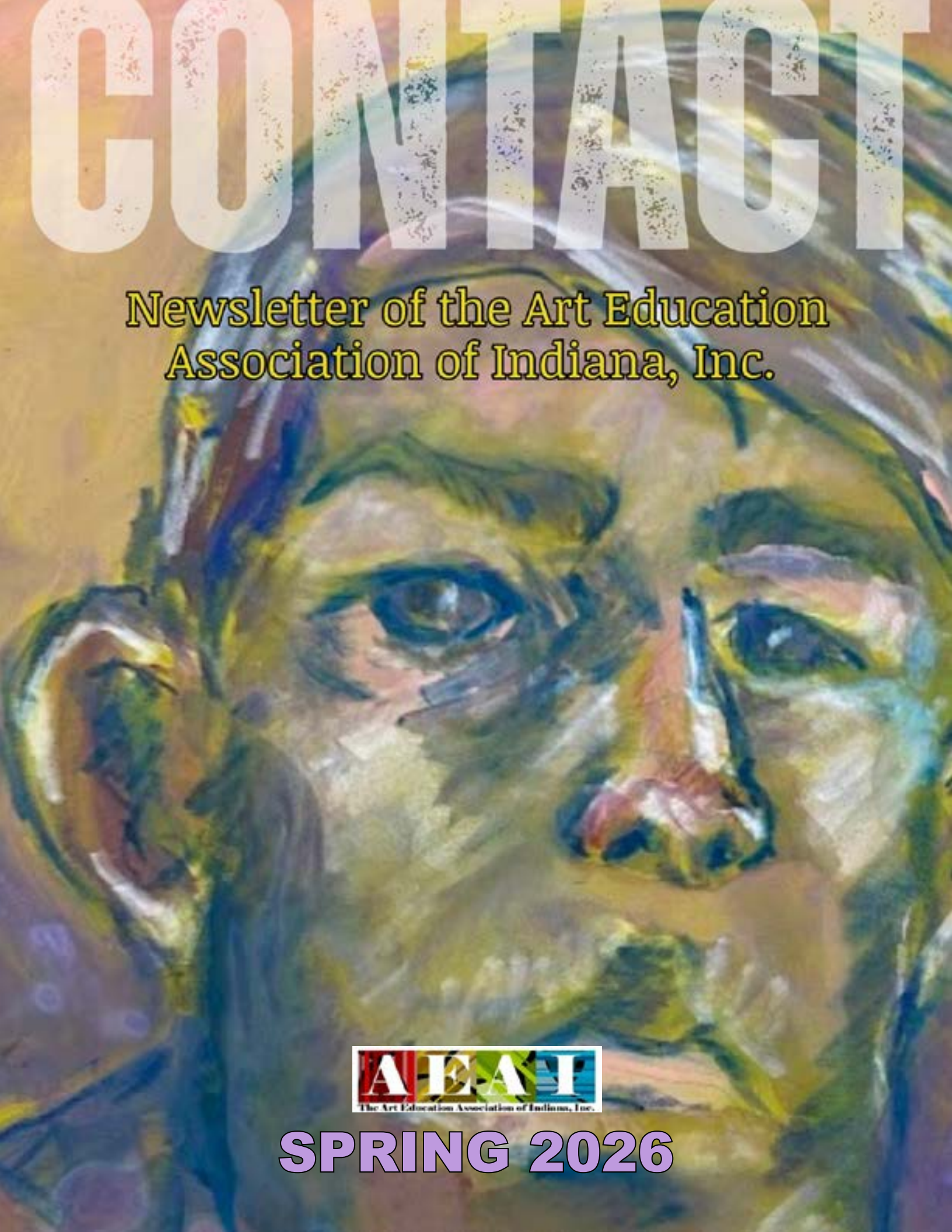
CONTACT

Newsletter of the Art Education Association of Indiana, Inc.



AEAI
The Art Education Association of Indiana, Inc.

SPRING 2026

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CONTACT is the newsletter of the Art Education Association of Indiana. It's published digitally four times a year: fall, Convention issue, spring and winter. Articles, photos and art must be submitted by email. Advertisements and 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

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

~~OCTOBER 3, 2025 - Convention program~~
~~DECEMBER 28, 2025 - Winter issue~~
APRIL 3, 2026 - Spring issue
AUGUST 8, 2026 - Fall issue

Cover art by teacher artist, Tonya Thomas

AD PRICES FOR Commercial CONTACT MAGAZINE AND CONVENTION PROGRAM

ISSUE:		FALL	Convention Program	WINTER	SPRING	Save with all four (4) publications
DUE DATE:		AUG 8, 2025	OCT 3, 2025	DEC 28, 2025	APR 3, 2026	
1/4 PAGE	COLOR	$100	$85	$85	$85	$275
1/2 PAGE	COLOR	$200	$150	$150	$150	$500
FULL PAGE	COLOR	$300	$250	$250	$250	$800

The Art Education Association of Indiana, Inc.

