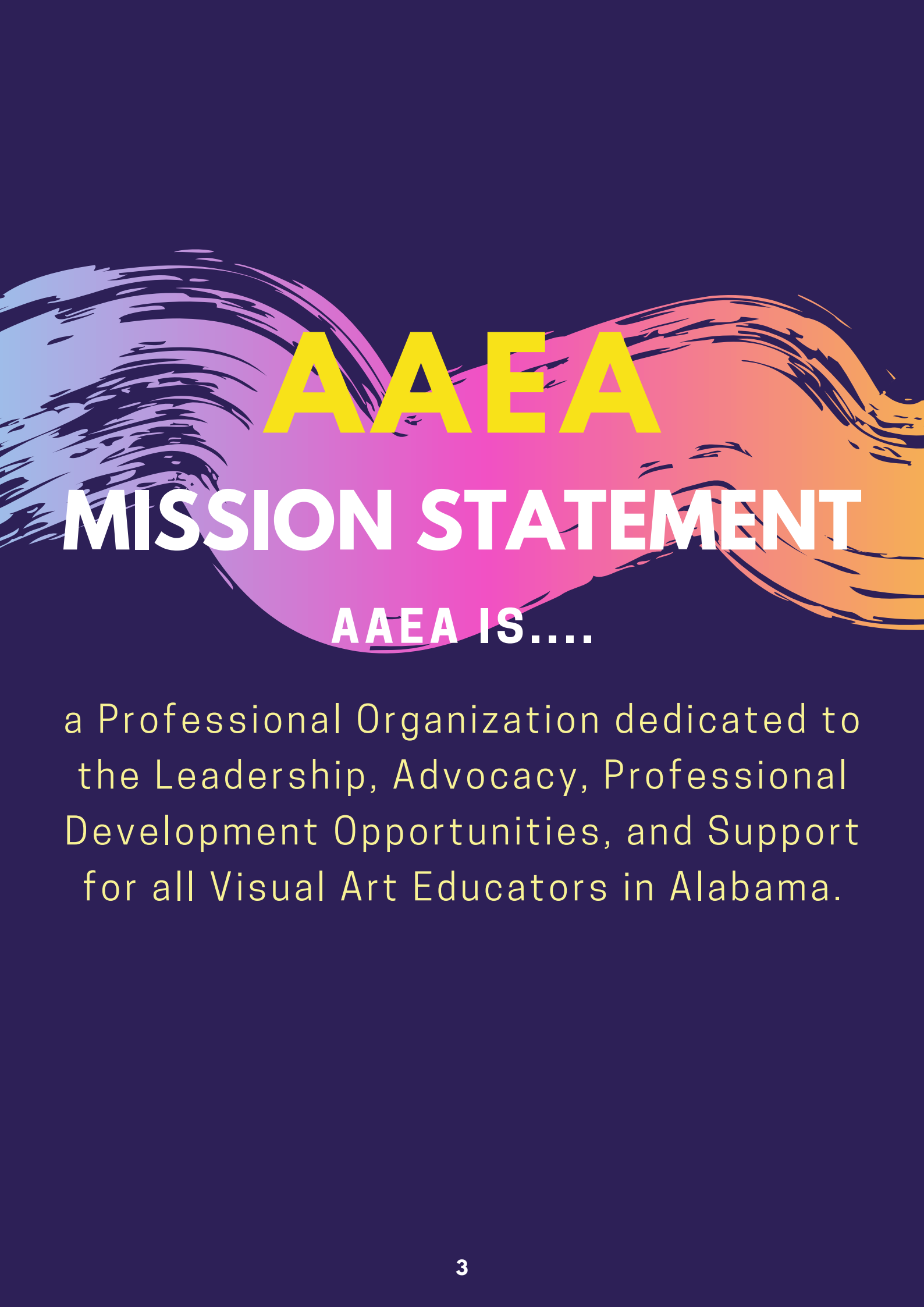
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945 Oak Grove Rd
Homewood, AL 35209





AAEA

MISSION STATEMENT

AAEA IS....

a Professional Organization dedicated to the Leadership, Advocacy, Professional Development Opportunities, and Support for all Visual Art Educators in Alabama.

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LETTER FROM THE

PRESIDENT

I hope that you all had a summer full of relaxation sprinkled with play and creative exploration. Your emotional, mental, and physical batteries are recharged, and you are ready to start the school year with a full cup. We are all familiar with that old adage “you can’t pour from an empty cup,” so it’s imperative to the overall health and wellbeing of educators to not only keep our own personal cups filled but, even, overflowing. Remember ‘self-care is health care.’ From a personal standpoint, it’s important to practice what we teach not only for the betterment of our students, but also for our own benefit – studies show that creating art – even just doodling – lowers stress and anxiety.

Our first “Make it Monday” of the school year addresses just that very topic. On Monday, September 22, Cynthia Hauk from Mindful Creative Muse will be presenting “Art as Meditation: Easy Art Practices for Calm, Focus, and Self-Care.” In this virtual hands-on workshop, teachers will learn how to use art as a form of meditation. You’ll explore simple, calming art activities that help reduce stress, improve focus, and support emotional well-being—for both you and your students. Current AAEA members make sure to check your email for the Google Meet link to the workshop.

