



Naea

Advancing Art Education

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EXHIBITION TO SHOWCASE THE VALUE OF ART EDUCATION

Artwork from Students of Alexandria Public Schools Will Highlight Opening of the National Art Education Association Headquarters; February 18, 2016

ALEXANDRIA, VA – JANUARY 28, 2016 – An exhibition of diverse works of art created by pk-12 students in Alexandria public schools will mark the inauguration of the new headquarters of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) on February 18, 2016.

All of the art will express the theme of “transition” and will encompass the entire spectrum of art media including computer design, painting, drawing, and written reflection among others. The artwork that will be exhibited has been selected by art educators throughout the school system and represents student work at all grade levels.

NAEA’s new studio in Old Town Alexandria has been designed as multi-functional space to serve as the association’s headquarters, a fully functional gallery designed to showcase art and art making space for educator professional development – all with the intent of showcasing the essential value of visual arts education in the 21st century.

“We are living our mission,” said Deborah B. Reeve, Executive Director of NAEA. “We live in a visual age, and a foundation in art education has never been more critically important for students pursuing careers in any field. This exhibit, and NAEA’s presence in Alexandria will serve as a living, fully functional demonstration of why art education matters!”

A recent NAEA whitepaper, “Using Art Education to Build a Stronger Workforce,” citing Conference Board Research Report data, reported that 100% of business and school leaders say creativity is increasingly important in U.S. workplaces (97 and 99 percent, respectively). And studies show how arts education not only nurtures creativity and innovation but also significantly impacts the cognitive, social and emotional development of children and youth. While students who have access to arts education develop technical and expressive capacity in the arts, they also develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills and realize other cognitive, personal and social outcomes that contribute to the development of human potential.

“Our partnership with NAEA in producing this exhibition not only highlights the work of our students on a national stage, but it is a vivid example of how our students are learning through creating art,” said Andrew Watson, Fine Arts Instructional Specialist with Alexandria Public

Schools.

Media are invited to attend and cover the event. Contact david@harrisoncommunications.net or 410-804-1728 for more information.

Founded in 1947, the National Art Education Association is the leading professional membership organization exclusively for visual arts educators. Members include elementary, middle, and high school visual arts educators; college and university professors; university students preparing to be art educators; researchers and scholars; teaching artists; administrators and supervisors; and art museum educators—as well as more than 49,000 students who are members of the National Art Honor Society.