Find us on Facebook

President Message / Allyson Avery

How amazing was this year's convention at Herron! So many thanks to Es Cole and Libba Willcox for their amazing work this year. They were so thoughtful with every detail and the schedule was full of amazing workshops! Thank you again, your work was so well done it was a pleasure for me as President to know it was all going to go as planned!

YAM is almost here! Register ASAP if you will be attending. Our chairperson Elyse Abbott has worked tirelessly again this year to add even more fun to the event. As always what is an art show without cookies! As well as make and take tables and interactive elements. See you at the Indiana State House on March 1, 2026. Don't forget your t-pins or velcro dots!

I'm looking forward to NAEA in Chicago March 5-7. I hope to see many Hoosiers there! Please look for an email to RSVP to our state dinner. We will gather together on Friday night, and would love to see all of you, new and old to AEAI.

Never hesitate to reach out to me with your concerns and ideas for how we can keep growing as an organization. I feel more now than ever that what we do is important to the world. The youth is our hope, and art education is essential.

Allyson Avery, AEAI President
president@aeai.org

President Elect Message / Libba Willcox

Dear AEAI Members,

As we step into this new year filled with endless possibilities, I find myself thinking about joy, specifically about the kind of joy that lives in our everyday moments and reminds us why teaching art is one of the best careers we could choose.

Last week, a group of preservice teachers came to me with a question that has haunted me for years. They asked me, how do we remain engaged and passionate when we feel so overwhelmed with all that's on our plate? I felt deeply seen by their honesty. As I searched for words that would acknowledge their experience, celebrate their commitment to finding sustainable patterns, and honor the reality that teaching takes ongoing effort, love, and dedication, I had a revelation of my own. I need to celebrate the wins more, relish the joy-filled moments, and have more fun doing this work.

Maxine Greene reminds us that "…imaging things being otherwise may be the first step toward acting on the belief that they can be changed" (Greene, 1995, p. 22). Maybe that is what those preservice teachers were doing. Maybe they were imagining a practice filled with both passion and sustainability. And maybe that is what we all need to do; we need to imagine our teaching lives with more joy, more celebration, more moments of renewal.

So my wish for each of you this year is simple. Pay it forward. Be kind to yourselves. Celebrate what you are doing, because it is important and powerful. Above all, I challenge you to find the joy every single day.

This spirit of renewal and connection is exactly what I am carrying with me to NAEA in March, where I will have the honor of representing AEAI at the Delegates Assembly. I cannot wait to spend time with art educators who share this commitment to their students and our field, educators like you. Together, I know we can make a difference.

I am grateful for this community and excited for all that lies ahead this year.

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

Editor Message / Lori Kaylor

I can't believe it's February already! Right now I'm beginning to check off student art-work that I'll be placing in a big art show in Fort Wayne called, FAME. Like many things in our life, it can be a bit of a task, but my families - and even I - look forward to it every year. What do you look forward to every year? Honestly, the one project I look forward to is a silly, crafty thing I do with my first graders. I read the story, "I Don't Want to Be a Frog!" (and yes, I use silly voices); then my students cut circles, fold strips of paper to make a frog that will be hung via piece of yarn. I look forward to this project because when we do it, that means there's maybe a month left of the school year.

I also look forward to take the time to create art over the summer. If you belong to District 2, be sure to check out the upcoming creative meetings that will be held. And like always, if you have any ideas to share with your District or Division Representative, reach out to them. You can find their info at the end of this newsletter. They're ALWAYS looking for ideas for workshops, lesson plans, or things that might be happening in your area. **REMEMBER, our organization thrives on the dedication and effort of each of us - GET INVOLVED!** Maybe you don't feel comfortable being a representative - then send your representative lesson plans that have worked for you, send photos of some art you've created, or let them know of a fun, creative meeting idea. It's the little things we all do that helps.

Peace,
Lori Kaylor, CONTACT Editor
lorizita1963@gmail.com

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.

NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2026 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 5-7

REENVISION

CHICAGO, IL

OUTSTANDING **KEYNOTES!**

BISA BUTLER

YVETTE MAYORGA

JEFFREY GIBSON

2026 AEAI Convention / Nov 7 / Goshen, IN

NEW PROGRAM!

