

# PERSPECTIVES



**Alabama Art**

**Education Association**

**SPRING 2025**  
**NEWSLETTER**



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aaeanewsletter796@gmail.com

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For more info from this organization please visit

[www.myaaea.org](http://www.myaaea.org)

or contact

[aaeabusinessoffice@gmail.com](mailto:aaeabusinessoffice@gmail.com)

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

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When I first accepted the role of President-Elect three years ago, with the understanding that I would transition into the position of President, it was difficult to fully grasp what that might entail. While the AAEA Policy and Procedures Manual outlines the duties of each Board member, none of them explicitly explain how to "be a leader." Thankfully, the Past Presidents before me set a remarkable example of leadership and have provided invaluable guidance along the way. I firmly believe that any successes we've seen during my first year as President can be attributed to those past leaders, our current board, and, of course, the active participation of our members.

From the very start, I emphasized our goal to "Make Membership Meaningful." (And no, it wasn't just because of the catchy alliteration!) This was about creating tangible value for our members through events, activities, and collaboration. I'm proud to say that we've made significant strides in this direction. Our "Make it Monday" virtual PD sessions have been a great success, and our Regional Reps have been busy organizing events within their communities to engage members. Our recent conference was incredible, our social media is consistently up-to date, and we've seen enthusiastic participation in both the YAM Flag Design Contest and the VACA show. The Perspectives Newsletter continues to be well-organized and informative, and our Threadless Shop has experienced exciting bursts in sales thanks to several new design additions. We'll be bringing back the Swag Design Contest this year –be sure to keep an eye out for the deadline and contest details.

But perhaps most exciting of all is the growth of our membership: **we've increased by 12% over the past year, from 217 members in January 2024 to 244 members in February 2025.** I'm confident that as long as we continue showing up, this growth will continue.

Speaking of "showing up," I must give a special shout-out to Ashley Culwell, our Tech Chair, who has truly stepped up since taking on her role. She has redesigned our website to meet the NAEA Rubric, and we were thrilled to receive an Honorable Mention in Category II from NAEA for Website Design! We also have other amazing AAEA members who will also be recognized at the NAEA Convention: Tammie Clark, awarded the NAEA Marion Quin Dix Award, and Tricia Oliver, who was awarded the Southeastern Middle School Art Educator of the Year! Our association is truly full of Art Teacher Rockstars.

With a new year comes a few new changes. I would personally like to welcome two new interim board members: Angela May – Museum Division Chair and Natalie Roig-McKnight – Supervision and Administration Division Chair! We look forward to all the exciting ideas and innovations they will bring to the board and our organization.

As we continue through the school year, I encourage each of you to find professional joy by participating in creative activities outside of the classroom. It's so important to practice what we teach. You don't need to create a "masterpiece" every time—embrace the freedom to make "bad" art, collage with scrap paper, journal, sketch, or experiment in any way that keeps you in practice. Remember, it doesn't have to be perfect. Give yourself the same grace that you give your students. You are an art teacher, and you are an ARTIST. As Cassie Stephens reminded us at the 2021 Conference, you can be both!

Once again, the AAEA Board is here for YOU, our members!  
Stay courageously creative and bless your heART!

-Amanda Youngblood



# TESTIMONIALS

*Making Membership Meaningful*

## AAEA

### WHY JOIN?

" Funny story....I didn't have a choice! When I first started teaching art the in the fall of 1991, my dear friend and Art Department Head Phyllis Horne gave me the paperwork to join AAEA and it was already filled out and paid for! She gave me the dates for the Annual Fall Conference and told me to put them on my calendar and that I was going to attend. If any of you know Phyllis, you know that you just say, "Yes Mam". She taught me the importance of being a member in my professional organization and that networking with your peers will help develop strong relationships and enrich your curriculum. Over the years, all of these have been proven accurate. In my 34 years as an AAEA member, I have found my people! Thank you Phyllis! "

-Felicia Olds, Secondary Chair

"I joined AAEA because I presented at the 2020 virtual conference organized by the fabulous Mary Jane Coker. I thoroughly enjoyed every step of the process and was so impressed by the engagement of all of the educators at this virtual event. As a museum educator who specializes in digital resources and online platforms, I was rejuvenated by the energy and resilience of this group of Alabama art educators! I knew then that this was an organization I wanted to be a part of for a long time to come."

- Angela May, Museum Chair, Birmingham Museum of Art

"What got me hooked on joining AAEA was the community built from being a member. I went to my first conference and had an amazing time and learned so much from not only the workshop but also from the social events. I see it even more today through AAEA Make-it Mondays where new lessons and opportunities are introduced each month. It's nice to know that I have this community to reach out to for help and problem-solving beyond your school.."

- Austin Smith, Advocacy Chair, Preservice/Mentorship

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

# NOMINATIONS



## Call for Nominations

Each year the NAEA/AAEA Awards Program offers the opportunity to nominate members who are outstanding art educators in all Divisions and Regions, and from each state and province for state/national recognition.

Nomination are now open!  
Deadline for all nominations -  
April 15, 2025

Click to link to the Nomination Form  
for a description of all awards  
available.

[2025 Nomination Form](#)



# COMMUNICATING WITH ADMINISTRATORS ABOUT SUPPLIES AND BUDGETS IN THE ART CLASSROOM

## Understanding the Administrator's Perspective

As art teachers, we often face challenges when advocating for our classroom needs. Sometimes this can be because as art teachers we do not have the tool kit to communicate with administrators or administrators do not fully understand our discipline. Administrators must allocate resources across multiple departments while balancing budgets, scheduling, and curriculum requirements. By approaching these discussions with clear data and practical solutions, we can effectively communicate the importance of proper funding and scheduling for a successful art program.