Continuing the notion of self-care is healthcare, spending time in nature can be wonderful for the creative soul, so we hope that you all will join us at Camp McDowell for the AAEA Fall Conference “Off the Grid.” Many of the workshops will explore arts in nature whether with natural materials, recycled materials, or the simplicity of creative processes without the requirement of technology. The conference will kick off with a TASK Party event Wednesday evening October 15 and will have two full days of workshops on Thursday and Friday, October 16 and 17. Our keynote speakers and guest presenters include two members of the Gee’s Bend Quilting Collective, Mary Ann and China Pettway, and professor and mixed media artist, Douglas Baulos. During this conference there will be a “trashion show” at the awards dinner, open studio time in the evenings, and an art supply swap. If you have any questions regarding this event, please reach out to our fabulous conference co-chairs at aaeafallconference@gmail.com.

AAEA also would like to share that this year’s winner of the AAEA Swag Design Contest is Ashley Culwell. You can purchase her winning design plus other AAEA Swag at the <https://alabamaarteducationassociation.threadless.com/>. Ashley’s design is titled “Art Teacher Gang – No Clean Hands.” All Threadless Design proceeds benefit AAEA and its conference scholarship funds.

Once again, we hope everyone has a smooth start to their school year and please know that AAEA is here for you regarding arts advocacy and mentorship, professional development opportunities, and support for YOU, the art educator.

Stay courageously creative yall and bless your heART!
Amanda



TESTIMONIALS

Making Membership Meaningful

AAEA

WHY JOIN?

"I joined AAEA because I love geeking out over art ideas with people who actually get the thrill of a perfectly mixed paint color. Through AAEA I have formed a tribe for swapping classroom hacks, finding inspiration, and gained the confidence to become a voice for choice-based art education. Plus, being part of AAEA means I can help make sure kids in Alabama have a chance to fall in love with making art—just like I did.

-Ashley Sams White, Northern Region

"I joined the Alabama Art Education Association (AAEA) in 2013 to connect with fellow art educators, share best practices, and continue growing in my field. Being part of a community of teachers who share the same passion and challenges has been invaluable. Through AAEA, I have expanded my skills, gained new perspectives, and developed a stronger sense of purpose in my teaching. But above all, I have developed friendships with so many people from all over the state. The opportunity to collaborate with like-minded professionals has reinforced my commitment to both the artistic and moral responsibilities of education. This network has not only helped me refine my instructional approach but has also provided a support system that continually inspires and pushes me to be a better educator, mentor, and advocate for the arts. I would not be where I am today without this organization inspiring me to continue one. "

- Natalie Roig-McKnight, Supervision

If you would like to join the AAEA, click [this link](#) for the NAEA website or contact our membership chair at AAEAmembers@gmail.com!

ART EXHIBITION

AAEA DISTRICT 2 ART EDUCATORS

NEW
DATES

NOVEMBER 10-20

2025

JAN DEMPSEY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER, AUBURN, AL

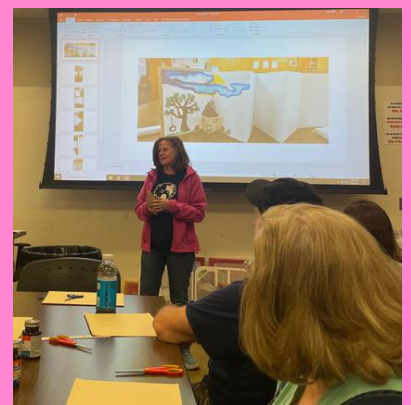
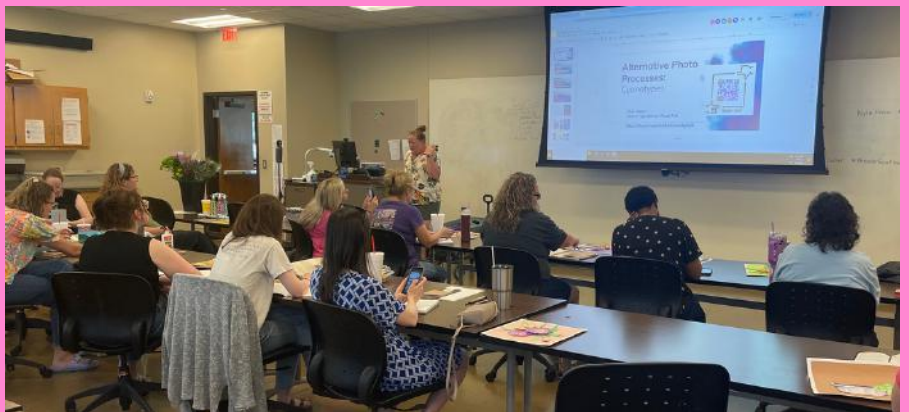
Join us for a special exhibition in Gallery II at the JDCAC from NOV 10-20, with hanging on the 8th, take down on the 21st, and reception on the 20th. All mediums will be accepted.

