

CONTACT

NEWSLETTER OF THE ART EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA, INC.

Belonging

November 7 & 8, 2025



SPRING 2025

President Message / Allyson Avery



How amazing was NAEA in Louisville! I love traveling, but it was relaxing to just drive there without the hassle of flying this year. Indiana was awarded with the Western Region's largest membership growth award, which means there were probably more people at the National convention than usual from Indiana. Thanks to the hard work of the AEAI board, and past-president Scott Miller for our growing membership. We are up to 391 members!

I hope that you too had a very rewarding time in Louisville, and have caught the "bug" that is NAEA! I know I did years ago. I look forward to the wonderful sessions, inspirational artists, and catching up with friends from all over the country.

The keynote speakers were especially moving this year. I'm officially the biggest fan of Roberto Lugo. His spoken word poetry on stage brought me to tears multiple times. I relate to his struggles and am inspired by how much he has accomplished.

Looking forward to our own convention at Herron in November, I am super excited to participate in the convention art camp in June! Make sure to mark your calendar and join us there!

Good strength to you all on finishing out the school year. May your coffee be strong, and your art shows be amazing, just like you!

Allyson Avery, AEAI President
president@aeai.org



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CONTACT is the newsletter of the Art Education Association of Indiana. It's published four times a year, spring, fall and winter (winter is digital only), and is sent to **ALL MEMBERS OF AEAI**. The convention issue is mailed to art educators in the state.

Articles, photos and art must be submitted by email. Photos must be received in a high-resolution jpg, A written release form must accompany any photos sent to editor. For correspondence, please include your name, address, phone number, email, along with your school or business address to:

Lori Kaylor
 2388 W. Division Rd.
 Huntington, IN 46750
lorizita1963@gmail.com

Submit ads in a high-resolution format pdf or jpg format. To request a contract form, please email Lori Kaylor, AEAI Editor, at lorizita1963@gmail.com

Deadlines for submission of articles, photos and advertisements are as follows:

- APRIL 4, 2025 - Spring issue
- AUGUST 1, 2025 - Fall issue
- OCTOBER 3, 2025 - Convention program
- DECEMBER 28, 2025 - Winter issue

AD PRICES FOR Commercial CONTACT MAGAZINE AND CONVENTION PROGRAM

ISSUE:		SPRING	FALL	Convention Program	WINTER	Save with all four (4) publications
DUE DATE:		APRIL 4	AUGUST 1	OCTOBER 3	DECEMBER 28	
1/4 PAGE	COLOR	\$85	\$100	\$85	\$85	\$275
1/2 PAGE	COLOR	\$150	\$200	\$150	\$150	\$500
FULL PAGE	COLOR	\$250	\$300	\$250	\$250	\$800



President Elect Message / Libba Willcox



Celebrating Our Art Education Community: A Time for Reflection and Connection

AEAI Members, as another school year comes to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on our growth, challenges, and triumphs as an art education community. Let's celebrate the magic of our work, the moments we've shared with students, and the impact we've made.

In this newsletter, I'll recap key takeaways from the NAEA Delegates Assembly, share excitement about Herron School of Art and Design hosting the 2025 AEAI Convention—including a well-deserved shoutout to Es Cole for their leadership—and encourage you to pause and appreciate your accomplishments this year.

Recap of NAEA Delegate Assembly & Important News

At the recent Delegates Assembly, state leaders gathered to exchange ideas, advocate for our profession, and address pressing issues in art education. In today's fast-changing political landscape, one constant remains: our collective commitment to fostering creativity in students. This year's assembly reinforced the strength of our network and the importance of standing together in our advocacy efforts.

Dr. Cris Guenter, Chair of the National Art Education Foundation (NAEF), highlighted funding opportunities for instructional practice, research, and leadership in art education. If you have not applied for a NAEF grant, consider submitting a proposal before October 1 to support professional development, curriculum projects, art equipment, or research.

