

OAEA Executive (2023)

President – Michele Kleinschuck
Vice-President, Marketing – Cheryl Mootoo
Treasurer – Tony Caputo
Awards – Cyrel Troster
Recording Secretary – Jess Van Enckevort
Advocacy – Vanessa Barnett
Past President – vacant
Executive Members - Victor Wong



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, OAEA:

- Promotes quality visual and media arts education in K – 12 schools and their communities across Ontario;
- Facilitates communication links and information exchange, and provides resources for educators, about Visual and Media Arts education;
- Promotes and implements policies, current practices, and professional learning opportunities for its members;
- Contributes to ongoing reflection and renewal of theory and practice in Visual and Media Arts education and, subsequently, contributes to the shaping of education policy;
- Elevates teaching and learning practices through professional learning at conferences, local workshops, virtual seminars, website resources, and publications;
- Partners with other education and interest groups, and vigorously supports learning in and through Visual and Media Arts, both within and beyond Ontario;
- Provides leadership and advocacy for Visual and Media Arts learning in public education, independent schools, and teacher education programs, and liaises with the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario Teachers' Federation and its affiliates;
- Collaborates with existing teacher organizations to promote transdisciplinary learning and curriculum renewal.

President's Report 2022, 2023

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, 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 2022 and 2023 were:

- Focus on Equity initiatives in our new resources
- Support educators as we move forward from 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. We have met consistently over the two years in person and virtually. 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 have been the secretary of the OTF-CF steering committee for several years. We meet regularly to plan events for the coming year such as the Faculty of Education Symposiums and the Curriculum Forum retreat where we have been focussing on building community, hybrid learning, member retention, and boosting educator morale.

We also represent OAEA through ARTSECO, the Arts Consultants in Ontario. A large focus has also been on the reduction in budgets in all education sectors from the ministry, to faculties, to boards, to schools. We are working on a collaborative initiative with OMEA, CODE, and OAEA to support educators who are now teaching more than one discipline with little support by boards due to the reduction in Arts consultants.

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 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. Our awards ceremonies take place virtually to allow all members to attend. They are recorded and posted on the website.

Our 2022 award recipients were as follows:

- Elementary Art Educator -Kathleen Moll
Secondary Art Educators: Ida DeMaria
- Post Secondary Educator: Dr. Pauline Sameshima, Lakehead University

Our 2023 award recipients were:

- Elementary Art Educator of the Year: Grades K – 8 -Paula Crockett, Aviva Dunsiger
- Secondary Art Educator of the Year: Grades 9 – 12-Barb Muscat, Rina Jamil
- Post-Secondary Art Educator of the Year: Institution or Organization- Christina Smylitopoulos
- Community Art Educator of the Year: Institution or Organization, Museum or Community Setting-Art Canada Institute/Institut de L'Art Canadien
- The Ray Blackwell Award for Excellence in Art Education-Brett Boivin

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 provide 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. OAEA has written some of the material 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 2022-2023 was to increase the materials available to teachers through our website. We have many new resources to add to the website written by our members in the Call for Learning Resources.

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. 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 are building our brand with FB and Instagram through "Visual Art Ed". Please like and share posts to get the word out about our amazing association, and keep up to date with current OAEA events by following us!

Grants

Last year OSSTF gave us a grant of \$ 1,500.00 to support our Day of Art and awards. We also received private donations as a charity for \$342.00. We continue to have the pleasure of working with Above Ground as our website sponsor. They provide prizes for the Day of Art and the Awards event. Thank you to our financial supporters!

Membership

Our membership fee is \$50 and we do not plan to increase that amount to join us. Members have added benefits such as members-only events, and resources available only to them. Our membership was approximately 225 at the end of 2023. An additional 1100 people receive email updates from us through e-blasts. Faculty of Education students are invited to request free membership annually with OAEA which includes all the rights and privileges of a full member. Membership is also available on a school or board level.

Events

Throughout the years we hosted many events in person and virtually. In 2022 we partnered with CSEA for a national conference in Ottawa entitled: Emergence 2022 Reshaping The Future Of The World Through Art. This was a hybrid conference with over 20 virtual workshops which are

not available on our website as webinars. It was well attended at the Ottawa Art Gallery and had amazing speakers such as Cara Tierney, Mary Blaterwick, Ekow Nimako, and Don Kwan.

A Day of Art is designed for our participants to learn new techniques, get fresh ideas, integrate with all areas of the curriculum, look at using technology in Visual and Media Art, share Ideas and projects with others, and build their arts community.

- Day of Art 2022: Workshops & Speakers around the theme of wellness through Visual and Media Arts for teachers, as well as students. Workshops will vary from speakers to hands-on projects, with links to the UN World Creativity and Innovation Day on April 21st and Earth Day on April 22nd. A Day of Art was hybrid in 2022 and included 3 virtual from Ottawa, Toronto, Barrie, and in-person Kingston, Roseville (K-W)
- Day of Art 2023: This event focused on the theme of mixed media (drawing, basic printmaking, and collage). This was an in-person event in Burlington, Owen Sound, Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Woodstock.

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 when possible. 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 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, or conference you attend
- Let us know what would like us to offer
- Share your classroom stories, photos, and student work on our social media pages

And continue to repost our news of workshops, conferences, and thoughts on Facebook and Instagram.. 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