



School for ART LEADERS

at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

SAL Class of 2024 Yearbook

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY!



CHRISTAN ALLEN



AYANNA BLEDSOE



SHELLY BREAUX



KATE MIRAND CALLERI



KIMIYO CORDERO



REBECCA CORE



KELLEY DECLEENE



JENNIFER DICKINSON



MAUREEN "MOE"
DOEBBLER



JEFFREY GRUBBS



MAGAN HALLETT



MICHAEL HO



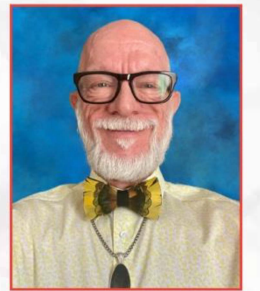
POUYA JAHANSHAHI



MATTHEW JOHNSON



JEN KAY-RIVERA



PAUL KRETCHMER



KAREN MCGARRY



DANA MONROE



KEVIN MORRISSEY



SUMMER NATION



FRANN PAIGE



NATHALIE RYAN



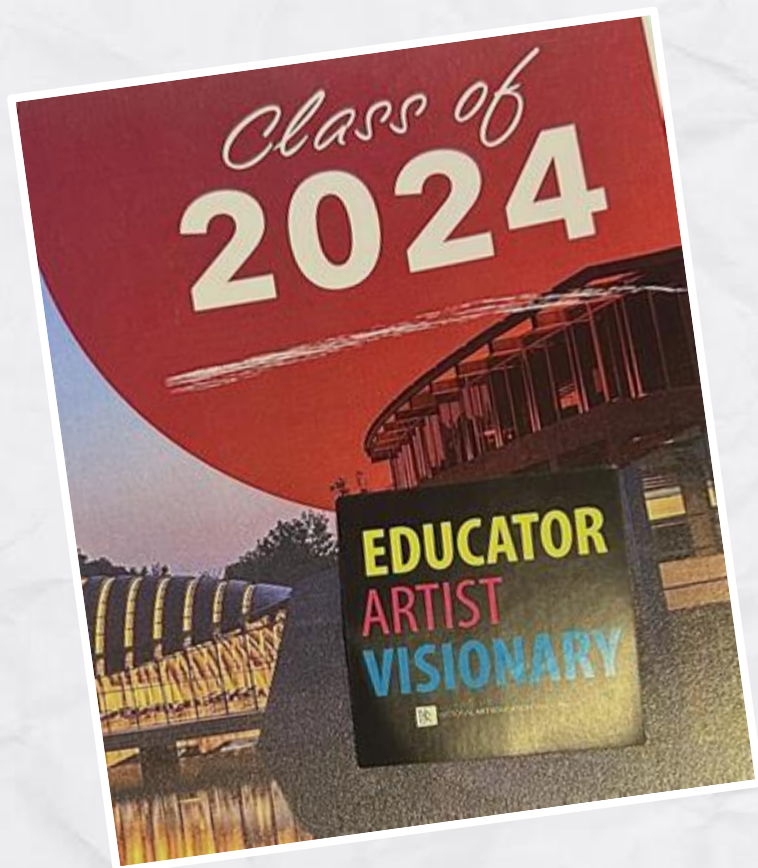
ELIZABETH STUART
WHITEHEAD



EMILY SALEH

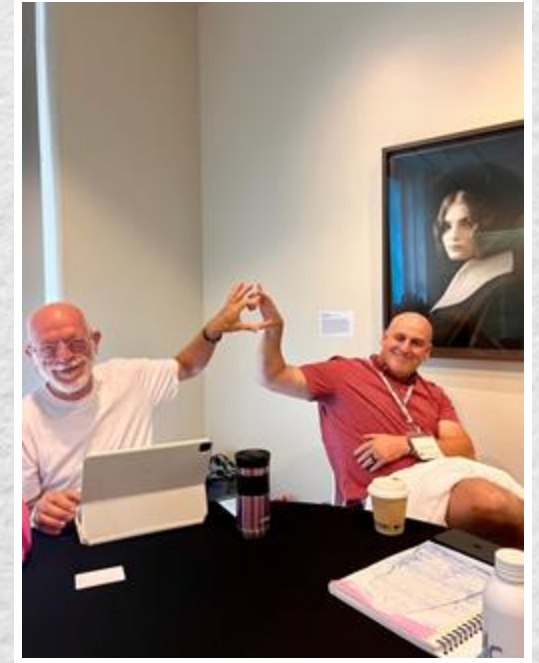


RAINE VALENTINE



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Christian Allen | Memphis, TN

Assistant Director of Education, Dixon Gallery and Gardens



“SAL has helped me to redefine what leadership means in my personal and professional life. Because of this experience, I’ve been surrounded by a supportive, creative community and given a dedicated space to reflect and grow.”



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Shelly Breaux | Lafayette, LA

LAEA Past President



“My experience at SAL provided me with valuable tools and resources to refine my skills and view leadership from a new perspective. I gained a deeper sense of self and learned how to balance life by focusing my time and energy on what truly matters.

Beyond personal growth, I leave with a network of lifelong friendships that will allow me to continue the SAL conversations and support one another on our journeys.



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Kate Mirand Calleri | New York, NY

Director of Education, Brooklyn Children's Museum

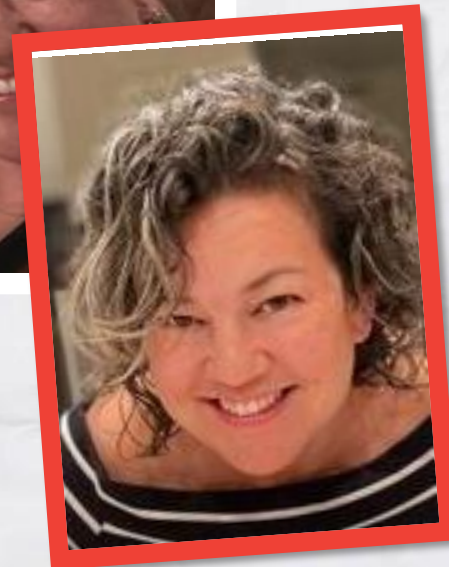


“I was deeply inspired by the caliber of care, support and insights offered by my fellow SAL attendees. I thank SAL for being the stage that allowed these connections to occur and generate.