[Click here](#) for the exhibition application.

Contact Rebecca Wall at slagle.rebecca@gmail.com or Tricia Oliver at toliver.au.93@gmail.com

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID THIS SUMMER

AAEA BOARD MEMBERS SHARED WHAT THEY DID THIS SUMMER!



This summer, I had the joy of hosting the mini conference at the ACA in Decatur. We laughed, swapped ideas, and got out hands messy with hands-on projects that were ready to hit the classroom. It was a fantastic chance to recharge our creative batteries, connect with fellow art lovers, and leave full of inspiration!- Ashley Sams White





At the beginning of this summer I taught a Birds-eye View flowers lesson borrowed from the Colorful ArtTeacher Mandy Culver of Wisconsin. We had such a wide variety of interpretations of the lesson from our fabulous North Alabama Mini Conference attendees.



Just before school started, I was invited by the Madison County School System to provide their nine Elementary art educators with an in-service workshop. We focused on Pre-K lessons and How to manage 30 minute Art Classes.- Tammie Clark



This summer I had the chance to spend a week at the Savannah College of Art and Design for the Educator Forum with some amazing Alabama art teachers, as well as other educators from around the country. This was actually my third summer attending this conference, which speaks to just how valuable the experience is for me as both a teacher and an artist. The workshops and sessions were inspiring, but the real highlight was the time we spent together—sharing laughs, creating side by side, and building memories that made the week unforgettable. - Ashley Culwell



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SCAD EDITION



It was my first time attending SCAD Educator Forum, and certainly not my last. I was fortunate to attend with several AAEA members, MJ Coker, Tiffany Ala, Sarah Caroline Padgett, and Ashley Culwell. I took part in two enlightening hands-on art making workshops both led by SCAD faculty. The first was "Constructive Head Sketching" - applying the 'Loomis' method, taught by Ben Ward, and the second, "Scavenge, Salvage, Create" taught by Gabe Torres. Both workshops and instructors were phenomenal, and I gained so much new knowledge to apply to my own art making practices as well as ideas for the classroom. As always with these art excursions, not only were the art making experiences splendid but it was the connections made with fellow art educators that truly made it magical and memorable. - Amanda Youngblood

AAEA

SUMMER

BOARD RETREAT



AAEA Summer Board Retreat- the board came together for two full days of art making experiences in Birmingham. We created honey bear paintings under the instruction from the infamous "honey bear artist," Janye Morgan, and the next day Angie May with the Birmingham Museum of Art gave us an exclusive tour. That afternoon, Brianna Payne at Art Play led us in a shibori dyeing activity. - Amanda Youngblood

SOUTHEASTERN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



In Jackson, Mississippi, Rebecca Wall, AAEA President-Elect, and I attended the NAEA Southeastern Leadership Conference. This was four full days of leadership meetings coupled with art making activities and local cultural experiences. We created fused glass pieces at Pearl River Glass studios and visited Jackson staples, The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the historical home and gardens of Eudora Welty, a Pulitzer prize winning local author. We even spent time in the gardens sketching in the early morning hours.

- Amanda Youngblood, President



Off the Grid: Unplug and Unwind

Registration for our annual AAEA Fall Conference opens Saturday, August 23rd. Registration will run until Sunday, September 31st, 2025.

The Awards Dinner/Trashion Show will take place on Thursday, October 16th. Workshops will be all day Thursday and Friday. Meals will be provided Wednesday dinner through Saturday breakfast and are included in the registration price.

Reserve your room online after registering by using this link:
https://www.regpack.com/reg/templates/build/?g_id=100918572

A Pre-conference Task Party will take place on Wednesday night- details to come. We will have an Art Supply Swap table available- please bring only supplies that still work, you just aren't using them. These supplies will also be used for our nightly "Open Studio" sessions where anyone can come create and hang out together!

Awards Dinner will be Thursday evening and is included in registration price. The theme for the awards dinner is "Trashion Show" - wear any up-cycled or recycled attire. This could mean that you create an outfit from old clothes or literal trash- or you could wear something second-hand. Really, we just mean don't buy anything new! We want to see how your creative brains take on the theme! Any guests you bring to the Awards Dinner will need an add-on ticket. These are \$40.00.

At the Awards Dinner, we will host a silent auction to raise funds for the Louise B. Marsh Scholarship Fund.

Stay until the end of the conference for door prizes!

Your meals are provided in conference registration fee.

Mid September, you will receive an email to sign up for either the Gee's Bend or Doug Baulos sessions. Spaces are limited, so be on the look out for the email.

Around the State

Southern Region 1

The southern region has been working towards Amanda White (St Paul's episcopal school secondary photography teacher) taking over the representative position from Rikki Rhodes. She will assume these duties in January 2026.

Before her departure, Rikki has worked to secure locations for two student art shows in the coming school year and is currently working to arrange a fall professional development for the region.
aaea.vaca1@gmail.com

Eastern Region 2

Teachers across Region 2 have been working diligently to launch the new school year with energy and enthusiasm. Art educators in both public and private school systems are settling into the rhythm of the year, laying the groundwork for creative and engaging classrooms. As routines begin to take shape, we're all looking forward to a smooth and inspiring season ahead.