GRAPHIC PRODCTION

ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE

Want to own your screen-printing business or sign shop?

This certificate is the fast track to make it happen! In only one year, you will learn how to screen-print t-shirts and create signs, banners and other environmental graphics for a profit. In addition to the fun, hands-on learning experiences of making these products in our well-equipped labs, learn how to use Illustrator and Photoshop to create the designs and the fundamentals of design to make your designs more creative and more functional. Start a fun and exciting career with the independence of running your own business. Even if you do not want to have your own business, there are many opportunities for employment in this fast-paced and varied industry.

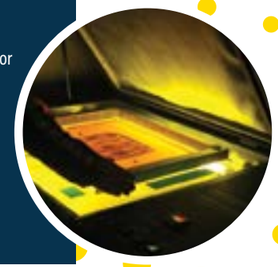
For more information, contact:
Ron Wise, Chair of Art and Design
Vincennes University
8-12-888-4465 | rwise@vinu.edu

Learn how to create:

- Screen-printed T-shirts and other apparel
- Print posters, and labels, license plates, window clings, cozies, key chains, and stickers
- 3D Printed items, such as product models and prototypes, as well as other promotional products

Job Opportunities:

- Screen-printing Shop Owner
- 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



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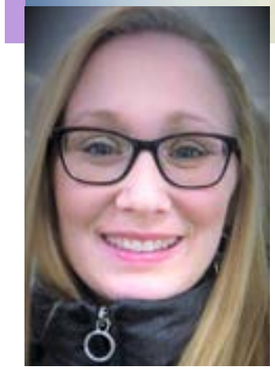
District 2 Representative / Kristen O'Dell



Hello from District 2!

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

Quarter 1: March 21st - Northridge HS, Middlebury
10am - 12pm (PGPs available to registered AEAI members)
Choice in Art with Kristen O'Dell

Quarter 2: June 11th - Brenda's Lake House, Fort Wayne
5pm - 7pm (PGPs available to registered AEAI members)
Clothing & Shoe Mixed Media with Brenda Betley

Quarter 3: September 12th - South Adams HS, Berne
10am - 12pm (PGPs available to registered AEAI members)
Book Binding with Beth Hargrove

Quarter 4: November 7th - AEAI Convention District 2 Meeting
Time TBD (PGPs available to registered AEAI members)
Scheduling & Sharing

Join our Facebook Group:
AEAI District 2

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

Convention Highlights:

Elementary Division Representative / Ashley Shea

Hello Artsy Ones,

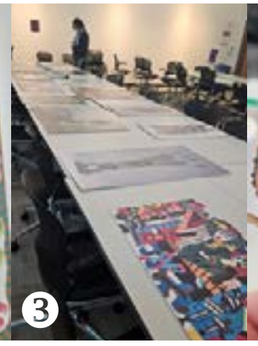
I hope this finds you deep into elementary art making! It was so nice to see many of you at our November convention, as a presenter and attendee I left feeling overwhelmed with an array of resources, lesson plans and strategies to dissect and bring to my own art room. If you have ever questioned if attending the AEAI convention each year is impactful, I can tell you it definitely is!

During one of my sessions I was tasked with trying a new approach to a familiar art making process. When I tell you that I could relate to the "rebellious elementary student who gets overwhelmed and shuts down"… I was there. During that process of "shut down" I was able to process how my students feel when presented with a task that causes discontent. During this session, I was able to sit quietly, think, brainstorm, and work through my uneasiness as my work time was compared to that of a typical elementary art class. My end result was unique and met the project requirements.

However, I began reflecting on the process our students must go through when met with their own roadblock for creativity. How do we as educator's foster that moment of frustration? How do we motivate them to keep trying when they want to quit? I'd love to hear some strategies you all use to meet students who are in a creative rut. I would love to create a list for others that may need some new ideas! Email your strategies to: elementary@aeai.org I'll share them with you all next time!

Ashley Shea, Elementary Representative
elementary@aeai.org

Art making moment, photo below: Create a 3D plant using recycled materials!



1. Attending the AEAI state convention with some of my colleagues from MSD Warren Township gave me time to recharge and collaborate with my peers.

2. In our elementary workshop, I shared a lesson in which we created sketchbook journals using quotes, imagery and symbolism to motivate and inspire. Love this one pictured here made by one of my attendees!

3. The guided gallery walk session with IU Bloomington gave me many art viewing and discussion prompts to help my students!