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Kimiyo Cordero | Sparks, NV

Ceramics, 3D, AP educator and NAHS advisor, Spanish Springs High School



“After leaving my home state of 43 years, I was struggling to find community and a sense of belonging. For me, being a part of SAL connected me to some amazing creatives that I know I can depend on for anything! We’ve literally laughed, cried, and formed lifelong friendships.

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Rebecca Core | Elgin, TX

Art Educator, Elgin Independent School District/Elgin Art Association

“Through SAL I’ve learned that together we can create the driving energy and space for our work. It’s by taking care of ourselves, taking time to build relationships, and by taking an active part in our communities that we foster genuinely inclusive spaces held together by connections, creativity, problem solving, and empathy.



Kelley Decleene | Golden, CO

Adjunct Instructor, Art of Education University

LEADERS are those who at
A PARTICULAR MOMENT
COMMIT more of their
= **RESOURCES** =
to **INFLUENCE** the process.
It is **FLUID**, moving
PEOPLE, PLACES, & PURPOSES



“SAL shed light on the leadership qualities we already have within us. I learned that quiet leadership is just as powerful as highly visible leadership. Leaders do not need a title or recognition to lead. They just need to make a difference.”



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Jennifer Dickinson | Orange, TX

Executive Director, Stark Museum of Art



“NAEA School for Art Leaders gave me the time and space that I needed to focus on the intentionality of my leadership practice. It has allowed me to refine my leadership vision, learn to clearly communicate my leadership values, and taught me the importance of a supportive inspiring community of passionate art educators on the leadership journey.”



