

2026 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 5-7



NAEA26 CEUs from Pratt Institute School of Continuing and Professional Studies

Track B: Art Education Advocacy - NAEA-601 – 1 CEU

Centers on advancing and sustaining quality art education through advocacy skills, policy awareness, leadership development, and strategic communication at the school, district, community, and national levels.

To receive 1 CEU credit for **Track B: Art Education Advocacy** you must attend 10 sessions from the list below, document your completion of track requirements, and complete the assessment with a passing score of 80%. [See complete instructions here.](#)

Session Options:

[Session listings options for Track B](#) are also viewable in the NAEA26 mobile app and web platform.

Thursday, March 5

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

The Educators Cut: Media Arts Resources, Building Curriculum, & Filling Your Teaching Toolbox

Nina Lasky, Shani Anthony Perez

As states impose instructional restrictions on educators, this workshop offers equity-informed resources and strategies that foster community and cultural understanding in the art classroom. Educators will receive a toolkit to enrich student-centered instruction and inspire young people to use their voices and power to create change through the arts.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Plaza B

Thursday, March 5

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

Visual Arts Research Author Roundtable: Radical Publications in Art and Design Education

Veronica Hicks, Lilian Lewis, Sarah Travis, Courtney Wolfgang, Christen Garcia

This session features authors, mentors, and editors from Visual Arts Research's special issue, "Radical Publications in Art and Design Education" (publishing winter 2025). Panelists will discuss radical research methods, inclusive editorial practices, and how journals can support early career writers. Attendees are invited to explore how radical imagination in publishing fosters access, equity, and collaboration in the field.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand Hall L

Thursday, March 5

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

Student Lead Exhibitions of Art and Creativity

Jason Blair

Learn how student-led art exhibitions can elevate student voice, build creative confidence, and foster real accountability. This session offers a clear structure for guiding students through the exhibition process while connecting learning to authentic audiences. Walk away with practical tools and inspiration to make student work 10 visible, meaningful, and impactful.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Regency A

Thursday, March 5

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Advocacy Is Beautiful: Creating Passion-Fueled, Data-Driven Tools for Change

Heather Crockett

Want to grow your program, increase your impact, or advocate for the arts in your school or community? Learn how to combine your passion and creative voice with powerful data to tell a compelling story. Create beautiful, personalized advocacy materials during this hands-on, think tank session.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Toronto

Thursday, March 5

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Bridging the Gap: Advocacy and Communication Strategies for Arts Educators

Natalie Ann Roig-McKnight

This session empowers art educators to advocate for their programs by using meaningful data, accessing funding, and effectively communicating with administrators—while promoting culturally respectful, equity-focused practices aligned with current educational priorities. Participants will leave with practical tools, templates, and strategies to sustain and grow their visual arts programs.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Acapulco

Thursday, March 5

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Art for All: Creating a Community Art Supply Closet as Community Care

Isa Obradovich, Ellen Long, Ryan Jeanssonne

Interested in promoting equitable access to the arts in your community? Join us to learn how one university's community art supply closet was founded and funded by the campus's NAEA

Student Chapter, lowering the barrier to entry to studio art courses for students all around campus.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand Hall J

Thursday, March 5

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Start Your Art Leadership Journey

Janis Nunnally

Are you ready to become a leader in NAEA or your state organization? Hear from a panel of established NAEA leaders as they share their stories and offer valuable information on how to begin your path to leadership.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Roosevelt 3A

Thursday, March 5

02:00 PM - 02:50 PM

Beyond the Classroom: Advocacy Strategies to Elevate Arts Learning for School and District Leaders

Dru Davison

How do art educators successfully engage school and district leaders in supporting robust arts programs? This interactive session will share advocacy strategies for building buy-in through experiential learning opportunities including field trips, outdoor explorations, and virtual engagements. Participants will gain practical tools for framing the value of the arts in terms that resonate with administrators, grounded in current research on student learning outcomes. Leave ready to champion your program with confidence, evidence, and creativity.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Roosevelt 3B