4. The best way to get those PGPs is to attend the convention!

ED&I Liason / Jasmine Begeske

An Open Letter to the Art Educators of Indiana:
A Message of Solidarity, Context, and Encouragement

To every art teacher in Indiana who brings curiosity, compassion, and creativity into the classroom: your work matters. In a time of intense political debate and rapidly shifting educational policy, navigating how to support all students can feel overwhelming. Yet the art classroom remains the heart of schools where empathy can take root, stories can be honored, and students can see themselves reflected in what they make and study.

This past year has brought seismic changes in how equity, diversity, and inclusion (ED&I) work is discussed, funded, and enacted across the United States. These changes reach deeply into education, cultural institutions, and civic life. Here in Indiana, schools and universities have faced funding cuts and program eliminations tied to anti-DEI policies. One notable example is Purdue University's loss of a $34.9 million multiyear grant that supported more than 13,000 low-income students statewide. Regardless of where one stands on terminology, these developments directly affect how educators conceptualize and deliver inclusive learning experiences. The National Art Education Association (NAEA) has not backed away from this work. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion remain essential to NAEA's mission and to its commitment to fostering an inclusive professional community. As this landscape continues to shift, it is more important than ever for art educators to remain grounded in their values and in the transformative power of art.

Current Flashpoints:

The Renaming of the Kennedy Center

In late 2025, the board of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, an institution originally created by Congress as a memorial to President Kennedy, voted to add President Donald Trump's name to its signage, rebranding it as the "Trump-Kennedy Center." The move, pushed by new center leadership installed during the Trump administration and opposed by many artists, lawmakers, and family members of Kennedy, has sparked backlash, legal challenges, and canceled performances by major artists. For many, this moment has become emblematic of broader debates over cultural authority, historical memory, and whom our public institutions are meant to serve.

ICE in Communities

Across the country, conversations about immigration enforcement, including actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), continue to highlight the human costs of border policy and detention practices. While incidents vary across Indiana, community grief over the associated deaths contributes to a broader climate of trauma. Students bring this trauma with them into our classrooms. As art educators, you are uniquely positioned to help students process, bear witness to, and express experiences connected to systemic violence.

World Conflict

When students encounter news coverage, social media posts, or adult conversations about the United States being in conflict with Venezuela, they may arrive at school carrying fear, confusion, or unanswered questions. For young people, global politics and military language are often difficult to understand. Headlines, images, and fragmented information can blur together, making it hard for them to distinguish between political rhetoric from the lived realities of people affected. Children may worry about safety, family members, or what conflict means for their own futures. For students with personal or cultural ties to Venezuela or Latin America, this information can be especially destabilizing, resurfacing trauma connected to displacement, instability, or loss. Even students without direct connections absorb anxiety from the constant churn of breaking news and adult reactions. Art classrooms can serve as essential spaces for processing these emotions. Through artmaking, discussion, and reflection, students can express uncertainty, ask questions, and explore complex ideas in developmentally appropriate ways..

Why Your Work Matters

In every discussion about creative choices, materials, and meaning, you help students explore identity, power, history, and community. Art cultivates perspective-taking and critical inquiry, capacities essential for equity, diversity, and inclusion. Even as policies scrub language or cut funding, the work continues; treating every student with dignity, centering voices that have been marginalized, and building spaces for dialogue and belonging.

The ED&I Hub on the National Art Education Association (NAEA) website offers a flexible, wide-ranging repository of multimedia resources to support educators grappling with interpersonal and societal issues that impact oppressed communities. This resource is designed to connect art educators with ideas for equity, diversity, and inclusion in practice. https://www.arteducators.org/resources/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/

Artist Spotlight: Tania Bruguera
For lesson inspiration, consider the work of Tania Bruguera, a Cuban artist with deep ties to Latin America. Her practice examines immigration, authoritarianism, and civic responsibility. Through her concept of arte útil ("useful art"), Bruguera reframes art as a tool for social engagement and change rather than passive observation.

Resources to Check Out:
How Can Art Be a Tool for Civic Engagement?
https://art21.org/read/conversation-starter-how-can-art-be-a-tool-for-civic-engagement/
Immigrant Movement International (Art21 video)

https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/tania-bruguera-immigrant-movement-international-short/

Guiding Questions:
How can art help people feel included?
What responsibilities do artists have to others?

Take time to take care of yourself. Your work is demanding, meaningful, and deeply human.

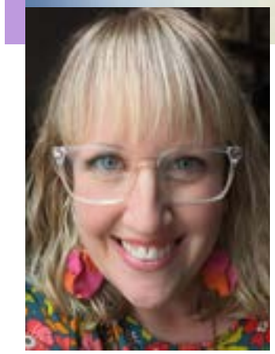
With gratitude and solidarity,
Jasmine Begeske
Indiana Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Liaison

Lesson Idea with an ED&I Focus:

Explore Cuban artist Tania Bruguera's concept of arte útil as art that helps people.