NAEA Executive Director Mario Rossero provided updates on the State of the Association, noting that with over 15,500 members across seven divisions, our community is growing stronger. This growth brings changes, including a forthcoming dues increase. While it's not a decision taken lightly, it will support crucial initiatives like advocacy, professional development, and community vibrancy. To support members, NAEA will release a one-pager outlining key benefits, and an improved website is on the way to enhance accessibility to resources.

Excitement for the Upcoming Convention at Herron School of Art and Design

We are thrilled to announce that Herron School of Art and Design will host the 2025 AEAI Convention this November! This inspiring event will bring together educators from across the state to learn, connect, and celebrate the power of art education. A huge thank you to Es Cole, our Convention Chair, for their dedication in making this vision a reality. We look forward to gathering in Indianapolis to share ideas and strengthen our community! Please consider sharing your knowledge with others by submitting a proposal by June 1st.

President Elect Message

Taking Time to Reflect and Celebrate Our Accomplishments

As we wrap up the school year, it is easy to overlook the small victories and magical moments that have made this year special. My dean often shares a powerful reminder: each new school year brings the potential of a new box of crayons, symbolizing fresh beginnings and endless possibilities. Yet, as we close out the year, we sometimes feel like we are left with only the nubs and fragments of our efforts. But these "fragments" hold immense value—they represent the growth, connection, and creativity that we have nurtured throughout the year.

In times like these, it is our community, connection, and compassion that make our careers truly fulfilling. We are not just educators; we are creators of experiences, mentors, and catalysts for change. I encourage you to take some time to reflect on what you have accomplished this year—the lessons learned, the students who have inspired you, and the difference you have made in the lives of those you serve. This reflection can ignite a sense of renewal, allowing you to carry forward the energy and passion you have cultivated into the next school year.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to art education. Let us celebrate all that we've achieved and look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and creativity!

Sincerely,
Libba Willcox, AEAI President Elect
presidentelect@aeai.org



Editor Message / Lori Kaylor



The finishing line is close! We are beginning the closing of this year's planner. Art shows and awards are being done. Lessons are winding down. Our brains and patience are on the edge. I hope once your active school year is over you will focus on YOU! I'm already thinking of the things in my art space at home that I am going to dig into. Too many years I've put things off for later. In the last couple of years I've really been focused on ME. Maybe some day I can do the St. Mary's Retreat. It always seems to fall on my vacation time with my husband - but that's on my list of things to do.

I hope everyone has a great ending to their school year, and I know it seems early but if you are thinking of presenting for the 2025 AEAI Convention, be sure to click the link on page 22 to send in your proposals. And if you are in District 7,

PLEASE click on the the Google form link to help Michelle and Monica out - they want to SERVE YOU, but they NEED YOUR IMPUT! Your representatives are only as strong as their members.

Before I close out this article, I wanted to share a simple art lesson I literally thought of as I rolled into school that morning. The day was so warm, though we had showers closing in. I wanted a super simple lesson plan and I'm sure it's been done before, but I am taking credit for this one. *smiley face* I had tossed a couple boxes of crayons and copy paper in a carrier. I gave my kindergartners a clipboard and a piece of paper. They were told to choose ONE color of crayon (they used the same color for the entire lesson). I had them stand in a circle and draw either a line or shape on their paper. They could make it any size. They had to lay their clipboard on the ground in front of them. They were instructed - with me guiding them - to step to the right. With kindergartners, we had to practice this a couple of times, but they did it easily as we progressed.

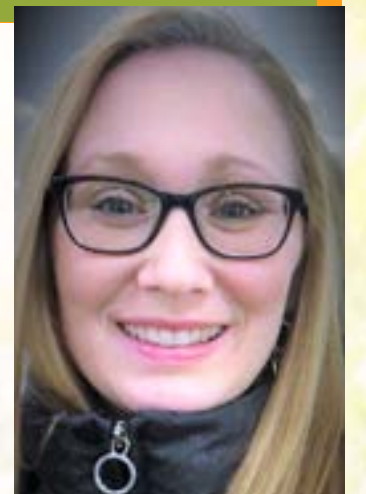
When they stepped in front of the new clipboard, they could draw one line or shape. After a couple of times, they asked if they could draw a smiley face, star, etc. I said it was ok, just be kind. They had so much fun! We finished just as it was beginning to sprinkle.