Thursday, March 5

02:00 PM - 02:50 PM

Our Interior Studios: Cultivating Personal Practices to Create Change

School for Art Leaders

What happens when educators turn inward? This session examines the ripple effects possible when art educators prioritize their personal practice to find peace and create impact. During this session, members of the School for Art Leaders will highlight how honoring their own creativity through art, movement, and intentional documentation led to newfound confidence, focus, and structure. Learn how creativity helped presenters recalibrate their careers and navigate what's next while remaining present for their learning communities.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Wright

Thursday, March 5

02:00 PM - 02:50 PM

Histories in Motion: Tracing the Legacy and Envisioning the Future of the Council for Policy Studies in Art Education

Sara Scott Shields

Explore the history of the Council for Policy Studies in Art Education and its role in shaping critical art education policy. This session traces the organization's founding, contributions, and evolving commitments to advocacy and equity—offering insights for researchers, educators, and emerging policy leaders alike.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Acapulco

Thursday, March 5

02:00 PM - 02:50 PM

Cultivating Connection: Art as a Tool for Reflection, Collaboration, Leadership, and Community Building

School for Art Leaders

What does it look like when art becomes a bridge—connecting us to ourselves, to one another, and to the communities around us? Members of the School of Art Leaders come together to explore this question through stories of reflection, collaboration, mentorship, and shared practice. Their presentations will highlight how art can build confidence, strengthen communication, and create meaningful relationships across classrooms and communities, while inviting us all to consider the value of building community, encouraging leadership in others, and learning when to ask for and accept support.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Wright

Thursday, March 5

03:00 PM - 03:50 PM

Fellows Forum: From the Margins to the Center: Art/Design/Media Arts Educators Leading Change in Education

Robin Vande Zande, Bob Sabol

Distinguished Fellows guide small-group discussions focused on changes in education and how art, design, and media arts educators can take a central role in those changes. Through structured dialogue, diverse perspectives, and equal participation, participants build collective insight. These discussions foster community, spark ideas, and inspire collaborative action. One table, one conversation, lasting impact.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | McCormick

Thursday, March 5

03:00 PM - 03:50 PM

Cultivating Connection: Art as a Tool for Reflection, Collaboration, Leadership, and Community Building

School for Art Leaders Class of 2025

What does it look like when art becomes a bridge—connecting us to ourselves, to one another, and to the communities around us? Members of the School of Art Leaders come together to explore this question through stories of reflection, collaboration, mentorship, and shared practice. Their presentations will highlight how art can build confidence, strengthen communication, and create meaningful relationships across classrooms and communities, while inviting us all to consider the value of building community, encouraging leadership in others, and learning when to ask for and accept support.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Wright

Thursday, March 5

03:00 PM - 04:20 PM

Purpose, Presence, and Politics: The 3 Ps of Arts Leadership

Bianca Hamilton

Are you a current or aspiring leader who wants to learn the 3 Ps of arts leadership? This session will equip participants with the knowledge to lead arts education effectively by clarifying their leadership purpose, establishing a supportive presence across schools, and navigating district-level politics with confidence.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Comiskey

Thursday, March 5

03:00 PM - 04:20 PM

Building Community Through Art Teacher Meetup Events

Alicia Peters, Amanda Klauck

Discover how to build vibrant art educator networks linking preservice, K–12 art teachers, teaching artists, and local arts partners. Experience a live microsession, practice community-building strategies, and leave with a step-by-step toolkit for starting your own art teacher meetup event. Join us to help strengthen art teacher belonging and retention.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Regency B

Thursday, March 5

03:00 PM - 04:20 PM

Share Your Story! Exploring the Impact of Education Legislation on Art Teachers in the South

Lisa Novak, Rachel Fendler, Sara Scott Shields

Come learn about our efforts to document how K–12 art teachers in the South are sustaining their practices amid the impacts of education legislation. We invite you to share your experiences, including strategies of resistance and persistence, in interactive small-group discussions, and help us build a coalition for change.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Regency D

Thursday, March 5

04:30 PM - 05:20 PM

Shine the Light: Becoming a Thoughtful and Brave Leader

School for Art Leaders Class of 2025

Leadership requires asking bold questions, processing the responses, and tackling tough tasks. Often, art educators are so occupied with immediate tasks that research and experimentation take a back seat. This session explores how six art educators are becoming more thoughtful and brave leaders by prioritizing reflection, digging into data, surfacing “invisible” work, and advocating for sustainable practices. What might you discover if you shine some light on a previously unexplored area and grapple with what emerges?