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Maureen “Moe” Doebbler | San Antonio, TX

Vice President-Elect of Membership, TAEA

“ The SAL experience has deeply influenced my leadership journey, offering me valuable insight and igniting a strong desire to take the next step in my growth. It has challenged me to expand my perspective, question my ideals, and better understand the truths that shape our lives. I am incredibly grateful for being part of the SAL class of 2024 and for meeting so many incredible individuals who have had a lasting impact on me. The knowledge and wisdom I gained will continue to guide me as I move forward in my personal and professional journey.



Jeff Grubbs | West Liberty, WV

Coordinator of Graduate & Undergraduate Art Education, West Liberty University



“SAL has given me a collection of friends that I was seeking. SAL gave the encouragement, motivation and opportunity to contribute to NAEA.”


Megan Hallett | Salt Lake City, UT

Visual Arts Specialist, Director of Framework Arts



“The SAL experience encouraged me to look for abundance in my work at a time when I really needed it and to organize all the things I do accordingly to my core values to make them manageable and meaningful.




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Michael Ho | Houston, Texas

Art Educator, Katy Independent School District



“ I joined SAL to explore what it means to be an arts leader. Throughout my journey, I discovered the significance of fellowship. The leadership journey, no matter if you are at the beginning, in the middle, or nearing the end, can often feel lonely. SAL helped me recognize the importance of self-discovery, learning and leading alongside a group of passionate educators. Leadership requires strength, and there is true strength in numbers.

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Pouya Jahanshahi | Tulsa, OK

Associate Professor of Graphic Design, Oklahoma State University



“ Surrounded by passion and knowledge, I was guided and supported to ascend to a higher plateau and continue my path to self-discovery and creative leadership.



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Matthew Johnson | Westbrook, ME

Visual Arts Educator / President-Elect

Westbrook High School / Maine Art Education Association



“The School for Arts Leaders didn’t teach me how to be a leader, it taught me that I already was a leader. Everything from the DISC survey to experiences with people who had similar and different leadership styles helped instill confidence that I have a lot more to offer.



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Jennifer Kay-Rivera | Warren, MI

Art Educator, Warren Consolidated Schools



“SAL has propelled me into new leadership experiences and personal initiatives.

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Paul Kretchmer | Rochester, NY

Art Educator & Advocate for Creativity and Inclusion



“SAL taught me that vulnerability and collaboration could lead to authentic growth, inspired leadership, and an art world where everyone belongs. Small, intentional actions can lead to powerful connections, transformative ideas, and lasting community. Together, we can create the change we wish to see.”



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Karen McGarry | Rochester, MI

Associate Professor, College for Creative Studies



“During SAL, I encountered spaces for artful inquiry with cohort members, supporting critical development as leaders in art, research, and education. This reflective journey was and remains, an enduring gift.

Dana Monroe | Corvallis, OR

Art Teacher, k-5, Corvallis School District



“Participating in the School for Art Leaders has reshaped my approach to leadership, advocacy, and personal growth in ways I hadn’t anticipated. It has provided me with opportunities to reassess areas of my life I once viewed as fixed or limited. Through the program, I’ve gained clarity on what I truly seek in both leadership and in my personal life. It has been a gift to learn from other participants, and I feel inspired and equipped to pursue my goals with renewed interest.”



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Kevin Morrissey | Summerville, SC

President Elect, South Carolina Art Education Association

Art Educator and Fine Arts Department Chair, Fort Dorchester High School

Public Works Art Center Founder and Board




“The NAEA School of Art Leaders experience was transformative, igniting a profound sense of purpose and connection. It reminded me of the parable of a single coal that, when alone, begins to fade, but when placed among others, burns brighter, hotter, and longer. As part of the SAL Class of 2024, I felt my passion for the arts rekindled and amplified, reaffirming the vital role art plays in nurturing both individual and communal growth. The SAL journey wrapped me in a community of empathy and like-mindedness, challenging me to expand my impact and influence. It empowered me with a network of passionate, dedicated friends across the country—each of us united in the mission to inspire, uplift, and empower others through transformative power of the arts. Together, we burn brightly, ready to make a lasting difference.

