



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Art Education Association and Crayola Education Support Visual Arts Educators With Creative Leadership Ambassador Program

The National Art Education Association (NAEA) and Crayola Education are partnering to offer the NAEA–Crayola Creativity Ambassadors Program, providing visual arts education professionals with professional learning, resources, and support to cultivate Creative Leadership Teams within their learning communities.

Nearly 200 visual arts educators applied to be selected as Creativity Ambassadors. The newly announced 75 NAEA–Crayola Creativity Ambassadors will be immersed in leadership exercises, using creativity as a reflective practice and catalyst for change. Creativity is an essential skill that prepares students to solve problems, be innovative, and make their thinking visible. NAEA–Crayola Creativity Ambassadors will lead and inspire colleagues to leverage creativity as foundational practice in teaching and learning. The timing of this program coincides with NAEA’s 75th anniversary as the professional organization for arts educators and Crayola Education’s launch of the Crayola Creativity Week, a global celebration of creativity.

Selection was based on review of the applicants’ resumes and their answers to a series of questions prompting examples of successful approaches to building creative capacity through teaching and leadership in the classroom, school, and community.

“Art educators are naturally equipped with the capacity to lead in their learning community. In a recent study, 74% principals agree that when art teachers share their knowledge, it increases the impact on teaching practices in their school. Creativity is a strength that is best leveraged when building the capacity of others to positively impact the learning environment.”

—James Wells, Crayola Education Manager

NAEA Crayola Creativity Ambassadors:

Lauren Alinkofsky, P723X@338X, West Nyack, NY

Sara Allen, Clear Fork Elementary School, Kyle, TX

Michelle Armstrong, Cardinal Valley Elementary School, Lexington, KY

Tammy Ashworth, Toro Canyon Middle School, La Quinta, CA

Mari Atkinson, Western Washington University and Schack Art Center, Mukilteo, WA

Michal Austin, Flinthills USD 492, Rosalia, KS

Regina Babin, Grand Caillou Elementary School, Houma, LA
Andrea Baxter, Dalraida Elementary, Goshen, AL
Adrienne Benson, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, Parkville, MO
Jodi Biasiucci, Smoketree Elementary School, Lake Havasu City, AZ
Lauren Burrow, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
Loretta Bradshaw, Stinson Elementary, Richardson, TX
LaDonna Canup, Clarkesville Elementary, Turnerville, GA
Paige Colwell, McKinley Middle Academic Magnet, Baton Rouge, LA
Paige Covello, Horace Mann Lab School, Danvers, MA
Miriam Cutelis, Claremont Immersion, Arlington, VA
Jed Dearybury, University of South Carolina-Upstate, Boiling Springs, SC
Kelly Downes, Arts Council of Southeast Missouri, Cape Girardeau, MO
Morgan Forbes, West Liberty High School, Lone Tree, IA
Lisa Fritz, North Elementary School, Noblesville, IN
Aubrey Garcia, Captain Shreve High School, Shreveport, LA
Detria Graham, Spartanburg School District 6, Spartanburg, SC
Robyn Gram, St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School, Bolton, ON, Canada
Liliana Greenberg, Marysville School, Portland, OR
Jessica Haldenwanger, Reed Point School, Reedpoint, MT
Kimberly Hamilton, Tomek-Eastern Elementary, Fenton, MI
Susan Hawkins, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
Jacqueline Henson-Dacey, Venice High School, Venice, FL
MJ Hoffman, Stella Maris Academy, Duluth, MN
Maggie Holloway, Robinson Barracks Elementary School/DODEA, APO, AE
Julia Hovanec, Kutztown University, Pennsburg, PA
Tracy Huggins, Pattison Elementary School, Loveland, OH
Jessica Johnston, Akron Public Schools, North Canton, OH
Amanda Kelly, Valley Creek Elementary, McKinney, TX
Thomas Knab, Dodge Elementary, East Amherst, NY*
Jim Lalumondier, Hammond School, Blythewood, SC
Amy Lange, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
Wendee Lee, ArtCenter College of Design, Upland, CA
Adoria Maxberry, Woodford Academy, Cincinnati, OH
Linda Ann McIntosh, Glenpool Middle School, Glenpool, OK
Tara Meeuwsen, Grandville Public Schools, Grandville, MI
Alex Mendez, Inter American Magnet school, Chicago, IL
Julie Midkiff, Raleigh County Schools/Bradley Elementary, Prosperity, WV
James Miller, Weslaco East High School, Weslaco, TX
Rachel Milliken, Coppell Independent School District, Oak Point, TX
Michael Mitchell, Mount Pleasant Elementary/Middle/High School, Nashville, TN
Theresa Nguyen, Sheldon High School, Sacramento, CA
Scot Nobles, Bruce Randolph High School, Denver, CO
Kimberly Olson, Centre School, Hampton, NH
Laura Ornstein, Bridges Charter School, Thousand Oaks, CA
Jennifer Peters, Erie Day School, Erie, PA
Stacey Przilas, Dalhart ISD, Dalhart, TX
Amber Reed, Pinewood Prep, Summerville, SC
Caron Sada, Paradise Valley Community College, Peoria, AZ
Alison Schmidt, Cedar Crest Elementary, Rockford, MI
Kerry Shadbolt, Laingsburg Elementary School, East Lansing, MI
Marica Shannon, Mitchell School District, Mitchell, SD
Stephanie Silverman, Archmere Academy, Claymont, DE
Lisa Spence, Hasty Elementary Fine Arts Academy, GA
Stephanie Stamm, Boyertown Middle School West, Blandon, PA
Jaymie Stein, Paterson Public Schools, Jersey City, NJ
Jessica Stuver, Lakewood Catholic Academy, Lakewood, OH