## Advocating for Art Supplies and Budget

Administrators may not fully understand the scope of supplies required for a high-quality art education. Unlike traditional classrooms that rely on textbooks and digital resources, art classes need consumable materials that deplete quickly. Framing your conversation around student learning outcomes, curriculum standards, and long-term investments will strengthen your case, with many administrators. As an art teacher you must also understand that administrators think in numbers and dollar signs. I tell art teachers to think of administrators like their students, the old saying because I say so or just because doesn't fly anymore. You must be able to explain why! Knowledge is power in this case, so power yourself up.

Here are some talking points for when talking to your administrator about your supplies/budget:

**Consumable vs. Durable Materials:** Explain the ongoing need for paper, paint, clay, and other perishables while also planning for durable supplies like brushes, easels, and drying racks. Also understanding that Title 1 funds must be used on consumable items is key as well. Make sure to prioritize your materials, because you never know when they might order.

**Per-Student Cost:** Break down the cost per student to illustrate the financial need clearly. This is what scares many art teachers understanding how to come up with a reasonable budget or cost per student. This is how all administrators think and have to budget with their central office. Now in my experience, I have seen people throw a number out there and not have the support to back it up.



For example, if you say \$30.00 per student should be your budget, the first question would be how did you come up with \$30.00. I have always based my budget cost on consumables because that is what is used the most. I would make a list of materials that I would need to order and come to a grand total for my order. Then divide the grand total of my order by the number of students I would teach in that year.

## Alternative Solutions for Budget Constraints

Administrators are always going to have concerns about budget limitations. This is your opportunity to offer creative solutions to help the administrator with the costs. By doing this you not only are helping the administrator, but they see you in a collaborative light. You can seek community donations from various entities. You can apply for grants or have fundraising through your classroom (I recommend artsonia).

## Conclusion

By presenting clear data, anticipating potential concerns, and offering collaborative solutions, art teachers can build strong relationships with administrators. When advocating for supplies and budgets, focusing on how these factors enhance student learning and success will make your case more compelling.

We can talk all day long about numbers or terms; however, your best advocacy for your program with administrators is what you do overall, not just in the classroom. Entering your student work in competitions and featuring your students is always your best piece of evidence. I tell teachers yes we do competitions and art shows for our students because they deserve it; however, your administrators want your school to be the best and featured. Remember, administrators want what's best for students—help them see how supporting the arts is an investment in their education and overall school culture.

-Natalie Roig-McKnight  
Supervision/ Administration Chair



[aaeasupervision@gmail.com](mailto:aaeasupervision@gmail.com)

# Around the State

## Southern Region 1

The AAEA Southern Region will present a Youth Art Month Student Art Show, a celebration of young artistic talent, hosted by USA Libraries Art Galleries. The exhibition will be displayed in the Mary Elizabeth and Charles Bernard Rodning Gallery of Art, located at the University of South Alabama. This showcase, running from March 5th to April 29th, 2025, offers a platform for students from the Southern Region across Mobile and Baldwin counties to exhibit their creative works, highlighting the importance of art education.

The opening reception for the show will be held on March 20th, 2025, from 4-6 pm, where visitors can meet the young artists and explore their work in person. The reception offers a chance to celebrate these students' achievements and the dedication of educators who nurture their creativity. Don't miss this exciting and vibrant exhibition, which will be up for over a month, showcasing the diverse talent of youth artists in the region.- [aaea.vaca1@gmail.com](mailto:aaea.vaca1@gmail.com)

## Eastern Region 2

The Eastern Region has been bustling with artistic activities! On March 1st, Emillie Dombrowski and Sara Hand Custer from the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center in Auburn, hosted "A Day in Clay." This engaging event welcomed community members to the ceramic studio, where children crafted pinch pot fruit bowls and adults created salsa bowls. It was a delightful family-friendly event that highlighted the joy of working with clay.

Additionally, AAEA members Tricia Oliver and Rebecca Wall organized events at The Art Haus in Opelika. Tricia led a "Watercolor Basics" class, while Rebecca hosted a glaze painting party. Attendees, including art teachers and artists, learned fundamental watercolor and glazing techniques. Excitingly, Tricia and Rebecca are planning to collaborate with the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for an Art Educator Art Show, expected to be displayed by the end of October. Stay tuned for more details!

Eastern Region hopes to host a summer mini conference. We will be looking for presenters soon, so keep on the lookout for the sign up.- [aaea.vaca2@gmail.com](mailto:aaea.vaca2@gmail.com)



### Western Region 3

Greetings from West Alabama! The spring semester has been a blur of activity for all the art teachers I know. Our region has yet to connect in 2025, but things are coming... A social gathering before school ends and a learning experience over the summer are in the works for our teachers. Stay tuned for details! Finish the school year strong everyone- we can do it! I can't wait to see all of you at NAEA in Louisville! - aaea.vaca33@gmail.com

### Central Region 4

2025 is off to a great start for the Birmingham area Art Teachers. We enjoyed connecting with AAEA Members at the BMA's Educator Night on February 19th.

Be on the lookout for two more teacher art making events for the Spring Semester!

Congratulations to the students of Amanda Knight (Pelham Oaks Elementary) and Julie Harrison (Clanton Elementary) for recognition in the State Superintendent's Visual Art Show - if your students were also included in the show be sure to let us know so that we can connect with you at the awards ceremony in March! -aaea.vaca4a@gmail.com

### Northern Region 5

North AL Region is hosting our 3rd annual mini conference! It will be held at the ACA in Decatur on Friday June 6th. If you would like to present something, please email Ashley: aaea.vaca5@gmail.com

## URGENT CALL FOR PRESENTERS

**NORTH AL MINI CONFERENCE  
ACA IN DECATUR  
FRIDAY JUNE 6  
DEADLINE: MARCH 17**



**CONTACT ASHLEY:  
AAEA.VACA5@GMAIL.COM**



# 2025 VACA WINNERS

The Virtual Art Competition of Alabama is a juried online art competition open to all students K-12 in public or private schools of AAEA members. The goal of the Virtual Art Competition of Alabama is to promote the work of our students from across the state in a central and easily accessible location for all. This is our third annual exhibition!