Design a poster that makes your school a more welcoming place.

Youth Art Month / Elyse Abbott



My goal since becoming YAM chair was to create a YAM scrapbook to submit to NAEA to represent our wonderful state of Indiana.

Unfortunately, the scrapbook went on the backburner during my pregnancy and then having my baby, but I'd love to get all event information, photos and any evidence of celebrating the arts in our schools to get Indiana recognized for YAM this year!

I'll be making a folder for you to drop and share photos in, but in the meantime, if there's anything you would like to share, please email to yam@aeai.org

Hello all of you amazing art teachers!

I know things have been quiet on the YAM end, but I have just been busy soaking up all of the baby snuggles I possibly can with my now four month old! I can't believe how fast time is flying already… and since it is - that means that our annual Youth Art Month Kickoff event is here! This year our kickoff event is Sunday March 1st, 2026 at 3pm at the Indiana State House in downtown Indianapolis.

Registration for teachers will be a Google Form. I am so excited for our day of celebrating what we do, and those special people we do it with - our students! At the kickoff event we will have a few speakers as always, our awards ceremony, and there will be make-and-take stations once again this year - as well as photo opps, and refreshments while the art display is open to view and take photos!

Like years prior, setup for YAM will take place between 10am-12pm on March 1st, with judging happening between 12-2pm. If you are able to come in person to hang your art submissions yourself you can, or if not you will be able to mail them to me to hang on your behalf.

We also have a special collaboration for middle and high school teachers. There will be a separate judged event that will also be on display along with our YAM artwork - and that is for the Indiana Wildlife Artists! There will be six awards given with cash prizes - 2 for middle school artists and 4 for high school artists. The IWA is very specific on what animals and plant-life can be included in the artwork for this juried show- so please ensure students do not include anything (plants or animals) that are at all domesticated.

If anyone would like a more specific breakdown of what is allowed and not, please email me at yam@aeai.org, and I would gladly share that information with you! Labels for the Indiana Wildlife Artists artwork can be found on page XX, and when registering for YAM there will be a question for those of you submitting wildlife artwork too.

Once again this year for ***YAM teachers will be able to enter a total of 10 student pieces*** so that way we can accommodate all the art submitted for YAM as well as the IWA artwork. **Once your artwork is chosen - please let your students and families know early, so they can all hopefully make it to our kickoff event!** This year will be a slightly longer awards ceremony given the IWA artist winners will be announced, as well as the YAM art winners, and both YAM art flag winners. So much to celebrate and so many students to highlight this year!

I can't wait to see all of the amazing art you are bringing to show off our student artists this year, and can't wait to spend the day with our amazing art teacher community! I know YAM is only once a year, and you don't hear from me much in between - but I would LOVE for you all to share with me what you are doing in your classrooms/schools/communities to further celebrate Youth Art Month throughout March.

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

YOUTH ART MONTH℠
COUNCIL FOR ART EDUCATION

YAM CELEBRATION 2026

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026

Location: Indiana State House, Indianapolis, IN

Artwork Set-Up/Hanging Time: 10 am - 12 Noon

Award Ceremony/Reception: 3 - 5 pm

Free parking is available on the State House parking lot until full.

Metered parking lot is located across from the State House, as well as regular street parking.

PRIZES:

Student Grand Winner: $500 BLICK gift card

Teacher of Student Grand Winner: $1000 BLICK gift card

Student & Teacher prizes for all grade-level category winners win art supplies & gift cards, dontated by BLICK Art Materials, valued at $300 per winner.

STEP 1: REGISTER FOR YAM
Registration ends: February 20, 2026

*LINK HERE: **YAM 2026 Registration Form***

There are four categories

- Lower Elementary (K-2)
- Upper Elementary (3-5)
- Middle School (6-8)
- High School (9-12)

STEP 2: STUDENT ARTWORK

Mail artwork to submit, OR you can bring the artwork
to the exhibition date during the set-up time.
Please select ONE option on the registration form.

Student information form MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER BEFORE SUBMISSION.
No labels on the back of art. Information labels are provided on the next page for you to print and copy.

PRESENTATION:

Matte or mount work on lightweight matte or Bristol board.
*DO NOT USE FOAM CORE, CANVAS STRETCHERS OR FRAMES.
**If using matte board or something thicker thatn posterboard to hang art, please plan ahead to use Velcro dots, rather than T-pins to hang.