So that is my simple lesson. It could be used for anyone! Actually a fellow art teacher and I talked about taking a figure drawing workshop at one of the galleries in Fort Wayne someday and doing the same procedure when drawing our figures. We think it'd be fun to begin sketching, then switch. We both draw so differently, we're curious what we'd do together.

Have a happy and successful "what's left" school year. And don't forget to play this summer!
Lori Kaylor, AEAI Contact Editor
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District 2 Representative / Kristen O'Dell



Hello from District 2!

PLAN TO ATTEND: Save these dates to your calendar now so you don't forget!

QUARTER 3 / July 8th - Brenda's Lake House, Fort Wayne
10 am - 12 pm (PGPs available to registered AEAI members)

ECO PRINTING



Quarter 4: TBD - AEAI Convention District 2 Meeting
Time TBD (PGPs available to registered AEAI members)

CERAMIC TIC TACK TOE BOARDS



March Highlights:



Join our Facebook Group: AEAI District 2

District 2 Rep:
Kristen O'Dell
district2@aeai.org
odellk@mcsin-k12.org



Enjoyed the Easy Encaustic & Batik workshop held at Irwin STEM Magnet School, Fort Wayne on May 10. Thank you Camila Johnson for hosting this fun event.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events posted.

District 7 Representatives / Michelle Chastain & Monica Schotter



It was exciting to have the National Convention in our backyard this year! For the first time it was held in Louisville, KY which is just across the river from where our AEAI Fall Convention was held in 2024. It was great to see several District 7 members at the event but unfortunately, I did not get any pictures.

In an effort to help coordinate future activities for our District 7 page, please complete the short Google Form. [Go to Membership: Districts and Divisions: District 7](#)

The New Albany-Floyd County Schools Secondary Art Show will be held at the Floyd County Carnegie Library Cultural Arts Center in downtown New Albany from April 25 - May 10, 2025. This marks the 52nd year for the Annual Art Show & Competition. We are excited to once again partner with ArtSeed for the Paste-Up Mural Project (PUMP). Student works are printed on posters which are pasted up throughout Southern Indiana and Louisville to help promote the Louisville Photo Biennial.



Speed Art Museum - Ongoing Workshop: *Clothed Figure Drawing* First Thursday of the month 5:30-7:30. This monthly series provides visitors the opportunity to draw from a live model dressed in clothing inspired by art works currently on display at The Speed! Available spots are first-come, first-serve. Drawing materials, folding stools, and a limited number of easels are provided, though visitors are welcome to bring their own supplies (dry media only). This program is FREE with a generous grant from the Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program, making general admission on 1st Thursday free.



District 7 Representatives

Louisville Mosaic Lamp Making Workshop. Learn more about this event and register at pedalisaart.com They have locations in Bloomington and Cincinnati.



West Washington 7-12 grade Art Club below.



Michelle Chastain, Art Teacher at West Washington had a 7-12th grade Art Club field trip in February to Zimmerman Art Glass. Students could create blown glass ornaments or blown glass Easter eggs with Kerry Zimmerman and his son Brian Zimmerman. The entire club had so much fun as you can see below!



To end our exciting Art Club for the year, West Washington will have their final field trip on April 18th. They will go to the Eskenazi Art Museum, visit the Art & Architectural Building, the final stop will be at the Fashion and Design Building at the IU Bloomington Campus. Then the art club will go to Brown County and go to the local galleries and talk with artists in their shops and galleries.

We would love for you to complete the [District 7 Member Information Form](#). It can be found on the District 7 webpage. This will help us better serve you as your Representatives! Please let us know how we can assist you with workshops, networking. If you have ideas and suggestions to help serve art teachers please feel free to share them!