Meanwhile, Region 2 is excited to announce its upcoming Art Teacher Art Show, taking place November 10–20, with a celebratory reception on November 20. All Region 2 members are warmly invited to submit 1–2 artworks for inclusion in the show. We hope to see a strong turnout and make this a cherished annual tradition! For questions or more information about the show or any other Region 2 concerns, please contact Rebecca Wall at aaea.pres.elect@gmail.com.

Western Region 3

Welcome Back West Alabama Art Educators! I hope you have had a wonderful start to the school year! We do not have any scheduled events yet, but I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Fall conference in October at Camp McDowell! Our team is working hard to make sure this is a wonderful time for learning and fun! See you in October!
aaea.vaca33@gmail.com





Central Region 4

We loved seeing you at our July PD with Little Print Shop! Together, we explored the art of linocut relief and printmaking, and every attendee walked away with beautiful, one-of-a-kind creations. To kick off the school year, we also visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, where the Gee's Bend Quilts left us all in awe. We're already looking forward to reconnecting at the fall conference at camp! If you'd like a friendly face to sit with, please reach out—we'd love to join you. And mark your calendars: after camp, on December 6th, we'll be gathering again for a candle-making event. More details are on the way soon!

—Mollie and Amanda- aaea.vaca4a@gmail.com



Northern Region 5

North Alabama art teachers are diving into a brand-new school year, filling classrooms with fresh projects, paint, and plenty of creativity. While things are busy at home, our region is already buzzing about the fall conference at Camp McDowell! It's always the highlight of the year — a chance to learn, play, and recharge with other art teachers who "get it." I hope to see lots of familiar (and new!) faces there this fall.
aaea.vaca5@gmail.com



What's the from Grade Level Chairs?

Elementary Level Division:

As we kick off this school year, I hope everyone is finding their groove. From your tiniest artists to your fourth and fifth graders, I know they are all excited to be back in the art room. As we practice procedures and gear up for art making, writing lesson plans sometimes slow us down! Don't fret, let's utilize our village and work together to get the next quarter squared away.

Over the summer, we completed our first Elementary lesson plan swap digitally. We had some great ideas shared including pictures, supply lists and even written lesson plans ready to submit to your admin. Be on the lookout for more information about the participating in Fall Swap. Lessons will be submitted by the end of September and shared with all participants by the first week of October. Just in time for the second quarter.

We look forward to seeing everyone at camp and we will spend some time together discussing how we can best serve you, at the elementary division meeting the Friday during conference. We hope you join us at camp. If you have any questions, concerns or exciting news to share, please reach out to **Brooklyn Scoggins at aaeaelem@gmail.com**

Middle Level Division:

The first month of school can feel overwhelming as you juggle preparing your classroom, establishing rules, expectations, routines, and procedures, getting to know your students, and starting your first projects. But once you find your groove, things will begin to run more smoothly.

Remember to make time for self-care—it's essential for both you and your students. It's also important to connect with other art teachers, and a great opportunity is right around the corner!

Our "Off the Grid" Art Conference will be held at Camp McDowell, October 15–18. These few days will be packed with opportunities to create art, learn new skills, reconnect with friends from past conferences, make new connections, celebrate outstanding art teachers, gather helpful resources, explore nature, enjoy home-cooked meals, and return home with your cup overflowing with ideas and inspiration. Plus, I'd love to see any of you that attend at the Middle School Division meeting.

I hope you all have a great first quarter of your school year. Please let us know if you need anything and how we can help you.

Tiffany Ala- aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com

Secondary Level Division:

We have all heard of the phrase "There is no tired like Teacher tired!" How about we do that one a little bit better??? "There is no tired like ART Teacher Tired!"

We have only been a school for a couple of weeks, and I am already beat down! Big Schedule and only one planning period, multiple classes during the same block, lunch duty, writing college recommendations for my Juniors, early Homecoming so having to start the Art Club with our EPIC Annual Homecoming Door Competition before Club Sign up day, new Safety Plans, new classroom door that stays in the locked position...cannot unlock...yes, that means a lot of knocking at the door every time someone wants to enter, a total mess of my supply order getting lost and damaged on the delivery, Covid and stomach bug starting to show up.....BUT ISN'T GREAT!

All of this comes with smiling faces, big hugs, exciting new friendships and experiences, improved Campus grounds with added security, a new laptop and projector, collaboration with my peers, an Advanced Placement field trip, and the chance to witness all of the moments where my students grow and learn.

This, my 34th year, holds many opportunities for me to showcase my students' works and to beam with pride over their accomplishments. Yes, I am already tired, but I am smiling!

Please reach out to me if you would like to share any upcoming Secondary opportunities with AAEA. I will be having a Secondary Division Meeting at the Conference to collaborate...Please come join us!