Please try to keep the mats to no more than
2-inches around, to help save space. Thank you!

Mail art to: Elyse Abbott
9246 Middlebury Way
Camby, IN 46113
Please include return postage!

QUESTIONS? Contact Elyse through email: yam@aeai.org

Artwork Labels:

Artwork Title:_____
Student Name:_____
Grade:_____
School:_____
Teacher:_____

Artist Statement (optional)

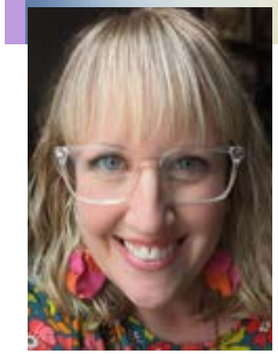
_____
_____
_____

Artwork Title:_____
Student Name:_____
Grade:_____
School:_____
Teacher:_____

Artist Statement (optional)

_____
_____
_____
_____

Indiana Wildlife Artist Art Show labels / Elyse Abbott



Hello all you amazing middle and high school art teachers! For those of you that are planning on submitting wildlife artwork to the Indiana Wildlife Artists student art show at YAM this year- I have attached the required labels to this email.

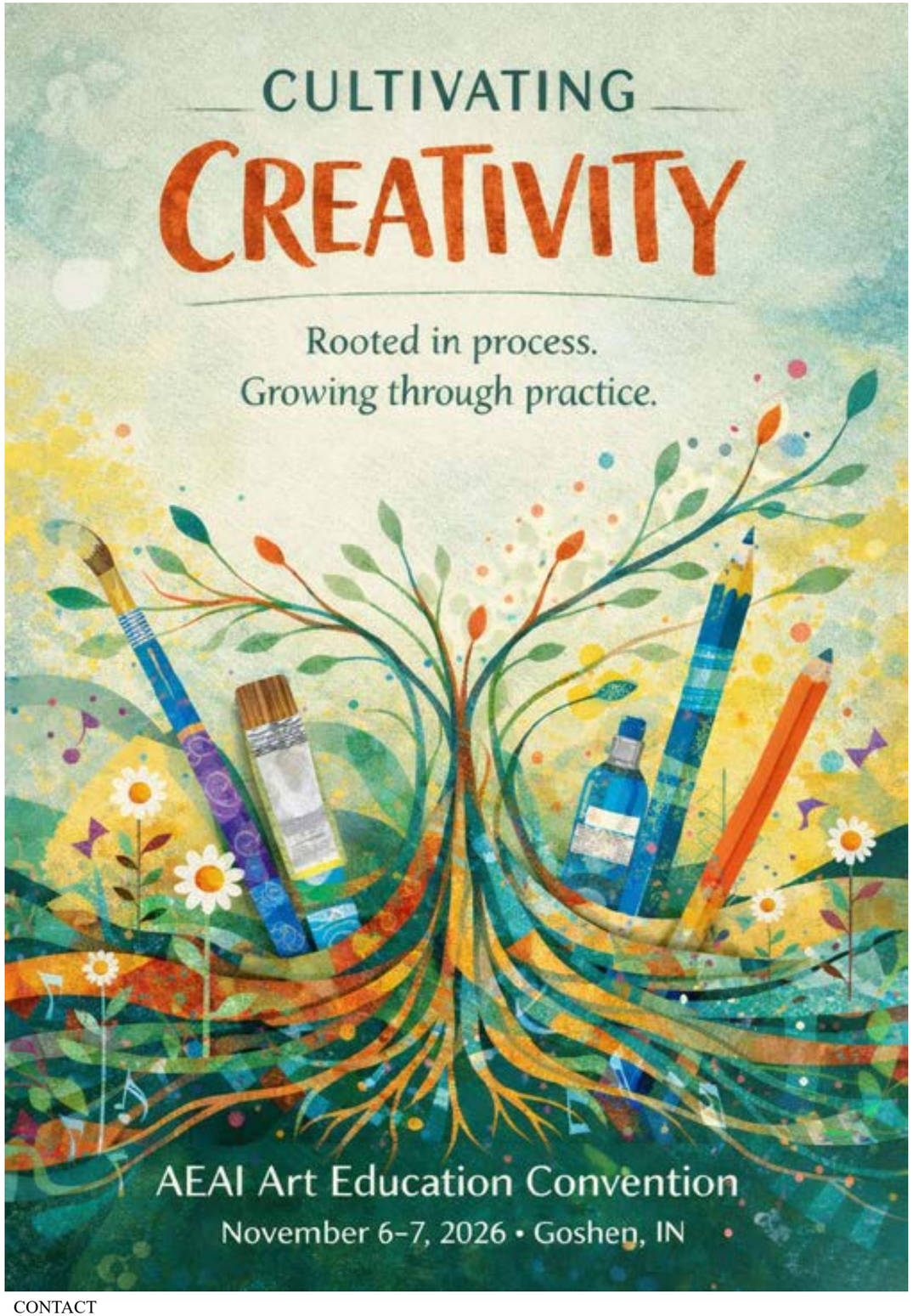
Also, to help give me an idea of how many pieces to expect for display- if you are planning on participating could you please let me know how many pieces of wildlife art you are entering?

