



NATIONAL **ART EDUCATION** ASSOCIATION
SHAPING HUMAN POTENTIAL

Position Statement on Diversity in Visual Arts Education [Adopted April 2014; Reviewed and Revised March 2017]

NAEA is committed to the important role of visual art education in providing and promoting more just, inclusive learning communities in local and global contexts, and embraces diversity as an integral part of the mission of visual art education. The mosaic of our global humanity is enriched and expanded by the inclusion of all peoples and cultures and the art forms they create.

NAEA acknowledges visual art education as a cultural and social intervention, in which educators and learners collaboratively explore, respond, respect and react to the values, practices and beliefs of cultures in a complex and multifaceted society. Recognizing that a multiplicity of perspectives fuels the practice of democracy and engaged citizenship, NAEA promotes a vision of diversity and inclusion that empowers the full and just participation of all in programs, policy formation, and decision-making. Visual art education should foster safe spaces for discourse and freedom of expression through exploration of self and the lives of others, personal interests, and cultural heritage through the visual arts.

This vision of diversity in visual art education encourages socially just practices and policies that provide and promote increased awareness, understanding, and acceptance of individual and group identities that affect all human interactions including, but not limited to, age, gender, race, color, socio-economic status, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, and national and ethnic origin.