Felicia Olds- aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com

Museum Division

Wiregrass Museum of Art

Lots of great opportunities at the WMA this fall. They have extended their Bus on Us program to include five local counties: Dothan City, Houston, Henry, Dale, and Geneva Counties. Bus on Us is supported through grants from the Windgate Foundation, with additional support by Mike Schmitz, MidSouth Bank, SmartBank & Gosselin Architecture. Each School receives reimbursement for up to 4 buses covering the system-approved cost of mileage and bus driver time to the museum, during the tour, and after the museum tour for up to 4 hours for back-to-back tours.

They have also created 22 Curriculum kits that schools can borrow to use in their classrooms. Eight of the kits are Art Integrated Math lessons geared towards preparing 7th and 8th grade students for the Math ACAPS. Fourteen of the kits are Art Integrated Literacy lessons made for use in PreK through 3rd grade classes. All of the lessons align with Alabama standards in both art and the other subject, for each of the grades listed.



Starting in September, thanks to a grant from Alabama Power, their Studio 126 afterschool teen program will be free. It happens every Tuesday from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, beginning September 2nd. Registration is required.

Scan the QR code to register for the programs mentioned above.

Huntsville Museum of Art

The wait is over! The Huntsville Museum of Art is reopening on Sunday, August 31, 2025 after a major HVAC upgrade and a redesign to the galleries. To celebrate the occasion, the museum will host the Betsy and Peter Lowe Community Free Day, offering free admission to all visitors from noon to 5pm. Check out their website to get information about tours and more.



Birmingham Museum of Art

The BMA is excited for this school year. From school tours, visits to your classroom, Culture Cases, educational videos, or free online resources, they have something to enrich your school year. The BMA has a new group of Teaching Fellows ready to take your students on a tour of the galleries.

Scan the QR code for the Learning Resources page where you can book tours and access free resources.

There are three new exhibitions up in the galleries this fall that can be included on our highlights tours. Interwoven: Stories in Fiber and Form showcases pottery, basketry, painting, photography, and a tapestry, all made by Native artists. Silver & Ceremony from Southern Asia, 1830–1930 is a dazzling testament to the artistry and whimsy of silver from India. You can preview the exhibition on the BMA's exhibition page. Marks of Intention celebrates the innovative ways contemporary artists use mark making—lines, dots, patterns, and textures—to create dynamic works of art.



Angela May- aaea2museum@gmail.com

LESSON

plans TASK PARTY

What is a TASK Party you ask? A party that involves completing tasks? In a way, yes that is exactly what it is. It's a collaborative art project that involves individuals working independently and collaboratively while simultaneously writing and completing said 'tasks' that are open to interpretation.

At the 2023 NAEA Convention in San Antonio, I had the pleasure of learning about and participating in a "Task Party" workshop lead by Dr. David Modler and to this day it's one of the best workshops I've ever attended. It really pushed the participants out of our comfort zones, especially being in an environment like NAEA that has thousands of attendees, and where you attend most workshops without knowing a soul in the room. This 'Task Party' required participants to communicate, collaborate, and create together using only the most basic of supplies – cardboard, box cutters, and masking tape – no drawing or writing utensils of any kind nor could we access our own personal stashes of art making materials. Some of us were 'gutted' by this notion, but we all courageously embarked on this wild journey together.

Here's a breakdown of how the session went and then I will discuss how I was able to take this information and modify it for my classroom:

1. We were put into 4 different groups, 5 people at each table and were explicitly told we could not use any extra materials other than what was provided.
2. We were instructed to just start creating something – anything, from the provided cardboard, masking tape, and box cutters. Fifteen minutes into the session, Dr. Modler alerted us with his call and response tactic where he exclaimed "Yo, Yo, Yo" and we responded with "Yo, what's up?" We were then told to abandon our work, and move to the next table. This was definitely met with a collective groan as many individuals were somewhat invested in their creations.
3. Once at our new tables, we were instructed to start creating – again still only cardboard, masking tape, and box cutters. We could either continue working with the abandoned creations in any way we saw fit or start something new entirely. As we were working, Dr. Modler informed us that he and his team would start handing out 'task' cards with written tasks that we must complete. Of course there was room for our own interpretation of said tasks. The cards contained tasks ranging from "tell a joke to a stranger" to "make jewelry for someone in the room" to "make up a song based on the project." And so forth. It got wildly hilarious very quickly. Dr. Modler mentioned he and his team could assess personalities quickly based on how someone accepted and/or completed said task card.
4. Again, the 15 minute mark, we were interrupted with the "Yo, Yo, Yo!" to which we all replied "Yo, what's up?" We were instructed to stop and that we would be split into two groups. Dr. Modler divided us into West Coast vs East Coast. Then we pushed all tables together to create one giant table in the center of the room. We brought all the cardboard and current creations and put it all in the center of the new combined table. We were told we would start using all the cardboard and creations to create one giant sculpture. Each group was instructed to stay on either side of the table.
5. Only two people from each group were allowed to work on the collaborative project at a time, and when you were ready to stop, you had to tag another member of your side in to take your place. During this whole process, we are still being given 'task cards' that we still had to complete.

LESSON

plans

6. Again, after about 15 minutes, one last “Yo, Yo, Yo!” was shouted at us, followed by our “Yo, what’s up?” response. Dr. Modler, informed everyone to work simultaneously on this collaborative sculpture. We were encouraged to create a story line or determine what the object had become. We all collectively decided that it looked like a great ship with moving parts and pieces.