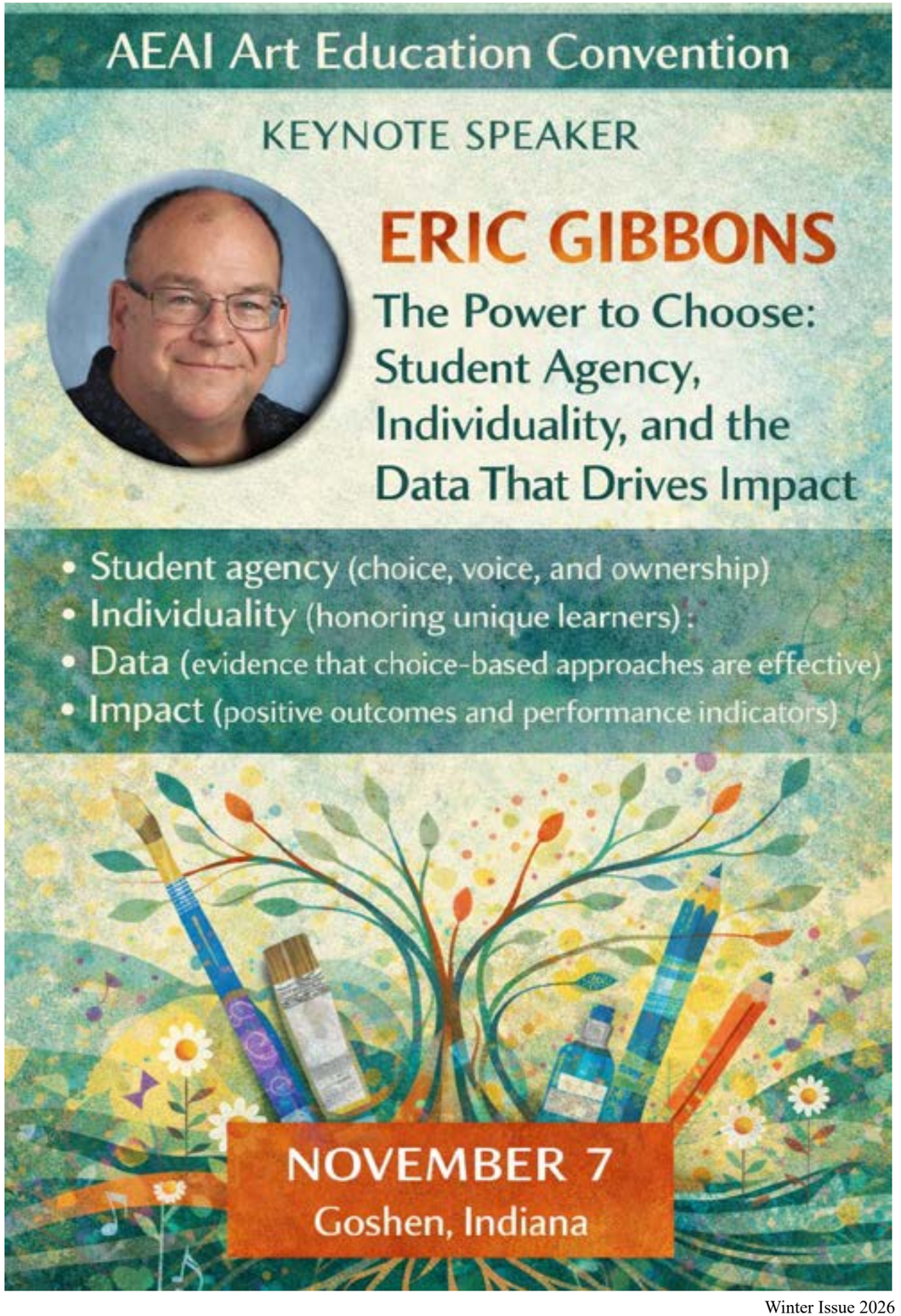
Thank you so much for your help and interest in the Indiana Wildlife Artists show as well as YAM!