Evelyn Terry, Fueling Brains Academy, Houston, TX
Samantha Theisen, San Gabriel Unified, San Gabriel, CA
Ayanna Thompson, Lake Ridge Elementary School, 1704 Winterset Parkway, GA
Amy Trujillo, Orlando Science Elementary, Clermont, FL
Christine Tudor, Archbishop Molloy High School, Seaford, NY
Raine Valentine, Ridgely Middle School, Spring Grove, PA
Melinda Van De Graaff, Willow Springs Elementary, Draper, UT
Amber Velez, New York Edge, Bronx, NY
Cassie Walker, Lone Peak Elementary, Draper, UT
Carrie-Jo Wallace, Ron Clark Academy, Tyrone, GA
Anjali Wells, Montgomery County Public Schools, Laurel, MD
Tiffany Wells, Cannon River STEM School, Northfield, MN
Courtney Widhalm, Baldwin Creek Elementary School, Lander, WY
Angela Winters, Oceanair Elementary School, Norfolk, VA

*ex-officio Ambassador

About the National Art Education Association: Founded in 1947, the National Art Education Association (NAEA) is the leading professional membership organization exclusively for visual arts, design, and media arts education professionals. Members include preK, elementary, middle, and high school visual arts educators; college and university professors; university students preparing to become educators; researchers and scholars; teaching artists; administrators and supervisors; and art museum educators—as well as more than 50,000 students who are members of the National Art Honor Society. NAEA champions creative growth and innovation by equitably advancing the tools and resources for a high-quality visual arts, design, and media arts education throughout diverse populations and communities of practice. <https://www.arteducators.org/about>

About Crayola Education: Crayola, LLC, based in Easton, PA, and a subsidiary of Hallmark Cards, Incorporated, is the worldwide leader in children’s creative expression products. Known for the iconic Crayola Crayon first introduced in 1903, the Crayola brand has grown into a portfolio of innovative art tools, crafting activities, and creativity toys that offer children innovative new ways to use color to create everything imaginable. Crayola Education provides free creative learning resources to K–8 educators to prepare students with academic and life skills that hinge on creativity. For more information, visit <http://www.crayola.com> or join the community at <https://www.facebook.com/crayolaeducation>.

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