

# secondary spotlight

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[CONVENTION](#)

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## SECONDARY DIVISION NEWS

WINTER 25-26



**WOW  
2026!**

We made it to second semester and honestly, this is one of my favorite times of the year. Days are getting longer, and there are dreams of summer on the horizon. My photo students are getting the hang of the exposure triangle and darkroom processes, and they are starting to create some pretty amazing works—just in time for art show season!

I'm also getting pumped about the upcoming NAEA Convention in Chicago. I'm booking my travel and prepping for sessions. This issue of *Secondary Spotlight* is your resource for Secondary Division convention happenings.

If you've never been to Convention, I encourage you to try something new—you won't regret it! Reach out to your administrator and use our [Letter of Support](#) resource to make your case. Connect on our social media to find a travel buddy. Read on for more information on sessions and events just for Secondary educators!

*Robin Brewer is in her 21st year at Garnet Valley High School in southeastern Pennsylvania and is a past president of the Pennsylvania Art Education Association.*

REGISTER NOW FOR THE BEST RATES!

2026 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 5-7



# CHICAGO



**Registration is OPEN!**

Make your plans now to engage with your vibrant professional community in person at the largest gathering of visual arts education professionals in the world! Make art and lasting connections while experiencing limitless, quality professional learning options—no matter what your professional focus may be. This is visual arts education in action. Don't miss it!

**DON'T  
MISS OUT!**



Convention attendees send some love to Roberto Lugo as he takes a photo of the crowd.

*Photo Credit: Sarah Horn*

Print this **LETTER OF SUPPORT** to give to your administrator when making your case to attend.

On top of many ticketed hands-on workshop options, there are hundreds of included **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**.



NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
2026 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 5-7  
**REENVISION**  
CHICAGO, IL

**CREATE AND SHARE WITH BISA BUTLER:**  
A Classroom Lesson and Student Gallery

**art + artsonia**

## Collaborate with Bisa Butler!

More info on this [collaborative activity](#) with Bisa Butler can be found on the NAEA site: <https://www.arteducators.org/create-and-share-with-bisa-butler>

### How It Works:

#### 1. Explore Bisa Butler's Portraiture and Fiber Art

Introduce your students to the vibrant world of fiber portraiture using [Scholastic Art's free Bisa Butler Collection](#)—a visually stunning resource available to all art teachers. Students will analyze Bisa's artwork and learn about the stories, culture, and meaning woven into her quilted portraits.

#### 2. Teach a Lesson Designed by Bisa Butler

Bring Bisa's creative process into your classroom with her specially designed portraiture [lesson plan, "Art Like Bisa's."](#) This textile art/paper craft classroom project can be easily adapted for any grade level—encouraging students to experiment with color, fabric, pattern, and texture as they create portraits that reflect their own identities.

#### 3. Showcase Student Artwork on [Artsonia](#)

Celebrate your students' creativity by sharing their finished portraits in a special student art gallery created just for the "Art Like Bisa's" lesson on Artsonia. Remember to upload your student artwork by Wednesday, February 11, to be considered for the special display at the 2026 NAEA National Convention!

#### 4. See Bisa Butler at the 2026 NAEA National Convention

Join us in Chicago for NAEA26, where Bisa Butler will share her journey from art educator to world-renowned artist. Hear her discuss her teaching experiences, artistic process, and the importance of storytelling through art. Bonus: Student artwork submitted through Artsonia will be considered for a special display at the 2026 NAEA National Convention!



# CONNECT & COLLECT at the 2026 Convention!

## Level Up Your Teaching Toolkit at the NAEA Convention

**Calling all high school arts educators! As we gear up for the National Art Education Convention, there's an exciting new reason to dive into our secondary-level programming. Beyond the incredible networking and inspiration, we're offering an exclusive incentive to help you "deck out" your professional gear.**

### Attend Sessions, Collect Your Gear



This year, your professional development comes with a tangible bonus. For every secondary session you attend, you will accumulate essential classroom tools to build a high-functioning teaching lanyard.

We know that in a busy studio, having the right reference tools within arm's reach is a game changer. By participating in the secondary track, you can collect a full suite of durable attachments.

