



President's Report 2018 – Executive consensus

Written and presented by Beryl Cohen

May 1, 2019 Canadian Textile Museum of Canada

2018 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 continued to move forward in our goals to provide leadership and advocacy on behalf of students and Visual and Media Art educators.

We have had new leaders join our Regional Representatives and our committees. Their collective expertise and passion for all things art and advocacy is most welcome. Our tireless conference chair and board member, Katherine Yamashita has ventured deeper into retirement where she is exploring pottery and curatorial work. We wish Kathy well in her future endeavours.

We are delighted to share some significant accomplishments over the past year. Our goal is to provide you with a quality conference once every 12- 18 months. Our 2018 conference MOVING FORWARD was held in Hamilton, Ontario this past October 12th and 13th at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School and the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The Conference was organized by Conference Chair, Kathy Yamashita and Co-Chairs Suzanne Lagacey and Vanessa Barnett.

We hosted 68 delegates and 31 presenters. It was an academic and financial success, with many attendees meeting up on the Friday night for the James Street Art Crawl, and a tour of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. We ended the evening with a visit to the Collective Arts Brewery where we explored label design while engaging in beer and cider tasting. The main conference events took place on Saturday 13th October. We began with an early morning yoga session followed by over 30 workshops for all stages and

levels of visual art, media art and interdisciplinary education. Our trade fair, silent auction, and break-out sessions with other dedicated educators was also a great addition.

Our lunch time Keynote speaker was Tobi Bruce, Senior Curator, Canadian Historical Lead, Art Gallery of Hamilton. Our guest artist at the culminating event on Saturday evening at the Art Gallery of Hamilton was Dan Bergeron, a creative street artist from Toronto.

OAEA was fortunate to have several sponsors who contributed to the fiscal success of this conference. We'd like to especially thank the Retired Teachers of Ontario for their generous donation and support of this event, and to Summer Fresh Inc. for snacks. The OAEA Conference Committee would like to thank the entire Board of Directors for their hard work, tireless energy and volunteer hours they contributed to making this event possible.

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. A group of Learning Coaches that included myself, and our soon to be 2018 elementary art educator of the year have given a series of workshops at the TDSB to highlight STEAM through Makerspace Mondays. In 2018 both Kathy Yamashita and I facilitated a 3-day Visual and Media arts workshop for the Ontario Teachers Federation Summer Learning Institute. Our intensive workshop addressed Global Competencies through the lens of Equity and Social Justice. We attracted over 25 people from across the province and enjoyed the facilities of Lawrence College in Kingston. We also collaborated with STAO (the Science Teachers Association of Ontario) in August where Amber Passalidis took her knowledge of STEAM teaching to London, Ontario.

In 2018, I focused on revising our website and completing our curriculum writing project with the Canadian Sikh Heritage Museum. Our writers were selected from a number of regions and boards, both Catholic, Public and Independent. This evening we will share our new website with you.

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

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;
8. Advocate for quality Visual and Media Arts education in Ontario

We are happy to report on the following successes in committee work over 2018

Advocacy

Through social media I have continuously advocated for Visual and Media Arts. Using research from articles I curate and offer insight through our Twitter and Facebook account that focuses on the benefits of art making for teaching and learning in relation to health, wellness, memory, and more. We are committed to supporting all educators in Ontario. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Awards

Cyrel Troster has once again provided leadership in helping to establish our 6th 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 2017 winners included:

Elementary Art Teacher	Lana O'Reilly
Secondary Art Teacher	Agnieszka Chalas
Secondary Art Teacher	Tamara Doleman
Community Art	No.9; Andrew Davies, Elizabeth Linell-Davies, and Barb Lilker

Our 2018 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

Our network is forever growing. We reach art educators around the world via our Twitter account. Feedback from our new website has been wonderful. Thanks to Amber

Passalidis and Suzanne Legacy for your time spent during the initial stages of the set up, and to Michele Kleinschuck for updating new events.

Grants

Last year (2018) OSSTF provided us a grant of \$1950.00 to support our Day of Art and conference speakers. As a non-profit organization we are actively seeking support from corporations, and individuals so that we can continue to service the needs of Generalist teachers, and Visual and Media Arts educators in Ontario.

Membership

As of October 2018, we changed our membership categories.

- \$35.00: full OAEA membership
- \$17.50: initial in-service membership: 50% discount for OAEA membership for educators in their first year of teaching in the year immediately following graduation from a faculty of education
- Free membership: for full-time students and pre-service teachers registered in a Faculty of Education

Our website offers a members only section that includes additional curriculum supports that are not Ministry funded. We continue to attract a number of members through our new website.

Regional Representatives

We have continued to expand our search for regional representatives and to create community for those interested in arts advocacy and support of the arts. In seven cities across the province, we offered a Day of Art with the assistance of our regional representatives. We offer The Day of Art to all teachers without membership. Thank you to all regional representatives who support OAEA through your volunteer work.

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 and attend the subject association meetings with the Ontario Teachers' Federation. In the winter, I attended a workshop that focused on Health and Wellness for teachers and students, use of GAFE, Equity and Inclusivity and a forum which addressed challenges faced by many of our subject associations.

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

As we plan for next year, we are embracing new ways of thinking, and responding to the needs of our membership. I have recently sent a letter to the Minister that speaks to the value and importance of Visual and Media Arts education in Ontario. This was shared with the Minister of Education along side of members from other Subject Associations. We continue to meet with the executives from other arts associations; forming new partnerships with members from other subject associations across the province. This is the year in which we hold our elections and where change will not just occur within OAEA, but also for many arts educators. Although I will be stepping down from the role of President, I will continue to advocate for quality arts education in Ontario as well as work on curriculum projects.

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.

Respectfully submitted



Beryl Cohen, President,
On behalf of The Executive

OAEA Executive 2018

President – Beryl Cohen

Vice-President – Michele Kleinschuck

Secretary Treasurer – Tony Caputo

Recording Secretary – Suzanne Lagacey

Marketing – Amber Passalidis

Awards – Cyrel Troster

Conference Chairs – Kathy Yamashita, Vanessa Barnett, Suzanne Lagacey

Member at Large – Miranda Blazey