- Lucy Gafford Kastrantas, VACA Chair- aaeavae@gmail.com

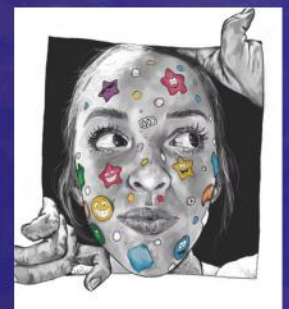
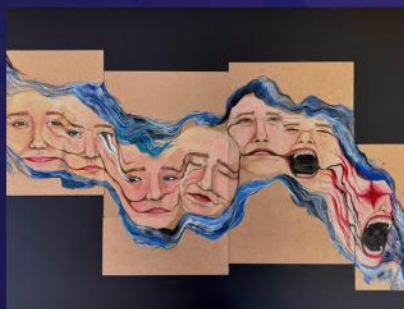


**Pie Clinard- 10th Grade- Lee-Scott Academy**  
**"Playing by Lamplight"**  
**Best of Show**



## 12TH GRADE

- 1st Place:** E. Backman, 12th Grade, "Prosperity," Bayside Academy
- 2nd Place:** M. Bell, 12th Grade, "Ethereal Wings," Briarwood Christian School
- 3rd Place:** A. Midyett, 12th Grade, "Cermic Vase 2," Bayside Academy
- Honorable Mention:** C. Reid, 12th Grade, "Turning Pages," St. Paul's Episcopal School



## 10TH - 11TH GRADE

- 1st Place:** P. Clinard, 10th Grade, "Playing by Lamplight," Lee-Scott Academy
- 2nd Place:** O. Baehr, 11th Grade, "Volatile Dysregulation," Robertsdale High School
- 3rd Place:** P. Snell, 10th Grade, "Encased," Bayside Academy
- Honorable Mention:** E. Quint, 11th Grade, "Stickers," Fairhope High School



### 7TH - 9TH GRADE

**1st Place:** B. Westmeyer, 8th Grade, "Whispers Beneath the Surface," Academy for Academics and Arts

**2nd Place:** B. Pazmino, 8th Grade, "The Leopard," Springville Middle School

**3rd Place:** A. Baggett, 9th Grade, "The Heart of the Game," Fairhope High School

**Honorable Mention:** S. Won, 7th Grade, "Osprey," East Samford School



### 5TH - 6TH GRADE

**1st Place:** D. Carter, 5th Grade, "2024: A Space Odyssey," Academy for Academics and Arts

**2nd Place:** I. Heena, 5th Grade, "Beneath the Waves," Academy for Academics and Arts

**3rd Place:** A. Johnson, 5th Grade, "Music Pieces," Pick Elementary School

**Honorable Mention:** L. Andrews, 5th Grade, "Still Brainstorming," St. Paul's Episcopal School



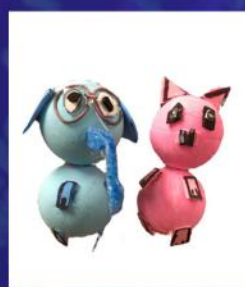
### 3RD - 4TH GRADE

**1st Place:** T. Bridier, 4th Grade, "Untitled," Bagley Elementary School

**2nd Place:** C. Linhoss, 4th Grade, "Green Moth," Ogletree Elementary School

**3rd Place:** J. Huddleston, 4th Grade, "Emerald Dragon Eye," McCalla Elementary School

**Honorable Mention:** B. Delaney, 3rd Grade, "Queen Janet," Crestline Elementary School



### PK - 2ND GRADE

**1st Place:** K. McRae, Kindergarten, "Feathers," Academy for Academics and Arts

**2nd Place:** N. Nguyen, 2nd Grade, "Con Cu!," Albertville Primary School

**3rd Place:** D. Drye, 2nd Grade, "Gerald and Piggie," Dean Road Elementary School

**Honorable Mention:** K. Hutchins, 2nd Grade, "Abstract Face," McCalla Elementary School

ALABAMA

# Youth Art Month

## FLAG DESIGN WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Alabama YAM Flag Contest. We had 32 entries and our AAEA Board truly enjoyed voting on this artwork. Our voting was held January 18, at the AAEA Board meeting by all of our 2024-2026 Officers.

Youth Art Month promotes support for quality school art programs and advocates for art material safety. The Council for Art Education (CFAE) administers the program at the national level. This program provides a unique opportunity to recognize skills developed through visual arts experiences, including problem-solving, creativity, observation, and communication. Each year, art shows, special exhibits, fundraisers, and school and community activities take place in March to celebrate visual art education for students in grades K-12.

Winners will be recognized at our AAEA Fall Conference at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, AL on October 16, 2025. The overall winner's flag will be on display at the NAEA Conference this spring. 2025 NAEA National Convention: March 20-22 | Louisville, KY.

-Julie Harrison, YAM Chair- [aaeyouthartmonth@gmail.com](mailto:aaeyouthartmonth@gmail.com)

Overall Winner: Auiban Chun Mendez, 11th Grade, Chilton County High School  
Teacher: Hollie Colburn



High School Winner: Emilie Flora, 11th Grade, Guntersville High School  
Teacher: Tracey Cabrera



Middle School Winner: Seobeen Won, 7th Grade, East Samford School  
Teacher: Tricia Oliver



Elementary Winner: Perry Adams, 4th Grade, St. Paul's Episcopal School  
Teacher: Amanda Youngblood





# What's the **WORD** from Grade Level Chairs?

## **Elementary Level Division:**

Attention Elementary Art teachers, we have some amazing things planned for you that will hopefully make the last quarter a breeze, and a Professional Development opportunity this summer.