**On Friday, attend *Conversations With Colleagues* from 12 to 1:20pm to collect:**

- **The Official Lanyard: Your foundation for the Convention and the classroom.**
- **Precision View Finder: Help students master composition and on-the-fly cropping.**
- **Gray Scale & Value Finder: An indispensable tool for teaching depth and form.**
- **Portable Color Wheel: A quick-reference guide for color theory and mixing.**

**At this session...**

Celebrate and connect with peers, catch up on Secondary happenings, and create together—all in one session! This hands-on session encourages discussion of topics such as AP, NAHS, and student engagement. Leave inspired with fresh ideas, resources, and new connections.

# Level Up Your Teaching Toolkit at the NAEA Convention!

## Continued

### More Tools to Collect

The Secondary Division is hosting **three additional sessions** where you can collect even more teaching tools to add to your lanyard! Don't miss this chance to upgrade your daily toolkit while fueling your creative practice.

**On Thursday from 12:00 to 1:20pm, attend:**  
***Secondary Spotlight: Insights and Inspiration***

Join 2026 award-winning secondary art educators as they share their best practices, teaching strategies, and classroom insights. Gain ideas and inspiration from the field's brightest stars to elevate your own secondary art education practice.

**On Friday from 2:00 to 2:50pm, attend:**

***Secondary Slam: 7 Innovative Ideas for Student Engagement in the Art Room***

Join seven dynamic secondary art educators in this lightning-round session as they each share one engaging, innovative classroom idea. Walk away with a toolbox of creative strategies to energize your teaching and boost student participation—quick ideas with lasting impact!

**On Saturday from 3:00 to 4:20pm, attend:**

***No Points Left Behind: Navigating Inquiry and PER in AP Art and Design***

Veteran AP Readers, Leaders, Mentors, and Development Committee members share essential insights into scoring and instruction for inquiry and PER, the most challenging AP Art and Design rubric areas, using authentic student work and adaptable resources.

# Be a Presenter for the Secondary SLAM!

**Submit a student engagement success story for our secondary session for a chance to present at the NAEA Convention in Chicago!**

## ***Secondary Slam: 7 Innovative Ideas for Student Engagement in the Art Room***

***Applications due by JANUARY 29!***

*This session will showcase seven secondary art educators presenting tried-and-true strategies to increase student engagement. The purpose is to provide attendees with immediately applicable, high-impact teaching ideas that energize the classroom. Attendees will leave with seven distinct and innovative ideas they can incorporate into their practice, each grounded in real-world classroom success. This lightning-round session is structured into seven 5-minute mini-presentations. Each presenter will demonstrate one successful activity, including its rationale, process, and student outcomes. A brief Q and A will conclude the session.*

***If you would like to be considered as a presenter, please complete this [FORM](#).***

Presenters will be notified during the 1st week of February and will need to provide slides by the end of February.

# First time attending conference? Here are some tips for packing!

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CONFERENCE?

- ✓ A COLORFULY FAB FIT TO WEAR FOR THE OPENING NIGHT PARTY
- ✓ COMFY SHOES FOR EXPLORING CHICAGO
- ✓ YOUR PHONE TO DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE APP
- ✓ ALL THE ARTSY T-SHIRTS YOU CAN PACK
- ✓ SPENDING \$ FOR VENDORS AT THE ARTISAN SALE
- ✓ A CAN-DO SPIRIT!
- ✓ SOCKS AND UNDIES
- ✓ BUSINESS CARDS TO GIVE TO ALL THE NEW FRIENDS YOU'LL MAKE
- ✓ YOUR FAVORITE NOTE-TAKING PEN
- ✓ YOUR WATER BOTTLE WITH CURATED STICKER COLLECTION
- ✓ THAT SKETCHBOOK YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING TO USE
- ✓ EXTRA SPACE IN YOUR LUGGAGE FOR ALL YOUR EXPO SWAG
- ✓ YOUR MOST "YES I AM AN ART TEACHER!" FASHION CHOICES!

Conference is a great place to indulge your artsy style.

Bring that crazy pair of overalls you love!

Be ready to swap contacts and social media handles with new art teacher friends!

# Secondary Meetup!

## Secondary Division Gathering!

Join us for conversations and a cocktail/mocktail!

We will gather in the American Craft Kitchen and Bar at the Hyatt Regency at Friday at 6:30 pm. From there, if you'd like to get a group together to walk or scooter to the Museum of Illusions, which is open until 9 pm!