7. At the end we worked together to move our collaborative sculpture into the hallway and then discuss how this project forced us to work together, make connections, and that art can be temporary.

This workshop was transformative in that it forced us to personally connect with each other, problem solve, and rise to challenges – much like what we ask of our own students. I even developed friendships with fellow art educators from other states and we look forward to meeting up at future NAEA events. It really encouraged me to embrace flexibility and the concept that one doesn’t have to be ‘married to an idea.’ This notion is valuable in all aspects of life from our own art practices, to lesson planning, and as well as personal life.

I’ve taken this concept of a “task party” and have modified it to fit the needs of my classroom. For materials we use thin cardboard (cereal box or soda carton type cardboard) or sturdy poster board, scissors, and masking tape. Before we begin, I quickly demonstrate to students how to fold, cut, and bend the thin cardboard or poster board to stand upright as well as the slit and slotted method of attachment. I keep the concept intentionally vague and don’t elaborate on what they are doing or expect to ‘create,’ only giving instructions at 10 minute intervals throughout a 45 minute class.

Step 1. Students work individually at their tables to create an ‘artwork’ using only the three provided materials. 10 minutes

Step 2. Instruct students to stop and move to a new table assigned by you the teacher. They MUST leave their creations behind.

Step 3. Once seated at their new tables, instruct students to start making something They can use the left behind creations by continuing it, modifying it, dismantling it, or starting something new.

*You can even change up the groupings of students too before sending them to new tables.

While they work, hand out cards with ‘tasks’ written on them. Said ‘task cards’ can be anything from ‘hum a tune’ to ‘respond to your classmates with only questions’ to ‘make a crown for a classmate or another teacher,’ etc. *I would give them permission to give their creations to my coworker on my hall (that teacher was asked ahead of time if this would be okay). 10 minutes

Step 4. Inform students to start creating a collaborative art piece at their tables using their current individual creations. *You can still give out task cards during this time. I even let my students pass their task cards once completed off to a classmate to complete next. 10 minutes

Step 5. Instruct students to move their collaborative constructions to the center of the room – either on the floor or push some tables together. They must then start working together to create a giant collaborative creation and must discuss with one another what they are doing, adding, taking away, or rearranging as they create. 10 minutes

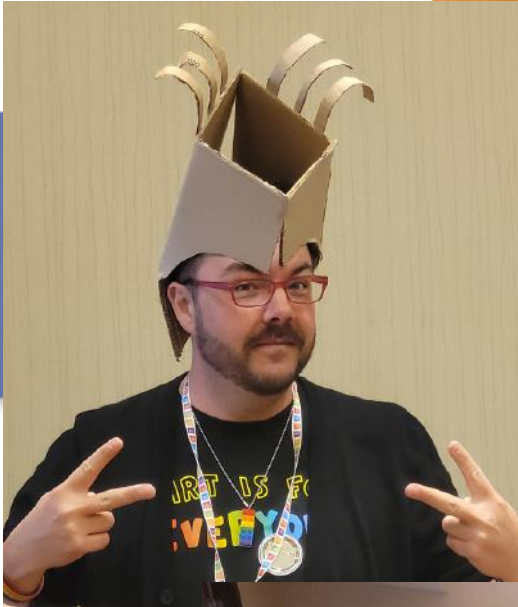
Step 6. After the final ten minutes has passed, students may break down their creation – toss what is not salvageable but save what can be used for a different class group. We then spend some time verbally reflecting on the process, their ability to collaborate, and how it made them feel in the beginning to abandon their first pieces.

This entire project pushes the student out of their comfort zone. They are forced to abandon an idea and must be flexible and shift when directed – sometimes the task card calls for that too. They must be willing to adjust and work with others. And it truly allows for deep play in the classroom. A fearlessness to create without the pressure of perfection or the expectation of a fully completed masterpiece. I challenge you to give it a try. It’s the perfect activity when you are between projects, stumped for the next lesson, have a class that is finished before the other classes, activity the week prior to a break, or just crave a change in the classroom.

Oliver Herring is the creator of the “TASK Party” concept. To read more about his ideas and parties check out his website.- Amanda Youngblood- aaeapres@gmail.com

SSON

plans

A torn piece of orange paper is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page, partially overlapping the word 'plans' and the 'SSON' text. The paper has a rough, deckled edge and a slightly textured appearance.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD



Rikki Rhodes

Region 1- Appointed

Rikki Rhodes is an art educator and practicing artist based in Semmes, Alabama. She holds a Master of Education in P-12 Art Education and a BFA in Printmaking and Ceramics from the University of South Alabama, as well as a Master's in Printmaking from the University of the Arts London: Camberwell College of Arts. From 2019 to 2024, she served as the Arts and Crafts Teacher at Alma Bryant High School in Irvington, AL, and previously taught as an adjunct professor at the University of South Alabama. In 2025, Rikki began a new role as Studio Technician at the University of South Alabama, where she maintains the printmaking, ceramics, and other studio spaces, in addition to returning to adjunct faculty work in printmaking.