Get ready for a quarterly Lesson Plan share. We are excited to begin with our Spring25 Lesson share to give us all some inspiring ideas to get us through the end of the year. If you share just one lesson, you will also be provided lesson plans from other elementary art participants from this term. Be on the lookout for an email from Brooklyn at about how to participate. The terms are as following: Spring25 due March 27, Summer25 due June 30, Fall25 due Sept. 27, and Winter26 due Nov 28.

And as highly requested, we will have our 2nd annual hybrid mini-conference mid-late July. This conference is designed for elementary art teachers, but everyone is welcome. You can attend virtually online, or stream with a watch party near you or in your region. This one day virtual conference consists of several make and take lessons that you can work alongside the presenters to get some great ideas and project samples just in time for the year school. You will be provided a materials list so that you are able to work during the workshop and resources for bringing the lessons to your classroom. While hybrid is certainly an option since we are all across the state, we encourage you to find a local watch party, or create your own with teachers in your area, to better collaborate and brainstorm during the workshop. Keep a lookout for an all call for presenters, find/create a watch party, and how to register.

If you have any questions, or ways we can assist you, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Brooklyn Scoggins** at [aaaelem@gmail.com](mailto:aaaelem@gmail.com)

## **Middle Level Division:**

Hello fellow middle school teachers! I hope you are all having a great start to your new 2025 year and 2nd semester of school. I wanted to let you know that I appreciate those of you that have filled out the middle division form I sent out. Please be on the lookout for a few emails that will DEFINITELY need your input! One will be asking you to click on a Google Document link and drop one of your favorite lesson plans to share with other teachers. This is SO HELPFUL, not only a NEW TEACHER, but it can also offer a veteran teacher a fresh idea on an element, principle or technique to try with their students. The other email will ask you to choose the best date for you to join us on a quick 30-45 min. Zoom to look at ways you can decorate, organize and/or set up your ART CLASSROOM. As many of us look forward to SPRING BREAK in the months of March and April, please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding how I may better assist you through middle school life as we tackle the year together. My email is [aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com](mailto:aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com). Until then....STAY ARTSY!!!  
**Tiffany Ala-** [aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com](mailto:aaeamiddleschoolrep@gmail.com)

## Secondary Level Division:



“Happy YAM!”

March is National Youth Art Month, and this is what I hear daily during this month of celebration.

Our upper school students and faculty have fully embraced this observance and look forward to it every year. It was not always the case. I have been on this campus for 14 years and when I resurrected the dormant Art Club and started YAM events, I was approached with “What is YAM?” I realized that I had much to do to advocate for my program and the importance of arts education. I knew that I needed to make what I do as an arts educator and what my students do in my studios relevant. So, I planned to create a buzz on campus...something to anticipate, something to ask questions about. The art club made simple posters that said nothing but....YAM is coming!

We hung them all over campus during the month of February. Everyone was puzzled but the Art Club members and I did not spoil the intrigue. We waited! The first school day of March, we all arrived early and replaced those signs with beautifully crafted posters full of Artist’s Quotes, YAM definitions, Facts and statistics about the importance of Arts Education and how that helps students in other fields. Everyone finally knew what YAM was, but my job was not over! I wanted MORE! (Who doesn’t???) My desire was to develop a month of celebration, education and joy on campus. My Art Club members continue to be excited each year as we plan our YAM events. We now have a whole Upper School YAM DAY! We have an out- of uniform IF they wear Tie Dye, we do sidewalk chalk drawings in our Saint’s Square, I set up bubble stations where we create huge, beautiful bubbles, a Jen Stark inspired photo opportunity installed in our cafeteria and this year we are passing out Happy YAM stickers. This is addition to daily artist quotes during the morning announcements, advocacy posters everywhere, mini masterpiece buttons that are placed in the teacher’s work room so that they can choose one each day to wear creating a Walking Gallery, Art hype videos created by our amazing marketing department shared to social media, photos of artwork streamed on our tv monitors in our cafeteria and National Art Honor Society inductions. Over time, YAM has become a major event for our campus! No one asks “What is YAM?” anymore,,,they just ask “What are y’all doing for YAM this year?” This all started with a simple idea...you can do it too! As Arts Educators, we must toot our own horn!- **Felicia Olds- aaeasecondarychair@gmail.com**

### **Museum Division**

The Museum Division is gearing up for its first group virtual meet-up of the year. Scheduled for Feb. 24 at 2pm, AAEA Museum Educators are eager to get together and brainstorm new and exciting ways to strengthen the bond between Alabama arts educators and art museum programs and resources!

There are already a couple of educator PD workshops lined up for February.

On February 19, the BMA is hosting a professional development workshop for educators led by Birmingham artist Willie Williams. This workshop is related to the BMA’s exhibition Determined to Be: The Sculpture of John Rhoden. And on February 22, the Jule Museum at Auburn University invites educators to The Art of Play in the Classroom: Educator Workshop at the Jule. Attendees will learn about Friedrich Froebel, the inventor of Kindergarten, as well as how to incorporate his philosophies into their own classrooms.

Finally, on March 15, the Birmingham Museum of Art is excited to throw its 14th annual Holi Festival. This colorful celebration is filled with live music, dance performances, art activities, and of course, the iconic throwing of colored powders. The event is free and a fantastic location for AAEA members to meet up, make some art, and throw colors while dancing to Bollywood music.- **Angela May- aaea2museum@gmail.com**

# GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD: ELECTED MEMBERS



**Angela May**  
**Museum Chair**

Angela May is the Associate Director of Learning and Engagement at the Birmingham Museum of Art, where she focuses on interpretation and learning strategies. She works on in-gallery and virtual educational initiatives, accessibility, inclusivity, visitor engagement, print and digital interpretation. She loves to mix education with entertainment to grow cultural competency and create unique museum experiences. Whether it is a tour, a studio class, a video contextualizing an art object, a digital scavenger hunt that transforms the BMA's galleries into a fictional landscape, a fun family guide, or an interactive image that allows visitors to decode a work of art at their own pace and interest level, Angie makes sure to foster appreciation for art, history, culture, and a sense of belonging at the Museum.