### Museum Information:

#### Major Art Museums (Classic & Contemporary)

- The Art Institute of Chicago: A world-renowned institution with art spanning centuries, including famous Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works, located at 111 S. Michigan Ave, near Millennium Park. (14-minute walk from the Hyatt Regency)
- Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago: Focuses on art from 1945 to the present, featuring rotating exhibitions, a sculpture garden, and a great location at 220 E. Chicago Ave, just off the Magnificent Mile. (19-minute walk from the Hyatt Regency)

#### Immersive & Interactive Art Experiences

- Color Factory: An interactive, colorful experience with 14 immersive exhibits, located in the Willis Tower (233 S. Wacker Dr.). (30-minute walk)
- WNDR Museum: An immersive, sensory art experience with interactive exhibits and photo opportunities, located in the West Loop area. (This one is a bit further, but worth it—13 minutes by car, 32 by public transportation, or a 52-minute walk)
- Museum of Illusions Chicago: Offers visual, sensory, and educational illusions with classic and unique exhibits. (14-minute walk) Open until 9pm Friday and Saturday!

Getting around town by scooter? I got you!

Check this out and be safe!

Scooter Info!

# Advocacy Through AWARDS

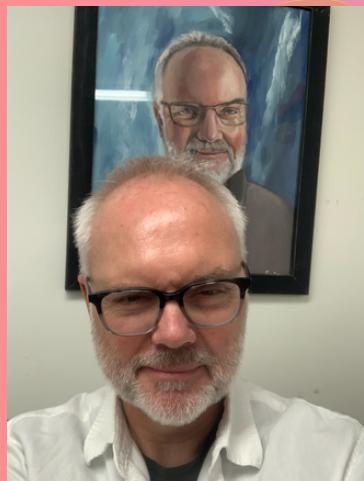
*Celebrate excellence in teaching and put a spotlight on  
SECONDARY arts in education!*

## National Secondary Art Educator

Linda Kieling



## REGIONAL Secondary Art Educators



**Eastern  
Region**  
Ian Torney

**Southeastern  
Region**  
Dallas Gillespie

**Pacific  
Region**  
Diane Lea

**Western  
Region**  
Ann Ossey

# Advocacy Through AWARDS



## Outstanding NAHS Sponsor

Renna Moore-Edwards

## Rising Stars

The Rising Star Secondary Recognition Program promotes art education as a career by recognizing talented, active NAHS members each year.



### Aubrey Heins

"Aubrey proves to be a role model because of her strong work ethic, excellent craftsmanship and individual style."



### Lincoln Rosewood

"Lincoln not only surpasses... expectations but has also shared his time and dedication in ways that inspire both his peers and the broader school community."



### Olivia Valenti

"Olivia's motivation to serve others extends beyond the walls of our school... her experiences have broadened her worldview and inspired her to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others."



### Annie Layden

"Annie is extremely creative, hardworking, and motivated. In the future, Annie would like to teach art and run her own camp at her own farm!"

# Meet Your Secondary Division Team!



## NAEA Secondary Director: Robin Brewer

I wish my students understood that art is not just a series of projects but more about building ideas and techniques to share a story or express emotion.

## NAEA Director-Elect: Latonya Hicks

My favorite thing about art class is the relationships—always the relationships. I love watching students figure out who they are (sometimes quietly, sometimes dramatically) while sitting next to someone doing the same thing. Art class becomes this rare space where it's safe to try, fail, change your mind, and still belong. It's where quiet students find a voice, bold students learn to listen, and everyone realizes their ideas matter—even when there's paint on their hands and glue on the table. The art is important, sure—but the becoming, the connections, reflection and those small breakthrough moments? That's the real magic!!



## NAEA Eastern Region Director: Heidi O'Donnell



"I didn't score or add slip because I wanted to see if the clay and I had a 'bond of trust.' Turns out, there are trust issues." —The Score and Slip Denier

## NAEA Southwest Region Director: Sarah Horn

If I had a superpower related to art, it would be to 'zap' people and release their fear or inhibition about being creative. The kid that doesn't want to try because he will mess up? ZAP. He takes creative risks with abandon now! The kid who thinks making the art they want will make them feel too vulnerable? ZAP! They understand the power and connection of expressing their truth. The kid who compares herself to everyone else? ZAP! That fear of comparison evaporates leaving her free to make all the art. If there was a magical way to zap the inhibition that is a barrier to working creatively, I would love that superpower.



## NAEA Pacific Region Director: Elise Hansen

Messiest art project I have done outside of ceramics would be wet felting! I know that it does not sound that messy but with water and soap, you automatically create a situation that no longer is dry.