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Wright

Friday, March 6

08:00 AM - 08:50 AM

Advocating Effectively; Collaborating is Key!

Roger Tomhave, Barbara Laws

Join us for a discussion of how, through local and state-level collaborations of arts educators and other stakeholders, advocacy and policy influencing can make a difference in student access to quality arts education. Participants will be encouraged to discuss their own experiences and needs.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Randolph 3

Friday, March 6

08:00 AM - 8:50 AM

Connecting Classrooms to the World: Artist Collaborations That Empower K-8 Learners

Erin Clinton

Learn how one urban, public, project-based STEM school built inspiring K-8 artist partnerships—locally and globally. This session offers practical guidance on outreach, funding, and cocreating student-centered art experiences. Attendees will leave empowered to build their own collaborations and grow an arts program as expansive and impactful as they envision.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Plaza B

Friday, March 6

08:00 AM - 08:50 AM

Why Art Works: Neuroeducation meets Arts Integration for Deeper Learning

Julia Di Bussolo, Rachael Barillari, Sam Green

Discover how brain science validates what art educators have always known: The arts are essential for deep learning. Learn simple, neuroeducation-based language to support advocacy efforts, explore the Brain-Targeted Teaching model, and leave with arts-integrated strategies, resources, and inspiration to champion the role of the arts in every classroom.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Michigan 3

Friday, March 6

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Empowering Advocacy through Art: Building Community and Connection

Dr. Leigh Drake, Ashley Gonzalez

Join us in transforming the art classroom into a catalyst for advocacy and community engagement. Participants will explore strategies to seamlessly integrate advocacy into their curriculum, promoting cultural awareness and social responsibility. Attendees will depart with actionable ideas and resources to empower their communities to create meaningful change through creativity.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Roosevelt 3B

Friday, March 6

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Why Advocacy Matters for Preservice and Early Career Teachers

Melody Weintraub, Nancy Walkup

RAEA members who have long recognized the advantages of advocating for your art program from the very beginning of a career will share reasons why advocacy should be considered and give meaningful examples of purposeful ways to approach it through an interactive group discussion.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand Hall H

Friday, March 6

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

The Administrator's Playbook: Strategies for Recruitment, Retention, & Advocacy

Sarah Ackermann, Gino Molfino

Join members from the Supervision and Administration Division to discuss issues impacting the field today. Walk away with a playbook of real-world strategies to tackle teacher recruitment, teacher retention, and advocacy for your classrooms and programs. Panelists will include Michael Kalafatis, Michele Agosto, Kelly Bisogno, Andrew Frey-Gould, and Antonia Germanos.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand Hall K

Friday, March 6

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Won't You Be Our Neighbor? A Framework for Building Strong Artistic Communities

CJ Oliver, William Jones

Join us to explore a replicable framework for building vibrant, inclusive arts communities. This session offers tools, inspiration, and collaborative time to begin designing your own "arts neighborhood" rooted in equity, connection, and sustainability—where curriculum, community, and creativity work together to strengthen visual arts education at every level.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand EIF

Friday, March 6

02:00 PM - 02:50 PM

Data Sources for Research and Advocacy, and Key Findings—Sponsored by the Research Commission

Cappie Dobyns, Kelly Bisogno, Keri Reynolds

This session provides insights into accessible local, state, and national art education data sources for researchers, educators, leaders, and advocates. Attendees will learn to navigate these sources and explore correlations between data sets to uncover trends. Key findings will be shared, offering actionable information for data-driven advocacy, decision making, and research.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand Hall G