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

IWA ARTWORK LABELS: Please be specific with wildlife name! (ex: Not just bird, but pelican or cardinal.)

- - - -


CULTIVATING
CREATIVITY
Rooted in process.
Growing through practice.
AEAI Art Education Convention
November 6–7, 2026 • Goshen, IN


AEAI Art Education Convention
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ERIC GIBBONS
The Power to Choose:
Student Agency,
Individuality, and the
Data That Drives Impact
• Student agency (choice, voice, and ownership)
• Individuality (honoring unique learners):
• Data (evidence that choice-based approaches are effective)
• Impact (positive outcomes and performance indicators)
NOVEMBER 7
Goshen, Indiana

Artists' Celebration Cupcakes

Lesson Plan for Grades 3–12

Design: Cut liner and cake board from watercolor paper and design for selected artist. Form cup by joining ends of liner.

Construct: Fill liner with a ball made of scraps, covered with felt. Glue into cup.

Decorate: "Frost" cupcake with Liquitex Basics Light Modeling Paste. Design a cake topper to celebrate the contributions of the selected artist.

Connect with and celebrate a renowned artist with a faux cupcake designed to honor their achievements.

SCAN TO VIEW LESSON PLAN

Visit the BLICK vendor booth for your **FREE** lesson plan brochure and product sample!

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DONORS CHOOSE

NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Official Membership Form

1 Membership Type (check one)
❑ New
❑ Renewal
NAEA I.D. Number _____

2 Membership Category
❑ Active Professional ❑ Early Career Professional** ❑ Associate
❑ Preservice* ❑ Retired ❑ Institutional (includes *Studies in Art Education*)
See membership category descriptions on the back of this form.
*College/University _____
*Expected Graduation Date ____/____/____ (mm dd yyyy)
*Verification of student status is required for Preservice membership. Please submit a copy of a valid student ID with this form.
**Discounted membership dues is granted for up to three consecutive years. Each year must be paid at the discounted rate.

3 Membership Division (check only ONE in which you spend more than 50% of your time)
❑ Elementary ❑ Middle Level ❑ Secondary ❑ Museum
❑ Higher Education ❑ Supervision/Administration ❑ Preservice
❑ Other _____

4 School Type (check one)
❑ Public ❑ Private ❑ Charter ❑ Other _____

5 Contact Information
Name _____
School/Organization _____
The following is my ❑ Work Address ❑ Home Address
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
County _____
The following is my ❑ Home Telephone ❑ School Telephone ❑ Mobile Telephone
**Telephone _____
*** Email _____
** By providing your cell phone number, you are "opting in" to receive periodic text messages from NAEA.
***By providing your e-mail address, you agree to receive information sent electronically regarding member benefits.

6 Payment Information
❑ Check Enclosed
Checks, made payable to NAEA, may only be submitted with this form via physical mail.
Want to pay by credit card? Visit us online at arteducators.org.

7 Membership Dues
See membership dues rates on the back of this form. $_____

8 Subscription and Support $_____
❑ Subscription to *Studies in Art Education* for the member price of $20
❑ Donation to the National Art Education Foundation $_____
❑ Donation to the NAEA Advocacy Fund $_____

9 Total Payment Amount
Including membership fee and any added contributions or subscription. $

10 Complete and submit this form to:
Member Services Team, NAEA
PO Box 98361, Washington, DC 20090

Contact NAEA
E-mail: Members@arteducators.org
Join online at: www.arteducators.org
Fax: 703-860-2960
Call us toll-free at: 800-299-8321

CODE: NAEA-25

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Open Studios

Leadership Opportunities

National Convention Discounts

Webinar Series ($588 Value)

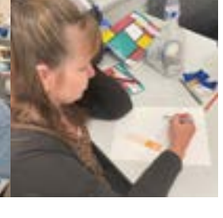
Many art educators came together for a fun, invigorating weekend

Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis was the location for sharing knowledge and camaraderie, as many art teachers from around Indiana joyfully converged for the annual Art Educators Association of Indiana convention.

The three-day event was filled with many workshops as well as gaining insight from the keynote speaker, Paula Liz. Some of the workshops attendees were able to do were: metalsmithing a stamped pendant, stained glass, basic enameling, screen printing, the traditional Japanese paper art of Suminagashi, exploring mixed media and so much more!

Perusing over the student artwork display, placing bids in the silent auction, and making purchases at the Artisan's Sale, along with fun workshops made for a very rewarding weekend.

2025 AEAI Convention Highlights



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