

OAEA Executive (2021)

President – Michele Kleinschuck

Vice-President – Suzanne Lagacey

Treasurer – Tony Caputo

Awards – Cyrel Troster

Recording Secretary – Anne MacLaughlin

Marketing – Cheryl Mootoo

Advocacy-Vanessa Barnett

Past President and Advocacy – Beryl Cohen

Executive Members: Timea Szoboszlai, Amber Passilidis

On Leave: Miranda Blazey, Jess van Enckevort



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 2021

My name is Michele Kleinschuck and I have served as president since 2019. It has been an honour to continue the exemplary work the Ontario Art Education Association is doing, especially during another difficult year. Although filled with unexpected challenges, it has also given us a chance to demonstrate our resilience and focus on important things like community.

Our goals in 2021 were:

- Focus on Equity initiatives
- Support educators in all divisions through the end of the pandemic
- Make new partnerships
- Increase membership

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 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. Although normally this event is face to face over two days, this year it was again in a virtual format. 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 am now the secretary of the OTF-CF steering committee. We meet monthly to plan out the events for the coming year.

We also represent OAEA through ARTSECO, the Arts Consultants in Ontario.. A large focus has also been on the safe use of materials given the Covid-19 guidelines and how to teach remotely with limited materials when students were sent home for an extended period. We developed the safety mindedness document to help teachers safely navigate the use of materials and plan their workspace with safety in mind.

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, vetted through a selection committee, and confirmed by the executive.

The 2021 Awards Night and AGM took place virtually on October 6th and is available to view on our website. 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:

- OAEA Elementary Art Educator of the Year: Neeru Sekhon
- OAEA Secondary Art Educator of the Year: Beckie DiLeo
- OAEA Community Art Educators of the Year: directors of The Lost Museum from Creative Hub 1352- Jill Hollingsworth and Heather Snell
- OAEA Community Art Educator of the Year: H'Art Centre in Kingston to introduce Karen Dolan

Our 2022 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

The ongoing journey is to provide the most up-to-date resources for our members on our website. During the pandemic we opened up many new content sources and reduced our member only content to support teachers provincially. We still have member-only content, as well as a wide variety of webinars, lessons, links, and resources from curriculum documents to gallery and museum 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 conferences. Our goal for 2021 is to increase the materials available to teachers through our website. Thanks to Kathy Yamashita adding tags to all content to improve the search function and ensure materials meet current equity standards. We added OAEA Equity Resources Document with live links was developed by Bob Phillips and is an amazing, thorough list of topics with links and text sources of interest to visual arts educators.

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, letting us know about local art events, and promoting OAEA in their area. In the fall welcomed Anne McLaughlin from Bluewater, Beryl Cohen will add our association to the Kingston area, TDSB was split and Victor Wong will take on the role of TDSB East, as well as Tamara Doleman to Ottawa. If you are an arts educator and are interested in joining the board or becoming a regional rep. in your area, please let me know.

We continue to share widely best practices and innovative ideas through our social media @OnAEA. We had over 1200 followers on FB and 1600 on Twitter. We were unfortunately hacked on FB and continue to try to get that account deleted. We are building our brand again with FB and Instagram through "Visual Art Ed". You can keep up with current OAEA events by following us!

Grants

Last year OSSTF gave us a grant of \$ 1,500.00 to support our virtual Day of Art and awards. We also received private donations as a charity for \$220.25. We continue to have the pleasure of working with Above Ground as our website sponsor. They provide prizes for Day of Art and the Awards event. Thank you to our financial supporters!

Membership

We raised our membership fee to \$50 in 2020 and that has not deterred educators from joining us. Members have added benefits such as members-only events, and resources available only to them. Our membership was approximately 170 at the end of 2021. An additional 1200 people receive email updates from us through e-blasts. Faculty of Education students are invited to request free membership with OAEA which includes all the rights and privileges of a full member. Membership is also available on a school or board level. Halton DSB was our first board to purchase a board membership for all their elementary staff.

Events

Throughout the year we hosted many virtual events. We had a monthly Equity speaker who used their lived experience and expertise to lead discussions around the following Equity topics:

- Intersecting Identities: Visualizing Student Voice in Art Education
- Improving Pedagogical Practice in Art Classes: Working with Students with Exceptionalities
- Through my Eyes: Integrating Anishinaabe Ways of Knowing into Visual and Media Arts
- Therapeutic Approaches in Art Education: Foundations and Intersections of Art Therapy and Art Education
- Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Art Room
- Making Space for Equity and Inclusion with Arts Integration (STEAM)
- Decolonizing Students' Imaginations with Curiosity Sparked By Indigenous Futurity and Afrofuturism
- Truth and Reconciliation in Arts Education: Reflections on Learning and Creating in Expressions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Cultures (NAC10)
- Welcome to The Lost Museum

We hosted our first virtual day of art with the following 5 sessions. These were recorded and are now made available to members in the webinar section.

- Creating Altered Books with Cyrel Troster
- Joyful Exploration through Art with Michele Kleinschuck
- Map as Art: Exploring Creative Cartography with Vanessa Barnett
- Pour your Emotions Out- Acrylic Pouring Medium and SEL with Alexandra Pilli
- Pandemic pedagogy with Suzanne Legacey

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 as we move back to a more normal school year. We have plans to continue our journey 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 thoughts 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 OAEA Executive