Angie has been at the BMA for nine years and before that she taught art history at Auburn University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and her Masters in Asian Art from the University of Alabama at Birmingham/University of Alabama joint program.

She is an art historian with a specialization in South and Southeast Asian art. While she works broadly on Hindu and Buddhist art, her main research focuses on "magical" tattoos called Sak Yant from Thailand and Cambodia. She has conducted fieldwork in India, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. When she is not in the Museum, she is leading art-focused group tours across Southeast Asia. And who knows, maybe one day she will lead a trip of AAEA members through Asia!

## Sharon Christman

### Treasurer

Sharon has served as Treasurer when she took over in mid 2019. Sharon's been a member of NAEA/AAEA since 1981 and has served on the board as elementary chair, mentor co-chair, retired chair and has chaired several fall conferences. She loves being a member of AAEA/ NAEA! She rarely misses a State or National conference and has even attended an International art conference.

Sharon was born and raised in N.W. Pennsylvania where she started her journey as an art educator receiving her bachelor's degree at Edinboro University. Moving to Alabama when her parents were transferred she went through the blue pages of the phone book and applied to schools and was hired at Mountain Brook Elem. where she taught for 25 years. Alabama has been good to Sharon as she has thrived. She received her masters and EDS degrees from Univ. of Alabama and was one of the first National Board Certified in Early/Middle Art. She has been honored being recipient for several awards including State and National Retired Art Educator or the Year. Fulbright recipient to study in Turkey 1999 and received several grants to travel overseas.

Sharon loves teaching and as most has had more than one job, Sharon has taught at Samford University, Supervisor to ST's at UAB, Contract jobs with BMA, Jefferson Co. and National Geography and manager of a Turkish import store. She now contracts with Homewood City Schools. Volunteer work includes 15 years teaching arts and crafts with children visiting mom's at Tutwiler prison, Served on State Textbook and Curriculum committees for the arts.

Traveling is one of Sharon's favorites, not as a tourist but more as a participant. She traveled to Bulgaria for a 2 week archeological school and dig finding 6,000 year old pottery! For 13 years she served as leader of People to People HS trips to Japan, China, Australia, NZ, Fiji and most of Europe. The world is full of surprises and she continues to try to find new adventures!



[aaea2museum@gmail.com](mailto:aaea2museum@gmail.com)



[aaeabusinessoffice@gmail.com](mailto:aaeabusinessoffice@gmail.com)

# GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD: APPOINTED MEMBERS



## Julie Harrison

### Youth Art Month Chair

Julie Harrison is an art teacher at Clanton Elementary School in Clanton. She has held the YAM Chair position since 2016, finding it to be a rewarding experience. Julie takes great pleasure in leading the YAM Flag Design Contest, where she collects entries from art teachers and students in grades K-12 across the state. This contest allows her to showcase exceptional student work while communicating the theme set by the Council for Art Education. Each year, a beautiful life-size cloth flag is created from the overall winner's design, which is then flown at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference. At the fall conference, Julie organizes an interactive YAM table where art teachers can pick up information and participate in a painting activity. Last year, her table was titled "What's Brewing in YAM?" Teachers were given a wooden witch potion, hat, or boot to paint, with the opportunity to submit their designs for judging. Julie awards prizes for the most creative entries, helping to generate interest in the Youth Art Month table and, most importantly, encouraging everyone to have fun. Every August, Julie prepares a comprehensive state report in PowerPoint format, showcasing the wonderful activities and events that art teachers across Alabama are doing in celebration of Youth Art Month. The report highlights art shows, proclamations, donations, funding, and partnerships that are critical in making art education successful each March. Julie encourages others to join in by entering the flag contest, sharing photos, articles, and flyers of their community art activities, and getting involved in YAM promotion. She looks forward to hearing from individuals via email at [aaeayouthartmonth@gmail.com](mailto:aaeayouthartmonth@gmail.com).

## Amanda Knight

### Central Region 4a

Amanda Knight is serving as one of the two central Alabama regional representatives. She's held this position for over 3 years. She loves to plan workshops with professional local artists. Her favorite workshop last year was painting with artist Jayne Morgan. We had a group come together to paint honey bears like Jayne. This was such a big hit that we will probably do it again in the future. Amanda teaches elementary art at Pelham Oaks Elementary where she's taught over the past 11 years. She teaches preschool through 5th grade. When Amanda was in kindergarten art class, she watched her art teacher slice clay from the block then got to create with clay for the first time ever. It was that day that Amanda decided she wanted to be an art teacher. Amanda went on to work towards that goal, receiving her undergraduate degree in art from the University of Montevallo in 2011 and her MEd in art edu in 2014 as well from UM. GV! Amanda is currently working on an Ed.S. degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Being a part of AAEA has led Amanda to other opportunities to serve, in 2024 Amanda served on the Alabama Arts Course of Study task force. In the summers, Amanda works with the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts which provides arts lessons for teachers to integrate into their classrooms. Amanda also teaches art camps in the summer at Aldridge Gardens.

When not teaching, Amanda spends time with her family. She and her husband Ryon have two girls who are 13 and 9. She coaches local youth sports that her children are a part of. Amanda and her family love to travel. In the summers, they will take a two week road trip to travel to new cities everyday, with the goal to travel all over the US before the girls graduate.

My Instagram is @AmandaLKnight



[aaeayouthartmonth@gmail.com](mailto:aaeayouthartmonth@gmail.com)



[aaea.vaca4a@gmail.com](mailto:aaea.vaca4a@gmail.com)

# LESSON

## plans

### Getting Jazzy with Jack Vest



#### THIRD GRADE

Lesson Title: 3rd grade September 3-6 Jazz Composition

#### Grade 3 Creating

##### Investigate, Plan, Make

Elaborate on an individual or prompted imaginative idea.

