

## **President's Report 2018 – Executive consensus**

2017 was another great year of innovation and changes for our organization! These changes have provided our group with opportunities to reflect on our vision for visual and media arts education in the province of Ontario. We have a renewed energy to provide leadership and advocacy on behalf of students and art educators.

We have had wonderful new leaders join our board, including Vanessa Barnett, Suzanne Lagacey and Katherine Yamashita. Their collective expertise and passion for all things art and advocacy is most welcome. Our long time board member, Bob Phillips has ventured into retirement. Additionally we have enjoyed the support from Peter Bates who continues to support us as an OSSTF contact. We wish these former board members well in their future endeavours. This year was a first for OAEA...well a first for the current board. Congratulations to board member Miranda Blazey and her husband John on the birth of their baby boy, Bodhi Xavier Martins.

We are delighted to share some significant accomplishments over the past year, including our very successful Day of Art, which provided for studio-based activities in **Stratford, Kitchener/Waterloo, Oakville, Ottawa and Toronto**. The program was attended by over 60 people at various locations across the province. This was the second time we involved our regional representatives in planning events.

Our goal is to provide you with a quality conference once every 18 months or so. Our 2018 conference will be held in Hamilton this upcoming October. Mark the date of October 12th and 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We will have a line up of excellent speakers, including a keynote and guest artist.

We've continued to focus on building relationships, partnerships, and networking. We've encouraged both generalist teachers and specialist teachers to use us as a resource. Board members have given workshops at the TDSB to address Global Competencies through Visual and Media Arts, and equity and social justice through literacy and visual arts. With support of Tanya Senk, Central Coordinating Principal of the Aboriginal Ed. Center TDSB, we've addressed reconciliation through the lens of visual and media arts at the annual University and Ontario Ministry of Education Forum. We also continue to participate in the Ontario Teacher's Federation summer learning opportunities. Kathy Yamishita's 3-day intensive media arts workshop in Ottawa attracted over 25 people from across the province.

In 2017, we were involved in completing our curriculum and film project in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the Aga Khan Museum. We also secured another curriculum grant to write and create media for the Canadian Sikh Heritage Museum.

We continue to hold fast to the goals we have set for our organization and ourselves:

1. Find fresh ways to promote quality art education in schools and their communities across Ontario;
2. Continue to contribute to the ongoing review of theory and practice, and be a force in shaping educational policy in these areas;
3. Act as a forum for the exchange of ideas among those involved in visual and media arts education;
4. Promote and implement policies, practices and services for our membership;
5. Provide professional learning opportunities and the advancement of knowledge through conferences, local workshops, seminars, research and mentoring;
6. Cooperate and collaborate with existing arts agencies and education organizations, and vigorously support learning through the visual arts, both within and beyond Ontario;
7. Encourage the growth of both formal and casual public interest groups that advocate for visual arts and media arts.

We are happy to report on the following successes in committee work over 2016:

### **Advocacy**

We are in the midst of updating our website and plan to include material to keep advocacy material that is current and relevant to classroom teachers. We attended a faculty and ministry forum in the late fall with other arts representatives to discuss the state of art education at the University level, and to advocate for more training time for the arts. In the spring of 2017, we were invited to the annual TDSB secondary teachers' professional development session, where I joined with **Annie Kidder from People for Education** and Presidents from OMEA and CODE to address the need for quality arts educators throughout classrooms in Ontario. Annie's advocacy PowerPoint is one of the items we will be placing on our new website.

Bob Phillips is still working with the Student Injury Prevention Initiative, facilitated by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education, through their Health & Safety Committee. OAEA is involved in Phase Three of this initiative. It focuses on ensuring that student injury prevention is approached in a sustained, proactive, and systematic way. One of the key objectives for this phase is to help boards and schools establish and maintain a culture of safety mindedness while ensuring that student injury prevention is the highest priority. Ministry funds have been applied for and we hope to have a resource that addresses health and safety in for the elementary and secondary levels.

### **Awards**

Cyrel Troster has once again provided leadership in helping to establish our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Art Educators of the Year Awards. Candidates were nominated by members throughout the province and were vetted through a selection committee and confirmed by the executive.