Michelle Chastain, District 7 Co-Representative
chastainm@wwcs.k12.in.us

Monica Schotter, District 7 Co-Representative
mschotter@nafcs.org

Elementary Division Representative / Ashley Shea



Hello fellow Elementary Art Teachers!

This time of year is a wonderful time to reflect on the successes in your student work. I typically like to designate my last quarter as “Art Show Season”. The Youth Art Month event at the statehouse was a wonderful way to commence the celebration of student success! I was so happy to see so many talented young artists attend this event.

Student art shows are much more than simple exhibitions of young talent; they are vital events that contribute significantly to the personal, academic, and social development of our students. By providing a platform for students to display their work, we foster their creativity, build their confidence, and help to strengthen the sense of community within our school families. Each year, I have the joy...and the exhaustion that comes with planning a school wide and district art show.

If there is anything that my experience has taught me, it is that families LOVE to see their student’s work and students LOVE to show off their success! The joy on the little faces as they share their process with the guests and pose for photos with their art work is priceless and far outweighs the exhaustion it takes to plan and orchestrate the event. Here’s a few tips that I have found to help me as I plan my shows:

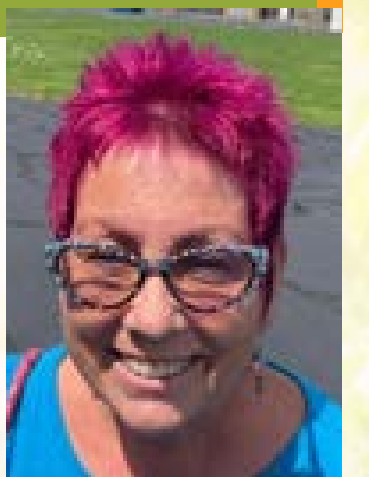
- ♦ *Let your students select their favorite work to show off!* I make sure to explain that all students will have a work on display. For 500+ works this can be a daunting task for any art teacher. By allowing the student to choose, it helps with the elimination process of many works that have been saved.
 - ♦ *Set a date and involve staff early:* communication and involving your staff in the event can help to make the art show more successful. I create “stations” for other staff to assist in. Whether it is running “Art Bingo” or facilitating a “Make and Take” activity, many staff are excited to be apart the event.
 - ♦ *Involve students with set up:* I am sure we can all agree that students love to help, so take that help! After all, our Indiana Academic Visual Arts Standards for presenting art work fosters this. Student can easily matte their own art, create labels and assist with hanging work around your gallery space.
- Planning an elementary art show can be an exciting and rewarding experience for both students and the wider-school community. These events not only give students an opportunity to showcase their creativity but also help them develop valuable skills, build their confidence, and foster a greater appreciation for the arts within the families. Whether big or small, an art show can make a lasting impact on students and bring the school community together in celebration of creativity. I wish you all the best as you finalize your school year!

If you have any questions on how I run my school wide art show or my district art show, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Ashley Shea, Elementary Representative
elementary@aeai.org



Middle School Representative / Brenda Betley



Hello members!

It is almost the end of the school year! I thought it would be fun to share some outdoor art lesson plans for those beautiful weather days. As the weather warms up, who doesn’t love to be outdoors? When the day calls for it, I will take my students outside and have them look at the clouds. If you have iPads or Mac-books they can take photos of the clouds. Using their creativity, they can draw what images they can see in the clouds. If there are no computers - no worries - have students sit in pairs and point out images they find. You can extend the learning by having them draw the images in the clouds or just draw the clouds. It is a huge “cloud pleaser.” *insert laughing emoji here*

Another end-of-the-year activity my students love is taking those old used-up markers outside. Use eye droppers with buckets of water to drop water into the markers with the ends removed; blow onto paper for unique abstract drip painting! These colorful papers can be used as a background for other projects, too.

And last, but not least, take chalk to the sidewalks, parking lots or other available areas and draw uplifting fun drawings to share with the whole school. Hang in there, summer break is almost here!