Demonstrate skills using available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the art-making process.

Describe and use steps of the art-making process while creating works of art/design.

Demonstrate an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials, tools, equipment, and studio space.

##### Reflect, Refine, Continue

Individually or collaboratively, construct representations of places that are part of everyday life.

Refine artwork in progress by adding details to enhance emerging meaning.

#### Grade 3 Presenting

##### Select, Analyze, Share

Investigate and discuss possibilities and limitations of spaces, including electronic, for exhibiting artwork.

Discuss exhibit space and prepare works of art for presentation.

Identify and explain how and where different cultures record and illustrate stories & history through art.

#### Grade 3 Responding

##### Perceive, Analyze, Interpret

Speculate about processes and purposes an artist used to create a work of art.

Discuss the meanings and messages communicated by visual imagery.

Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter, visual qualities, and mood/feeling.

Used learned art vocabulary to evaluate artwork based on given criteria.

#### Grade 3 Connecting

##### Interpret

Create works of art based on observations of surroundings.

##### Synthesize

Recognize that responses to art change depending on knowledge of the time and place in which it was made and on life experiences.

#### Materials:

Pencils, sharpies, markers, scissors, glue, crayons

#### Themes/Big Ideas/Elements of Art and Principles of Design Taught:

Self-expression

Space / Color / Shape / Line

Balance / Variety / Movement

#### Assessment (Summative &/Or Formative):

#### Technology/Resources Used:

\*PowerPoint presentation

#### Core Subject Connections:

Music

#### Essential Questions/Learning Target:

What is jazz music?

Where does it come from?



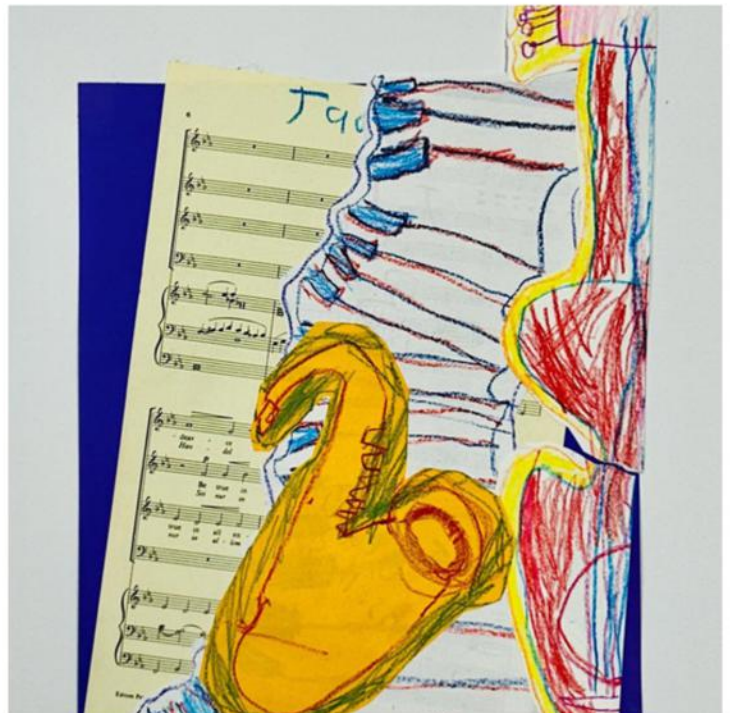
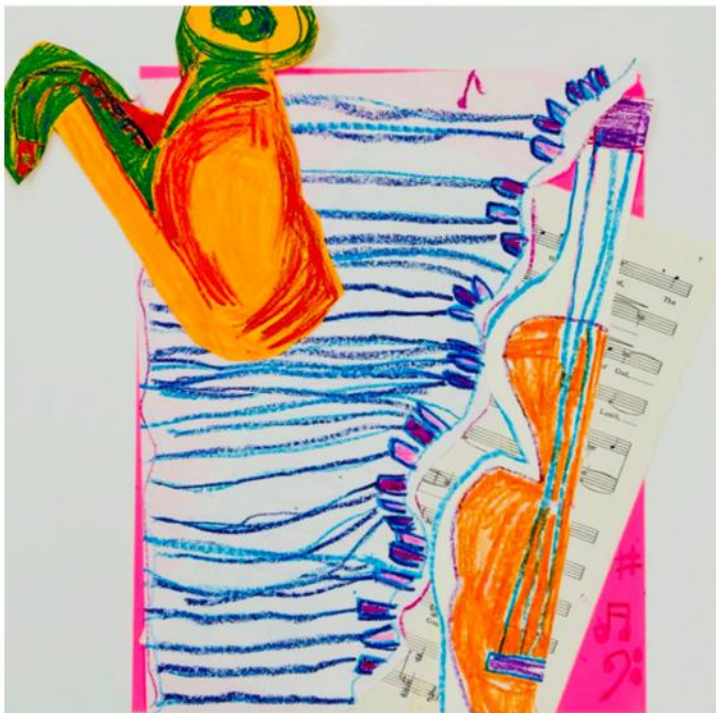
#### What Will Students Do?

TSW develop an understanding of jazz music

TSW create a jazz composition involving sheet music / guitars / and their hands.