Our 2016 winners included:

Elementary Art Educator – **Jamila Monahan**, former art consultant from Barrie/Simcoe county

Secondary Art Educator – **Chuck Green**, Simcoe County

Post-Secondary Art Educator – **Hilary Inwood**, OISE

Community Art Educator – **Gabrielle Clermont** of ArtsSmarts Waterloo

The Ray Blackwell Award – **Vanessa Barnett**

Our 2017 awards will be taking place later this evening, and we will be able to report on those at next year's AGM. Congratulations to those who will be called up shortly to receive the awards.

## **Communications**

We have added Twitter to our regular postings and have secured funding to rebuild our website so that we can get the latest OAEA updates out to our members in a timely manner. Our Facebook page has become increasingly popular and many of our links have been reposted in other arts groups. We have reached out to social media to spread news about our events and have formed a marketing/social media committee. Our network is forever growing.

## **Grants**

Last year (2016 and 2017) OSSTF gave us a grant of \$2,500 to support our Day of Art and awards. This year we have received a \$20,000 grant for our curriculum writing project for the Canadian Sikh Heritage Museum Curriculum project. We have made connections with two other organizations and will be announcing additional curriculum writing projects within the next few months.

## **Membership**

We continue to offer free membership, which is ground-breaking for a subject association in this province. We currently have over 600 people that we have listed to receive information. In the fall, a membership fee will be reintroduced and folded into our conference.

## Regional Representatives

We have continued to expand our search for regional reps. It is interesting to note that through Twitter we are finding that there is a large community interested in arts advocacy and supporting the arts. Through the Day of Art, we offered a series of regional events. We welcome several new regional Representatives including: **Sandra Miller** in Ottawa, **Nicole Ko** in Mississauga, and **Jeleyne Sornburger** in Trillium Lakes DSB.

## Other Business

Over the past year, OAEA has been represented through our affiliations with other arts agencies and educational organizations. We continue to work hard to advocate for visual and media arts with the Ministry of Education. We continue to attend subject association meetings, the Ministry and the Ontario Teachers' Federation twice annually. In the Fall, Jane Dewar and I arranged workshops for OTF in both media and visual arts. Participants from other associations enjoyed creating stop motion animation and using applications in the Museum as we focused on Historic works of art, analyzing "voice" and how marginalized groups were historically represented while considering our diverse Canadian Identity. We participated in OTF's financial literacy session, where over 25 participants explored a lesson that emphasized Global Competencies through the lens of Eco-art and media arts.

We have also represented OAEA at ARTSECO, the Arts Consultants in Ontario. This group continues to advocate for time-tabling and arts qualifications, especially as they relate to elementary schools. We are pleased to announce that the group has published timetabling recommendations to Directors of Education in each public and Catholic board and in private schools across the province. These recommendations are available to anyone.

There are many past, present, and future awards winners in our midst. We offer a hearty congratulations to **Tony Caputo** for being selected as OAEA's provincial educator, as recognized by Canadian Society of Education Through Arts CSEA (2017); and to **Beckie Dileo** for her Canadian Secondary Teacher of the year award which she will be picking up in Winnipeg at the CSEA conference in the next few weeks.

As we plan for next year, we are embracing new ways of thinking, and responding to the needs of our membership. We have plans to solidify our brand/image and spend time on improving our website. We continue to meet with the executives from other arts associations and are forming new partnerships with other subject associations and their members across the province.

Our executive works hard on behalf of the members, of all art educators and art students in the province. We are a non-profit organization with charitable status. We accept donations and we welcome new participants

*So what can YOU do?*

- Consider joining a committee
- Give us some feedback on the resources, website, conference
- Share your classroom stories, photos, student work

*And continue to repost our news of workshops, conferences and musings on Facebook and on Twitter. Repost for us, we're delighted about sharing new workshops and events for our members throughout Ontario.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Beryl Cohen, President,  
On behalf of The Executive

### **OAEA Executive**

President – Beryl Cohen

Vice-President – Michele Kleinschuck

Secretary Treasurer – Tony Caputo

Recording Secretary – Miranda Blazey replaced by Suzanne Lagacey

Marketing – Amber Passilidis

Awards – Cyrel Troster

Conference Co-Chairs – Kathy Yamishita, Vanessa Barnett and Suzanne Lagacey