

OAEA Executive (2019)

President – Michele Kleinschuck

Vice-President – Suzanne Legacey and Miranda Blazey

Treasurer – Tony Caputo

Awards – Cyrel Troster

Recording Secretary – Jess van Enckevort

Conference Co-Chairs – Vanessa Barnett and Suzanne Legacey

Marketing – Cheryl Mootoo

Past President and Advocacy – Beryl Cohen

Executive at Large – Amber Passilidis



Aims & Goals of OAEA

Ontario Art Education Association provides leadership and advocacy for the support of Visual and Media Arts in education.

As an organization, we:

- Promote quality art education in schools and their communities across Ontario
- Act as a forum of communication and information exchange for Visual and Media Arts educators in the province of Ontario
- Promote and implement policies, practices and services for OAEA's membership
- Contribute to the ongoing review of theory and practice in Visual and Media Arts education, and be a force in shaping educational policy
- Enhance learning standards through professional development such as conferences, local workshops and seminars, research and publications
- Liaise and partner with other education and interest groups, and vigorously support learning through the Visual and Media Arts, both within and beyond Ontario
- Encourage the growth of groups that advocate for Visual and Media Arts
- Provide leadership and advocacy for Visual and Media Arts in education

President's Report 2019

My name is Michele Kleinschuck and I was elected president at the 2019 AGM on May 1st. It has been an honour to continue the fine work OAEA is doing. We have been focusing on increasing awareness of our association by adding content to our website and offering more events for our members. We are working diligently with other subject associations to build relationships and offer cross curricular opportunities such as representation at our conferences, and fighting for the arts provincially. I represented OAEA at the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA) conference in July in Vancouver and was able to participate in the Canadian Society for Education through Art (CSEA) provincial presidents meeting. We discussed common issues nationally and identified some strategies to keep informed about what is happening in other areas of the country.

We have expanded our board members to include Cheryl Mootoo and Jessica Van Enkevort, and Bob Phillips returned to the board through his work on the Health and Safety document Arts Education Safety Mindedness. Thank you to all the executive board members for their ongoing work on Visual and Media Art Education and Advocacy in Ontario.

Advocacy

OAEA is committed to promoting Visual and Media Arts education in the province of Ontario. We participate in the spring and fall OTF Curriculum Forum (OTF-CF) where we meet with other subject associations. We discuss issues in education provincially and have an opportunity to learn more about what the other subject associations are doing, as well as what OTF is doing to support teachers provincially. I was nominated for the OTF-CF steering committee 2019-2021 and was successful. I now help to plan out and lead the bi-annual events for the OTF-CF. Usually this is paired with a day of discussions with the Ministry of Education but due to labour unrest the Ministry of Education day did not happen.

The OCT was doing revisions to several of the AQ guidelines. I was invited to participate on a provincial writing team that supported the revision of the *intermediate education* course. Under the premise of “The sharing of your lived experience will help to illuminate the essential knowledge, skills and stances that need to be reflected within these revised AQ course guidelines.”

Beryl and I were also invited to participate on a provincial writing team that supported the revision of the Schedule D-Visual Arts AQ course guidelines. Participants representing different roles from across the province had conversations related to Visual Arts AQ course guidelines. Our mandate was to create an ethical space for the exploration of a broad spectrum of experiences regarding Visual Arts. The vision, knowledge, creativity and lived-experiences of each participant helped to illuminate innovative and emerging practices related to Visual Arts AQs.

We continue to represent OAEA through ARTSECO, the Arts Consultants in Ontario. This group continues to advocate for time-tabling and arts qualifications, especially as they relate to elementary schools.

Awards

Cyrel Troster has once again provided leadership in helping to establish our annual Art Educators of the Year Awards. Candidates were nominated by members throughout the province, were vetted through a selection committee and confirmed by the executive. The 2019 Awards Night and AGM took place on May 1st at the Textile Museum of Canada in Toronto. The Ontario Art Education Association recognizes excellence in Visual and Media Arts Education in the province. We increase the public’s awareness of the importance of high caliber

Visual and Media Art education. We honour educators who exemplify the standards for quality art education in Ontario.