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# LESSON *plans*



 [aaeasecretary2022@gmail.com](mailto:aaeasecretary2022@gmail.com)

# Calendar of Events



## NAEA WEBINARS

FREE for NAEA members; \$49 for nonmembers

The Benefits of Fan Art in the Classroom  
Wednesday, April 9, 2025 | 7–8pm ET

Supporting Dual-Language Literacy in Art Education Practices  
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 | 7–8pm ET

Early Childhood Art Education in Action: Stories from the Field  
Wednesday, June 4, 2025 | 7–8pm ET

Building Drawing Skills for All: Scaffolding Techniques Inspiring K–12 Learners  
Wednesday, July 9, 2025 | 7–8pm ET

## It's not too late to register!

NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
2025 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 20-22  
**VIBRANT**  
LOUISVILLE, KY

A collage of six small photographs showing various attendees at the convention. From left to right: a man with arms raised in excitement; two women holding up a colorful circular artwork; a man and a woman smiling; a man writing in a notebook; a woman in a patterned shirt; and a woman working on a project.

Thousands of options for professional learning, connectivity, and creativity!  
Join us in Louisville alongside thousands of visual arts, design, and media arts educators from around the world at the this epic event!

# Calendar of Events con't.

- March TBD- Southern Region YAM Student Art Show- University of South Alabama Marx Library
- April 7- Make it Monday- Make it Monday with Anglea May from B'ham Museum of Art - Access for All Virtual- Open to All Members, 4-5:15pm
- April 15- Time TBD- Choice Chat hosted by Ashley Sams via Zoom
- May 12- Make it Monday with Rebecca Wall- Marbled Shaving Cream Prints, 4-5:15pm
- June 23 & 24- AAEA Summer Board Retreat- Birmingham - Painting workshop with Jayne Morgan and tour B'Ham Museum of Art
- June 25-28- NAEA Southeastern Leadership- Jackson, MS



AAEA @ NAEA		
WHO	WHAT	WHERE
Tricia Oliver	Carve Your Creativity: Mastering Linocut Designs with Procreate on iPad Thursday, 3/20, 12:00-12:50 pm	KICC Exhibit Hall, Digital Playground Table Station 2
Amanda Youngblood	Brush Up on Brush Lettering Techniques (ticketed workshop) Thursday, 3/20, 3:00 - 4:50 pm	KICC L010
Andy Meadows	State Agency Directors of Arts Education - Who are we and How can we help? Thursday, 3/20, 5:30 - 6:20 pm	KICC L005
Mary Soylu	Bending Towards Justice - Interrogating Narratives Embodied in Public Monuments and Memorials Friday, 3/21, 8:00 - 8:50 am	KICC M116
Shelly Bailey	Creating Arts Integration Opportunities When You have no Available Units - A Mobile Innovation Friday, 3/21, 2:00 - 2:50 pm	KICC L013
Andy Meadows	National Association of State Directors of Arts Education Friday, 3/21, 2:00 - 2:50	Louisville Marriott Downtown Hotel Filly/Thoroughbred
Mary Soylu	What Art History Offers AI - Fostering Ethical Tech Development Through Humanities Insights Friday, 3/21, 4:30 - 4:55	KICC L001
Natalie Roig-McKnight	Community Partnerships to Help Drive PLCs Friday, 3/21, 5:00-5:50 pm	KICC L013
Sally Chambliss & Betsy Logan	Bridging Generations-Speed Dating Style- Conversations between Early Career Art Educators and Retired Art Educators Friday, 3/21 from 5:30-6:30 pm	KICC L009
Tammie Clark	Building Bricks for Digital Photography Saturday, 3/22, 8:00 - 8:50 am	KICC L029
Amanda Youngblood	Elementary Carousel of Learning: Hands on Make and Take Studio Saturday, 3/22, 2:00 - 3:00 pm	KICC L013

Applications for the Alabama State Council on the Arts Art Educator Fellowship will open on January 2, 2025! This Fellowship includes an award of \$5000 to use towards your own artistic growth. For more information please visit our website and contact Kaci Norman, Arts in Education Program Manager at [kaci.norman@arts.alabama.gov](mailto:kaci.norman@arts.alabama.gov) or (334) 242-5148. [www.arts.alabama.gov](http://www.arts.alabama.gov)

# other NEWS



Tricia Oliver received a resolution from Dr. Eric Mackey on February 13th at the Alabama State Department of Education Board Meeting. This resolution celebrated and recognized Tricia for being awarded Alabama Art Educator of the Year 2024 for the AAEA. This resolution coincides with Youth Art Month and was arranged by Andy Meadows, the ALDSE Fine Arts Specialist.

Pictured L-R: Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent; Dr. Duriel Barlow, East Samford Principal; Tricia Oliver, and Tracie West, Alabama State Board of Education Member, Region 2.

## Congratulations!



This past holiday season a non-member (but big fan of AAEA!) gifted the money needed for one year's NAEA/AAEA membership. The executive board met and awarded a new educator this money. Congratulations goes to Brianna Payne, the new Program Administrator of UAB's ARTPLAY. The anonymous donor asked that others consider gifting a membership to a new member. What a wonderful way to give back! If you're interested in giving a gift of membership reach out to a board member.

