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**National Art Education Association to Receive National Endowment for the Arts Grant for National Visual Arts Standards Professional Development Initiative**

Reston, Virginia - In the second major grant announcement of fiscal year 2015, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will make a \$50,000 award to the National Art Education Association for the NAEA National Visual Arts Standards Professional Development Initiative. This initiative will support visual art educators in their knowledge and use of the National Visual Arts Standards released last year.

Through this one-year Professional Development project, expert instructors will engage 10,000-15,000 PreK-15 visual art educators through Face-to-Face Professional Learning Forums, monthly Interactive Virtual Learning Experiences to include Webinars, and an Interactive Virtual Learning Conference. ArtTeachersFreeSpace is a new virtual portal that will be developed and launched through this Initiative to support art educators in sharing ideas and images that inspire the design of curriculum and instruction. The Instructional Resources Gallery will offer online curated resources (lesson plans, unit designs, student art) aligned with the national visual arts standards.

Project outcomes include the strategic development of a perpetual learning community to provide opportunities for sharing ideas and demonstrating success in reimagining teaching and learning in the visual arts based on the artistic processes of creating, presenting, responding, and connecting. The initiative is designed in specific response to art educator needs assessment data.

"We are grateful for the support we are receiving from the National Endowment for the Arts for this timely Professional Development Initiative. This is NAEA's first grant from the NEA, marking a significant milestone in the development of our professional learning community while enabling us to build capacity for providing a broad range of learning opportunities for visual art educators across the country," said Deborah B. Reeve, NAEA Executive Director, in commenting on the Initiative and NEA's funding.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu said, "The NEA is committed to advancing learning, fueling creativity, and celebrating the arts in cities and towns across the United States. Funding these new projects like the one from the National Art Education Association represents an investment in both local communities and our nation's creative vitality."

Through its grant-making to thousands of nonprofits each year, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) promotes opportunities for people in communities across America to experience the arts and exercise their creativity. The NEA will make 1,023 awards totaling \$74.3 million nationwide in this funding round.

NAEA promotes art education through professional development, service, advancement of research, knowledge, and leadership. Specifically, NAEA provides expertise, training, and resources that support professional growth and leadership development, helping members affect the quality of student learning in their local schools, communities, and states. The Association believes that all students deserve a comprehensive, balanced and sequential program of instruction in the visual arts. Further, the Association believes that the art curriculum should be led and taught by teachers who are certified and qualified in the visual arts and designed to provide students with skills and knowledge in the arts in accordance with national, state and local standards.

To join the Twitter conversation about this announcement, please use #NEASpring2015. For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, go to [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

**National Art Education Association**

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