An active member of the Alabama and National Art Education Associations, Rikki has held several leadership roles, including Southern Region Board Representative and Virtual Art Competition Board Member. Her dedication to arts education has been recognized with awards such as the 2021 New Professional Art Educator of the Year and two Alabama Arts License Tag Grants.

Rikki regularly presents at state art education conferences and has exhibited work in both U.S. and international galleries. She also organizes and hosts regional student art exhibitions and workshops for AAEA, fostering artistic growth among youth.

Mary Jane Coker

Past President/ Awards Chair- Elected

With 25 years of experience as an art teacher, I have dedicated my career to nurturing creativity, confidence, and self-expression in elementary, middle and high school learners. I believe art is not only about developing skills, but also about helping students see the world in new ways, solve problems, and connect with their own voices. Over the years, I've had the privilege of watching countless students discover the joy of creating and the confidence that comes from sharing their ideas through art. I encourage you to keep your hearts and your minds focused on the important things for your students and keep your classroom a safe, fun, learning experience for all.

As my time on the AAEA Board comes to an end I am flooded with great memories of the last six years! I'm so thankful for the friendships I have made in the state and around the country. I encourage everyone to get involved at some level. As an art teacher we are so frequently an island to ourselves and having a community of like minded people to bounce ideas with or commiserate with is invaluable in your career. I have heard so many say they are intimidated to submit proposals to present at conferences or National conventions but I want to encourage you to be bold and just do it! Everyone I meet says the same thing and once they present they are amazed at how easy it was and how receptive everyone is, it is a great way to meet new people as well. I cannot wait to see everyone at Camp McDowell and I pray we all have a smooth school year!



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Calendar of Events



NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

STUDIO

NAEA WEBINARS

FREE for NAEA members; \$49 for nonmembers

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

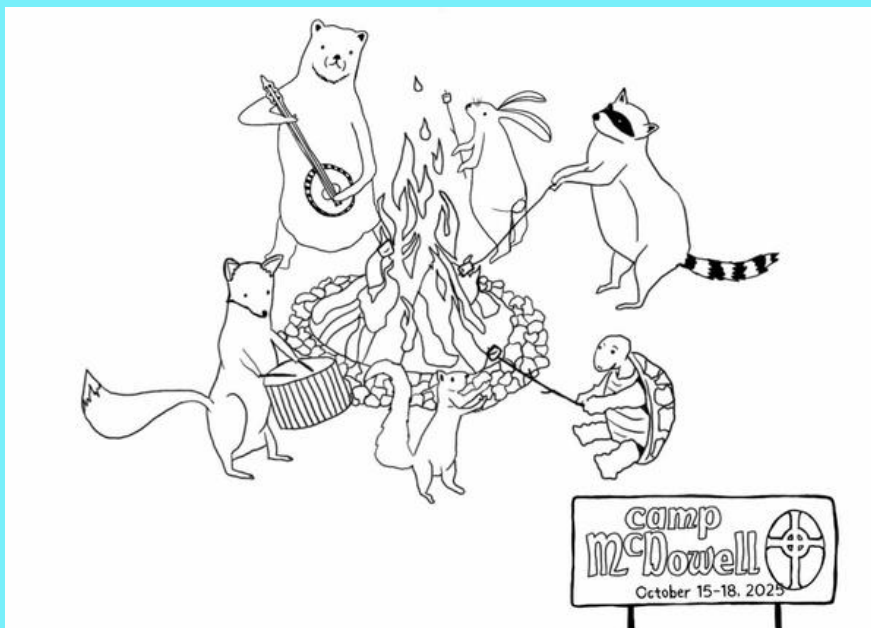
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 | 7–8pm ET

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 7–8pm ET

AAEA Events

Register Now! Camp McDowell October 15-18, 2025



other NEWS



AAEA President, Amanda Youngblood is the recent recipient of the Arts Educator Fellowship Award from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. For more info on this grant visit: <https://arts.alabama.gov/>



Amanda Youngblood, St. Paul's School and current president, was this named one of two 2025 Arts Education Fellows by the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Amanda received a \$5000 grant and was the second AAEA member in a row to receive it! Next year, it could be you!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to AAEA's YAM Month Queen who was recognized by NAEA in the "Special Recognition and Materials category: Alabama – Julie Harrison, for exceptional efforts in creating YAM buttons for winners"! Yay Julie! Thanks for going above and beyond to always make Alabama winners feel special!

**This
Year's
YAM
Theme!**



YOUTH ART MONTH®

— The World Needs Art —

other NEWS



This great tradition of door prizes and Art Auction has been such a huge success the last few years! We will run the Auction night just as we did last year.

Each ticketed entry will be \$2. You may purchase as many tickets as you like. You may place as many tickets as you like for a particular item in the auction! Let's bring the best this year for conference 2025!

This Google form allows for you to upload a photo of the art for the auction. These photos will help us to post images before you arrive at the conference! The form also allows to have labels and the names of who donated the items placed with the items.