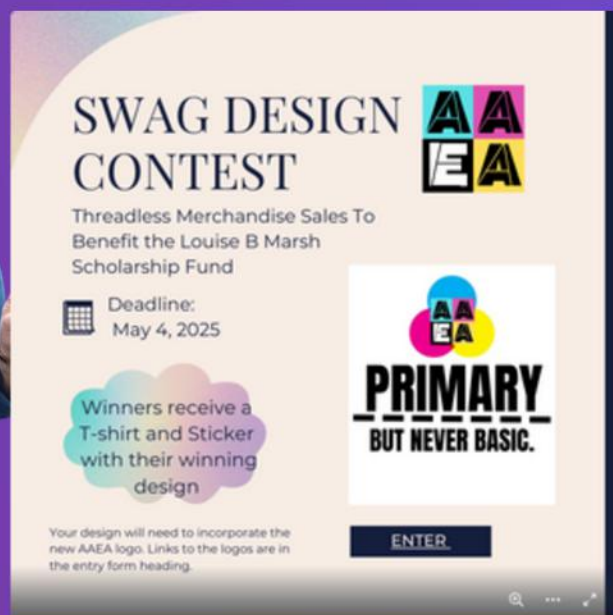
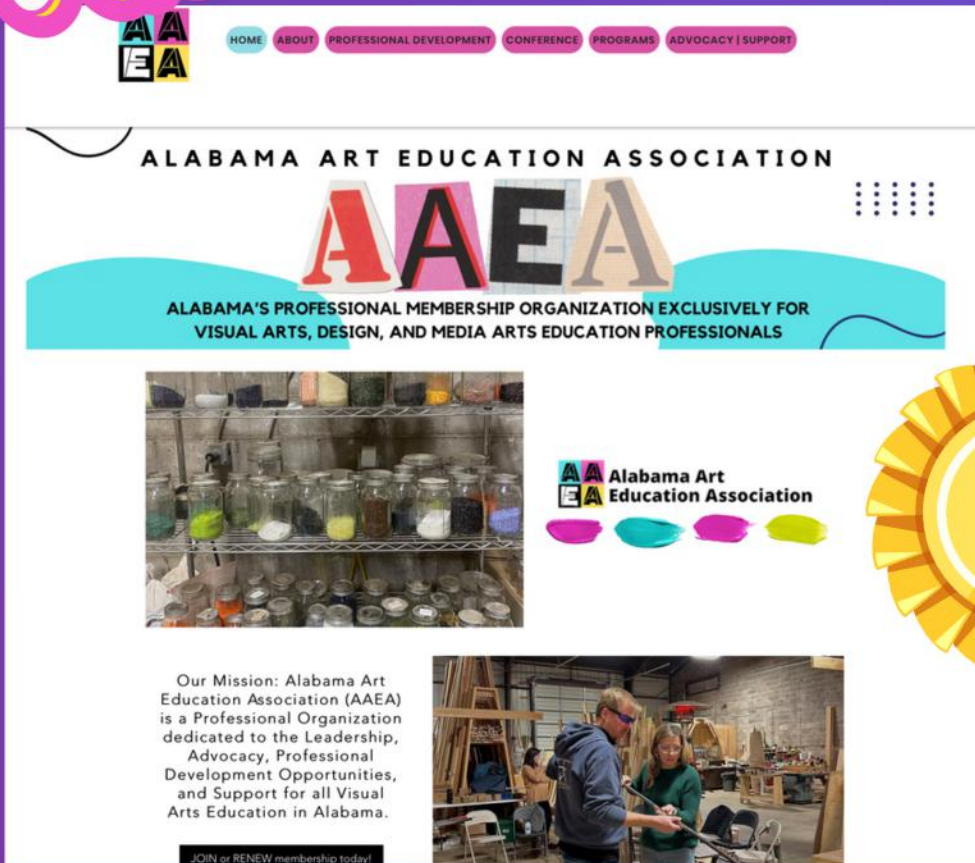
Pictured is AAEA Treasurer, Sharon Christman (L) with Brianna Payne (R).

Did you know?

The AAEA Website won an Honorable Mention award in Category II from NAEA for Website Design! These national awards are not easily won and we are SO proud of the hard work Ashley Cullwell has done since she took office.

THANK YOU, Ashley for

your part in making AAEA shine!!



# 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	Austin Smith	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 2024	Rebecca Wall/Tricia Oliver	aaeafallconference@gmail.com
AL Art Alliance Rep.	Donna Russell	drussell@alartsalliance.org
ALSDE Representative	Andy Meadows	ameadows@alsde.edu
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



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AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Department of Art & Art History

GOGUE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY



THE JULE MUSEUM at Auburn University

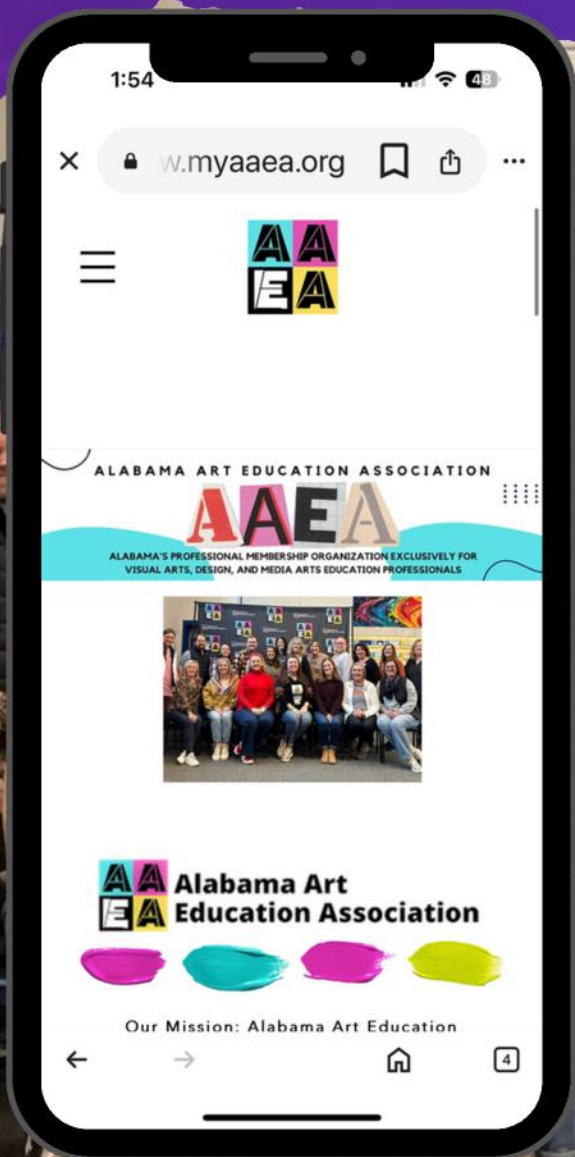


BLICK art materials



Thanks for helping to make our conference

Amazing!



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

**Contact Us!**