Brenda Betley, Middle School Representative
bsbetley@gmail.com



Stock photos used.

Secondary Division Representative / Brenda Jalaie



It's a Numbers Game and Shame on Me

I was at the NAEA Convention when my department head called me. We knew it was coming. We knew we'd see a decline next year, but it was more than I expected. As my high school art department grapples with the declining numbers caused mostly by the new GPS diplomas, we find ourselves in the difficult and unfortunate necessity of cutting a position. Thankfully our principal is planning to help our art person stay employed by getting certification to teach a computer applications course that is required for that new diploma. This situation raised some critical questions to me about the impact on student learning and our previous model's change. Shame on me for not considering these factors earlier! Had I thought about these questions and made a case to my principal, superintendent or even my legislators, could I have made a difference?

As we lose one whole art teacher, we lose 6 periods of courses each semester (12 classes). Currently, our department sees a lot of students with a variety of needs in their education experiences. Limiting visual art class offerings, limits availability of courses for students who require extra support, such as English as a New Language (ENL) and Special Education. We have these students to help them acclimate to a new environment and socialize with other students. We become that in between place to try out independency and immerse students where the pressures of academia can be a bit more relaxed.

1: *What happens to the students who "need a place" to acclimate or mainstream into typical suburban teen school culture? Will we be able to give them the same opportunities?*

As I think about our whole arts programming, I started looking at other school systems around me. Most have middle school programs which require a year-long music curriculum and only nine weeks of visual arts. Why? This highlights a concern for me about the breadth of creative education available. Are we embracing everyone with this model? Moreover, in these younger levels, are we setting up enough foundational skills such as fine motor control that are essential for younger students? Is this why I can hardly read some of my students' handwriting? Why they have trouble with small details?

2: *Why is Middle School Visual Art ONLY a 9-weeks required course for 5th and 6th graders in my school district?*

Why did I not ask this back in 2009 when this concept came on board? How can I push my school board to see the need for comprehensive arts education to continue in the middle school years in my community? We all have students who define our classrooms as their "happy places." Some of these students realize after taking a high school art class they enjoy the process of making and achieving success with challenges. Participation in artistic activities has been linked to reduced stress and anxiety, increased self-esteem, and enhanced emotional expression. These benefits are particularly vital in today's educational landscape, where students face various pressures. Moreover, arts education fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, empowering students to approach challenges creatively.

Secondary Division Representative

3: *When we push students to make decisions at 13 and 14 years old about the track they will pursue when they are 18, will we find more mental health pressures impacting them if they consider changing the track when they are 16?*

In light of new diploma paths, it's important to acknowledge that while public and private school governing bodies cannot lower the minimum expectations for the proposed GPS and GPS Plus diplomas, they do have the flexibility to enhance these requirements. For instance, some private institutions integrate additional religious courses or community service projects into their curriculums, broadening the educational experience. How often have we heard about well-rounded students? How often do we lead SEL programming on empathy? How often have we heard the phrase "life-long learner?" The arts are a wonderful place to embrace these experiences and practice these skills. I know my school board would agree the arts are important—but why are we not showing that we think they are important?

4: *Why wasn't I aware we could require extra coursework in a public setting? Why is my public school not continuing the requirement of a credit for a Fine Art even though the GPS diplomas do not require it? Wouldn't this set our school a bit above others by having this raised bar? Looking ahead, the landscape of art education in my district may undergo significant transformations. As I opened, the traditional roles for art teachers could evolve, with a growing emphasis on Career and Technical Education (CTE) certifications that align more closely with the demands of the business world. Is Visual Art only about graphics and promoting or selling something? No. But this is the world we live in; this concept translates to "how to make a living in art" for most adult people in the US. But my school is highly Enrollment Ready focused. My students mostly want to express themselves and be creative in their own terms. Most do not accept the extra challenges of "poster contests" or other graphics related opportunities that come their way. If we embrace the shift of Visual Arts to CTE Courses, we see the art teachers shifting roles. This shift opens up opportunities for advisory positions focused on work experiences, assisting students in developing their work experience portfolios and ensuring they meet various educational and vocational standards. But do we lose the kids who want that class period of making art, being offline and continuing a work of art for multiple days?*