Last year's award recipients were as follows:

- Ray Blackwell Award for Excellence in Art Education: Beryl Cohen
- OAEA Elementary Art Educator of the Year: Irina Badescu
- OAEA Secondary Art Educator of the Year: Lynda Hattin
- OAEA Secondary Art Educator of the Year: Glenn Novak
- OAEA Community Art Educator of the Year: Education and Programming Department of the Textile Museum of Canada

Our 2020 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

In the spring, we launched our new website. It has a cleaner look to it and we are so proud of how it turned out! The ongoing journey now, is to provide the most up to date resources for our members. We have member only content, as well as a wide variety of lessons, links and resources from curriculum documents to galleries and museums offerings for our members and the public. Some of the material has been written by OAEA with grants from the Ministry of Education such as Financial Literacy, Aga Khan Museum and the Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada. Other material comes from presenters at our conference.

We continue to share widely best practice and innovative ideas through our social media @OnAEA. We have over 1200 followers on FB and 1600 on Twitter. You can keep up with current OAEA events by following us!

Grants

Last year OSSTF gave us a grant of \$1900 to support our Day of Art and awards. We also received private donations as a charity for \$170.93. Thank you to our financial supporters!

Membership

We introduced a membership fee of \$35. Members have added benefits such as members only events, and resources available only to them. Our membership was approximately 35 at the end of 2019, with an additional 990 people receiving email updates from us through e-blasts. Although not every one who participates in A Day of Art is a member, we have consistently had 60-100 participants per paid events. Faculty of Education students are invited to request free

membership with OAEA which includes all the rights and privileges of a full member. For the 2020 conference, that would be included in the fees.

OAEA and the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators were contacted by representatives from the Safe and Healthy Schools Branch, Ontario Ministry of Education in March, 2019 to discuss a joint 2017 proposal to create an online Arts Education Safety Mindedness Teacher Resource. This proposal grows out of work that was completed during the Student Injury Prevention Initiative Phase 3. It became apparent that current health and safety practices in The Arts (dance, drama, music, visual and media arts), from K - 12, were inconsistent, out-dated or, in a few cases, non-existent. Jane Deluzio (CODE) and Bob Phillips (OAEA) were contacted and began assembling a 2nd formal proposal for this project. Ministry funding of \$70,000. was earmarked, based on proposal acceptance and submission by early December, 2019. Unfortunately, contentious Ontario government negotiations with teachers federations impeded this project as it was decided to halt all collaborative work with the government. The project was put on indeterminate hold in February, 2020. If any funds are available in future, we hope to revive this important project.

Events

We have continued to expand our search for regional reps and are still looking for representation in the north and near north. Regional representatives are key in presenting local events such as the Day of Art and to promoting OAEA in their area. In the spring we were pleased to have events in Toronto, Kitchener, London, Ottawa, Bowmanville, and Barrie with a focus on painting and sculpture. In the fall we had 4 successful events in Toronto, Brampton, KW-Cambridge and Burlington with a focus on printmaking. The goals for our participants are to learn new techniques, to get fresh ideas, to integrate with all areas of the curriculum, to look at using technology in Visual and Media Arts and to share ideas and projects with others.

The fall 2019 conference was unfortunately postponed due to job action. As we hold our conferences every 18 months, in 2019 we decided to focus on providing multiple opportunities for our teachers to improve their skills through 2 Day of Art Events in the spring and fall. We hosted over 150 people in 8 cities around the province.

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, with the Ministry and the Ontario Teachers' Federation twice annually. 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 improve in the area of Equity and offer more events for members to participate in. We continue to reach out through our regional reps and our website to support Visual and Media

Art Education across 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,
Michele Kleinschuck, President,
On behalf of The Executive