The Board

2024-2026 AAEA Board of Directors

Executive Board

	Name	AAEA Email
President	Amanda Youngblood	aaeapres@gmail.com
President-elect	Rebecca Wall	aaea.pres.elect@gmail.com
Past-President	Mary Jane Coker	aaeapastpres@gmail.com
Secretary	Jack Vest	aaeasecretary2022@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sharon Christman	aaeabusinessoffice@gmail.com

Elected Board Positions

Elementary Division	Brooklyn Scoggins	aaeaelem@gmail.com
Middle Division	Tiffany Ala	aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com
Secondary Division	Felicia Olds	aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com
Retired Division	Sally Chambliss	aaearetired@gmail.com
Higher Education	Meredith Knight	highereducationchair@gmail.com
Supervision/Admin.	Natalie Roig-McKnight	aaeasupervision@gmail.com
Museum Division	Angela May	aaea2museum@gmail.com
PreService/Mentorship	Andy Meadows	aaeaadvocacy@gmail.com

Appointed Board Positions

Independent School	Amy Hodges	aaea.independentschool@gmail.com
Membership	Amy Hodges	aaeamembers@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Betsy Logan	aaeparliamentarian@gmail.com
Newsletter	Tricia Oliver	aaeanewsletter796@gmail.com
Social Media	Sarah Caroline Padgett	aaeasocialmedia23@gmail.com
Technology/Website	Ashley Culwell	aaeatech@gmail.com
Virtual Art Exhibition	Lucy Gafford	aaeavae@gmail.com
YAM Chairperson	Julie Harrison	aaeyouthartmonth@gmail.com
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	Monica Beasley	edi.aaea@gmail.com
NAHS/NJAHS		aaeanahsrep@gmail.com
Scholarship/Competition	Tammie Clark	aaeascholarships796@gmail.com
Conference Chair 2025	Sarah Caroline Padgett.	aaeafallconference@gmail.com
	Amanda Knight	
	Brooklyn Scroggins	
AL Art Alliance Rep.	Rebecca Yeager	director@alartsalliance.org
ASCA Rep	Kaci Norman	kaci.norman@arts.alabama.gov
Northern - Region 5	Ashley Sams	aaea.vaca5@gmail.com
Central - Region 4A	Amanda Knight	aaea.vaca4a@gmail.com
Central - Region 4B	Mollie Everitt	aaea.vaca4a@gmail.com
Western - Region 3	Molly Brooke Threadgill	aaea.vaca33@gmail.com
Eastern - Region 2A	Julie Speir	aaea.vaca2@gmail.com
Eastern - Region 2B	Andrea Newman	aaea.vaca2@gmail.com
Southern - Region 1	Rikki Rhodes	aaea.vaca1@gmail.com



Special Thanks to



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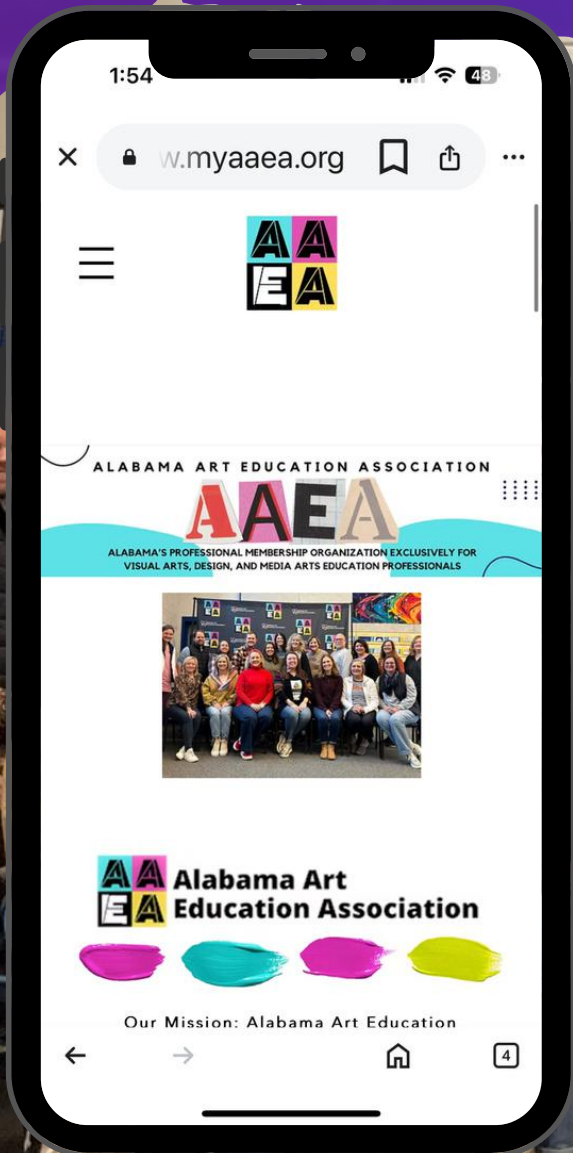


BLICK
art materials



Thanks for helping to make our 2024 conference

Amazing!



**Have an idea for an article or
a calendar event to share?**

[Contact Us!](#)