5: *What will Indiana do to provide and record the most authentic work-based experiences while earning a still to be developed and determined market-driven credential, completing 100 hours of work-based learning and demonstrate skill development in Communications, Collaboration and Work Ethic? Who documents and approves that work? Who develops relationships for placements of these students in those internships?*

This set of questions might see a potential model drawn from Ohio's Work Experience Portfolio, where students can systematically document their work experiences. Such initiatives could not only enhance students' readiness for the workforce but also empower them to take ownership of their educational journeys. Would an art teacher be part of that art-related experience?

Appleton, Aleksandra. "Do Private Schools Have to Offer Indiana's Proposed New Diplomas?" Chalkbeat, Chalkbeat, 5 Aug. 2024, www.chalkbeat.org/indiana/2024/08/02/public-and-private-schools-must-adopt-new-diplomas/.

"Work-Based Learning for Students and Families." Ohio Department of Education, July 2019, education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Work-Based-Learning/Work-Based-Learning-for-Students-and-Families.

Secondary Division Representative / Brenda Jalaie



As we navigate these changes, the challenge remains: how can we ensure that ALL students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for both academic success and future careers while supporting their growth in becoming caring human beings? By addressing the limitations of our current systems and embracing innovative solutions, we can create a more inclusive and effective educational environment that not only values academic achievement but also prioritizes the health and well-being of all students.

The last and biggest question. Why did I wait so long to start this deeper thinking on all of these questions? I mean, why didn't this all hit me earlier? I was thinking about pieces at a time, but never putting them all together in one basket to see the relating issues. About 6 months ago I was wondering how students will get that work experience documented, but not until about a month ago did I question what my school district could do to support the arts more. That is the biggest one

I regret. Where was I even 10 years ago? Why was I letting that 9-weeks experience still be a thing? Why was I not saying "can't we continue the Fine Arts Credit for our school system?" Shame on me. I am truly disappointed in myself for not striking on this earlier.

Swirling in my head are all the wonderful and encouraging things I learned at the national convention with the deflating feelings of low worth of visual art education in Indiana. I am up one minute excited about changes I want to make to my courses, and down the next, feeling disrespected and irrelevant in the eyes of my state. Art teachers all know what we do IS important. We all know culture is a necessity, and creative makers are the ones who develop the culture of our times. Art Education in Indiana may be changing, but we will continue to be creative thinkers and solve this problem that has been put before us. Just keep talking. When opportunities present themselves to speak with those who have the power to make change, keep talking.

Brenda Jalaie, Secondary Division Representative

The Art Education Association of Indiana google group listserve is for art educators and others interested in art education to receive emails about art education.