## NAEA Western Region Director: Gayle Trueblood

My greatest satisfaction in teaching high school art comes from witnessing students recognize their own potential, persist through challenges, and experience meaningful growth in a remarkably short period of time. This is both my favorite thing and what I wish my students could see in themselves! Although we reflect on this often, sometimes it's not until years later when they come back to visit, that they realize how impactful their time spent in the studio was.



# Secondary Commissioners

## ED&I Commission

### CJ Matz

[president@paea.org](mailto:president@paea.org)

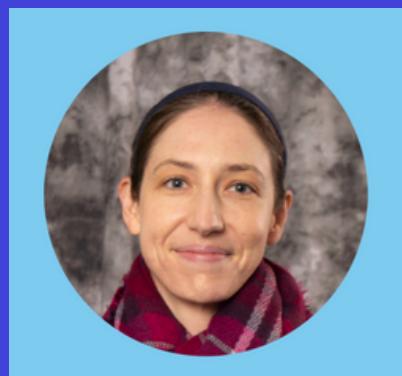


CJ (he/him) is a high school visual arts teacher based in Allentown, PA. He serves as the Secondary Division Commissioner for the ED&I Commission and President of the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA). The ED&I Commission is developing quarterly listening sessions to better understand member needs and inform future programming. Looking ahead to the 2026 Convention, several Commissioners will be hosting identity-based affinity sessions. These meetings offer brave spaces to discuss the unique challenges faced within our professional communities and to engage in meaningful, sometimes difficult, conversations. If you have ideas for future Secondary Division ED&I topics, please reach out to CJ at [president@paea.org](mailto:president@paea.org).

## Research Commission

### Keri Reynolds

[Keri.Reynolds@aliefisd.net](mailto:Keri.Reynolds@aliefisd.net)



Did you know? Research in art education is essential in shaping high quality teaching practices that empower and meet the needs of diverse learners in the 21st century. The NAEA Research Commission provides valuable resources including reports, research publications, and Give It a Minute: Research Conversations to support art educators in facilitating dynamic and relevant curricula grounded in current research. You can learn more about the resources provided by the Research Commission through this link: <https://www.arteducators.org/resources/research>

# National Art Honor Society Updates & Resources



The National Art Honor Society is a great way to advocate for your students and your program. Take a look at all opportunities coming up, including scholarships, at [arteductors.org](http://arteductors.org)



## Artist Connections: Open Studio Conversations

Upcoming Studio Conversation: April 23, 2026, at 7pm ET

### NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETIES EXHIBIT

**Submission deadline:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026

**Notification date:** Thursday, March 12, 2026

**Virtual exhibit opens:** April 10, 2026

[SUBMIT FOR NAHS EXHIBIT →](#)

[SUBMIT FOR NJAHS EXHIBIT →](#)

#### Eligibility

- Submitters must be a sponsor of a registered NAHS/NJAHS chapter with a current NAEA membership.
- Student must be a member of a registered NAHS/NJAHS chapter for the **current school year**.

#### Submission Details

- Submissions must be made digitally through the submission portal **by the chapter sponsor**.
- Limit **ONE** entry per student. [Multiple submissions for the same student will be disqualified from jurying].
- ALL submissions must be an original piece by the student, if proven otherwise, the student will be disqualified.
- Each submission must be accompanied by an Artist's Statement: In 50 words or less, the student should describe their creative process, what inspired this artwork, or why they believe that art matters.
- Images of work must be submitted as JPEG or PNG at a minimum of 540 px.

## NAHS News

### THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY.



NAHS News is a semi-annual digital newsletter featuring reports and photos from NAHS and NJAHS chapters across the country, along with student artwork, award winners, and general program information.

Need an idea of what to submit or want to see the creative things that other chapters have done over the years? View current and past issues of NAHS News below.

The Winter 2026 issue will be available here in mid-January 2026!

[VIEW THE LATEST ISSUE →](#)

Visit [Start a New Chapter](#) for resources to get a chapter started at your school.

Find out more about NAHS **STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES!**

## WELCOME LAURA L. LOTT!



The National Art Education Association (NAEA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura L. Lott to Executive Director. Lott brings cross-sector expertise in museums and K-12 education to enrich member learning, champion art education, and expand equitable access.

Latonya and I are so honored to represent the Secondary Division and we can't wait to see you at the Convention!

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions for us.

**Robin**

*robin.brewer@board.arteducators.org*

**Latonya**

*latonya.hicks@board.arteducators.org*