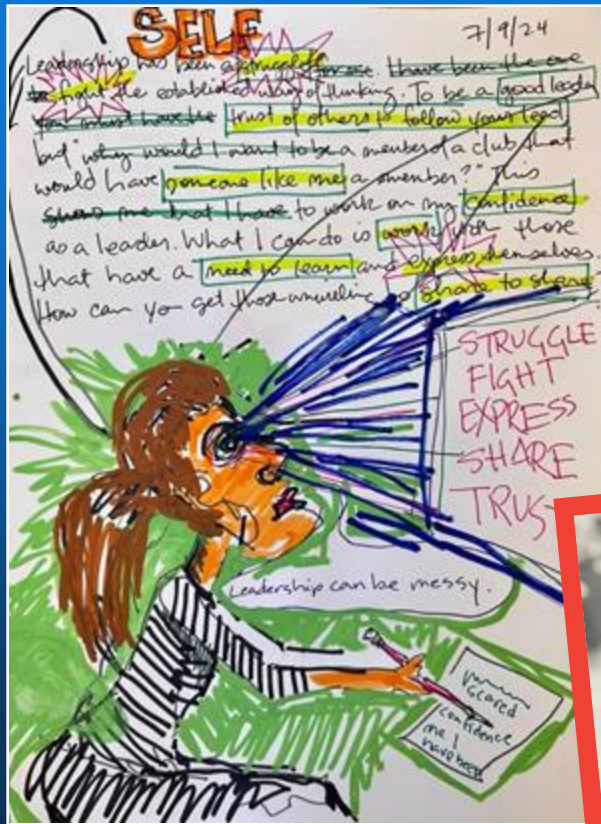
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Summer Nation | Madison, MS

Art Educator, Germantown High School

“SAL taught me that challenge is an opportunity to stand up for what you are passionate about. Our collective passion is the Arts and it's important that we step up and be heard. Art is brave.

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Frann Paige | Clemmons, NC

Elementary Art Specialist, Winston/Salem Forsyth County Schools



“Through SAL’s guidance, I learned to embrace fearlessness and develop my voice. I came to understand my domain circles, which revealed areas in my life that needed growth. This awareness helped me work toward balance, connecting my circles through community service. By aligning these aspects of my life, I found empowerment and became the leader I aspire to be.

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Nathalie Ryan | Washington, DC

Senior Educator, Learning and Engagement, National Gallery of Art



“The SAL experience helped me explore the questions: What does it look like to lead through pedagogy? How can I, as a museum educator, model possibilities that might influence institutional thinking and change at large? This year I experimented with ways to enact my belief in the transformational power of art education through an action research project.

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Emily Saleh | Princeton, NJ

Art and Design Educator, West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District



“SAL can be compared to a camera lens. Imagine the moment when you turn the lens of a camera and bring the subject into sharp focus. SAL is transformative, purposeful and a deeply reflective experience.”



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Elizabeth Stuart Whitehead | Silver Spring, MD

Prince George's County Public Schools, Visual Art Supervisor



“Attending the School for Art Leaders gave me the clarity to shift my focus from traditional leadership roles to embracing new, impactful opportunities. It reinforced that true leadership isn’t defined by titles, but by the difference you make in your community and the bold steps you take toward future challenges.”



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Raine Valentine | York, PA

Middle Level Art Educator, Baltimore County Public Schools

Associate Professor Secondary Methods in Art Education, Notre Dame. Maryland

“School for Art Leaders showed me that there is a place for holistic leadership in our society, and the importance of leading authentically. This means knowing myself deeper, internally and in interactions with others, in order to be aligned deeply and fully by recognizing my value and my power.



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