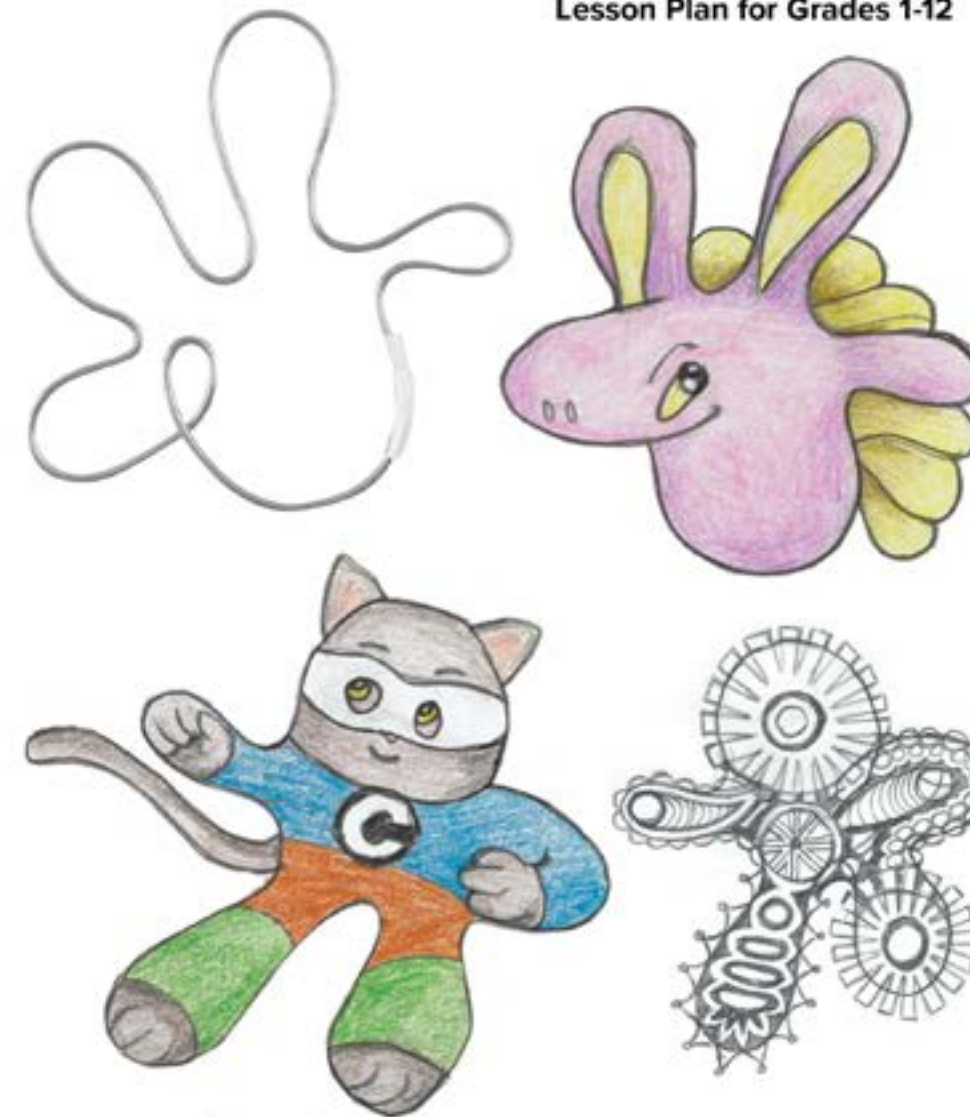
If you would like to be a member email leahmorgan51@gmail.com

School emails often block items sent; personal emails are usually better, but both can be used.



Contour Collaborations

Lesson Plan for Grades 1-12



Shape: Form wires into abstract shapes. Share shape with another member of the group.



Analyze: Trace the shape onto paper and study the outer contours.



Create: Draw images and designs using contour lines to define the inside of the shape. These images can be refined later with colored pencils or markers.

Spark creativity and fire-up imaginations with this "wired" surrealist-type activity.

Wires are bent and formed to create shapes, then shared and traced. The shape then becomes the contours of... what? That's entirely up to the artist!

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For more information, contact:

Ron Wise, Chair of Art and Design, Vincennes University
8-12-888-4465 | rwise@vinu.edu



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- Fashion Photographer
- Freelance Photographer
- Photo Lab Technician



Higher Education Representative / Libba Wilcox

Higher Education Update: Call for Leadership, Community, and Convention News

Dear Higher Education Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well! As we move through the semester, I want to take a moment to celebrate the vital work we do as higher educators and invite you to step into a leadership role in our organization.

Call for a Higher Education Representative

We are still looking for someone to step into the role of Higher Education Representative for AEAI. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with colleagues across the state, support professional growth, and contribute to the future of our field. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact highered@aeai.com. Your voice and leadership would be valuable.



Recent Higher Education Meeting Recap

Our recent meeting on March 3rd was a wonderful opportunity to come together, share program updates, and discuss upcoming plans for NAEA. I always appreciate these conversations, as they highlight the exciting work happening in art education across Indiana. I look forward to more opportunities to connect, exchange ideas, and support one another.