Friday, March 6

03:00 PM - 03:50 PM

Coaching Administrators to Recognize Conginately Rich Art Teaching

Brenna Alonso, Kimberley D'Adamo Green

Join two art teachers-turned-admins to learn practical strategies for coaching your administrators to recognize, understand, and celebrate excellent, student-centered art teaching. Discover tools to advocate for meaningful evaluations and help your admin see the rich, creative thinking happening in your studio classroom, ensuring your teaching is valued and supported.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Plaza B

Saturday, March 7

08:00 AM - 08:50 AM

Making the Visual Arts More Visual: Advocacy, Access, and Innovation in Art Education

Kevin Shifley, Jonathan Pruc

Discover proven teacher-led strategies to increase visibility and enrollment in your visual arts program. Learn from successful models that amplify student voice, advocate for the arts, and build inclusive, engaging visual culture within schools. Leave with practical tools and inspiration to make your visual arts curriculum more vibrant and vital.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Acapulco

Saturday, March 7

08:00 AM - 08:50 AM

Advocacy Tips and Tricks From the Trenches

Andrea Haas

Feeling advocacy fatigue? This session offers practical, adaptable grassroots advocacy strategies to promote your art program and visual arts education at the school, district, and community levels. Participants will leave with usable, customizable ideas they can immediately implement to strengthen their advocacy efforts and keep their message fresh and effective.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Regency D

Saturday, March 7

12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

If You Build It, They Will Come! Art Advocacy Through Public Student Exhibitions

Danielle Holtz, Audrey Catalano

Join us for a moderated panel discussion that highlights how our district leverages citywide student visual arts exhibitions in public galleries and museums as a powerful advocacy tool for arts education. Participants will walk away with a model for building an exhibition in partnership with a gallery or museum.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Roosevelt 3A

Saturday, March 7

01:00 PM - 01:50 PM

Art in Action: Empowering Young Artists Through a School–Gallery Partnership

Tanya Scott, Jayme Banzhoff

Discover how a high school art program and contemporary art gallery unite to ignite student creativity! This dynamic partnership blends gallery visits, critical engagement, and research-based artmaking, culminating in a student-led pop-up exhibition. Gain actionable strategies to cocreate curriculum, empower young artists, and build inspiring, cross-institutional art experiences.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Wrigley

Saturday, March 7

02:00 PM - 02:50 PM

NAEA Advocacy: A Plan for the Road Ahead

Josh Drews, Ray Yang

Learn about the NAEA Advocacy Committee and the work they have done to create a National Advocacy Strategic Plan for art education. Engage in discussion, collect resources, and become the best art education advocate you can be!

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Grand Hall L

Saturday, March 7

03:00 PM - 03:50 PM

Beyond the Bulletin: Expanding Interactive Displays for School-Wide Engagement

Benjamin Hoffman

Explore new ways to transform school spaces into hubs of creativity, competition, and connection. This follow-up presentation highlights innovative, interactive displays that encourage school-wide participation, celebrate process, and elevate student voice. Attendees will leave with adaptable strategies to activate their walls, bulletin boards, and hallways with purpose.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Gold Coast

Saturday, March 7

04:00 PM - 04:50 PM

Community Building Through Arts: Utilizing YAM with Advocacy and Action

Iva Damon

This workshop explores how schools can transform traditional art events into dynamic arts advocacy tools. Using Leavitt's Arts Gala as a model, we will examine how interdisciplinary collaboration, including visual arts exhibitions, musical performances, theatre, and visiting artists, creates meaningful community engagement and highlights the arts as essential to education.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Cominskey

Saturday, March 7

04:00 PM - 04:50 PM

From Invisible to Visible: Documentation Panels as Advocacy Tools in Elementary Art Education

Libba Willcox, Kate McCormick

Transform your hallway displays into powerful advocacy tools! Learn research-based strategies for creating documentation panels that showcase children's artistic thinking processes alongside their artwork. Move beyond traditional "best work" exhibitions toward meaningful displays that demonstrate educational value to administrators, families, and colleagues. Gain practical techniques for efficient panel creation.

Hyatt Regency Chicago | Randolph 1A|1B