Looking Ahead: AEAI Convention at Herron

I am thrilled to share that the 2025 AEAI Convention will be hosted at Herron School of Art and Design this November! A huge thank you to Es Cole, our Convention Chair, whose dedication and hard work are bringing this event to life. This is an opportunity to present your research, share best practices, and engage with fellow educators; I encourage you to submit a proposal by June 1st and consider bringing your students along. It is always inspiring to learn from you and welcome new faces into our community. Thank you for your continued commitment to art education. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and hearing more about the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Libba Wilcox, AEAI Higher Education Representative
highered@aeai.org



To nominate art educators for awards at the 2026 convention, go to the below web connection. Nominees need to be members of AEAI.

*** Being on the listserve is different from membership in the organization.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFOnt9OxNCpgJ2wL4M9M6lQjaTcS8->

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



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For more information, contact:

Ron Wise, Chair of Art and Design
Vincennes University
8-12-888-4465 | rwise@vinu.edu



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- Print posters, and labels, license plates, window clings, cozies, key chains, and stickers
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Job Opportunities:

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- Sign Shop Owner
- Print Production Specialist
- Screen-printing press Operator
- Darkroom and Screen Prep Specialist
- Production Artist
- Sign Fabricator
- Sign Installer
- Sign Production Specialist
- Sign Production Designer



Youth Art Month / Elyse Abbott



Hello amazing art teachers!

I want to thank everyone that participated in YAM 2025 at the Indiana State House- my first year as YAM chair! We didn't have quite as many teachers register as last year, but the artwork that was submitted was all amazing.

This was also the first year that we had two YAM design flag winners- a K-6 and a 7-12 winner. Both flags were on display during the Kickoff Ceremony for YAM 2025. The K-6 winner- Elenaor LeGate's design was on display at the state house, while the 7-12 winner- Lucas Shireley on display at NAEA to represent the state of

Indiana.

I want to thank our Kickoff speakers Clyde Gaw- advocating for the arts as always, and our keynote speaker Dr. Webb Parker, from the non-profit Arts For Learning for his inspirational words to not only our student artists and their families, but also giving us art teachers a positive boost as well.

This year being my first year as YAM chair, there were a few things I changed from previous years that I feel were successful, and will only get better every year! These include having a "make and take station" where kids and families could color their own bookmarks to take home, as well as a coloring banner that anyone could add their own artwork too! There was even a small, but wonderful photo opp wall. This year there were cookies and drinks served as refreshments. But I feel the biggest- most successful change, was moving the art displays to the center of the south atrium, so the light was much better for the artwork and for photos. As well as it helped with the flow of moving traffic to view all the amazing artwork. I am happy with these changes, but am looking for any feedback from participating teachers as well for next year.

I want to give a huge shoutout to Libba Willcox, Clyde Gaw, Lauren Kibbe, Ashley Shea, Rachel Plunkett and her sons, Brenda Jalaie, and Holly Brimberry- without all of your major help for setup, the day of the kickoff event, and for tear down. My pregnant self could not have done any of it without all of you chipping in, so THANK YOU!!

I do hope that everyone keeps the Youth Art Month flag contest in mind for next school year, as well as participating in Youth Art Month 2026! If anyone has any questions, concerns, suggestions or feedback for me, please do not hesitate to reach out at yam@aeai.org. Enjoy the rest of your school year with your students, as I know summer is fast approaching for myself! And have a wonderful and relaxing summer break as well.

Elyse Abbott, Indiana Youth Art Month Chair
yam@aeai.org



Youth Art Month



AEAI CONVENTION 2025

BELONGING

November 7th – 8th

ARTISTS/MAKERS/EDUCATORS

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Submit your workshop, presentation, or space activation by June 1st.



Keynote: Paula Liz



Location:
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Theme:
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Keynote:
Paula Liz

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