NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
SHAPING HUMAN POTENTIAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2017

NAEA Statement in Response to Racial Violence in Charlottesville, Virginia

The following statement is issued by National Art Education Association President, Kim Huyler Defibaugh, Ed.D., following the events in Charlottesville, VA over the weekend.

The National Art Education Association (NAEA) condemns in the strongest terms possible the acts of hatred, racism, discrimination and bigotry that took place on August 13, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia. NAEA expresses condolences to the families of those whose lives were lost.

Through the darkness of this tragedy, we stand with Charlottesville in the hope that the lights of diversity, inclusion and acceptance will shine through. Art education is a powerful catalyst for interpreting the world and teaching diversity of thought.

The mission of NAEA is to advance visual arts education to fulfill human potential and promote global understanding. Art educators are encouraged to facilitate dialogue with their learners that teaches lessons of empathy and understanding through art education.

The NAEA professional community understands that these actual life events impact the very real lives of our nation's children and youth. In response, art educators are encouraged to use this moment to facilitate critical conversations that will effect positive change. We have compiled a few resources and a link to an article that explicitly addresses the confederate statues that ignited these unfortunate events in Charlottesville. Members are encouraged to follow the hashtag #CharlottesvilleCurriculum for additional resources.

Art education shapes human potential. We take this moment in our nation's history to rededicate ourselves to maximizing the potential that is shared by the mosaic of our global humanity.

Resources for art educators:
Tolerance.org
Sharemylesson
PBS Learning
http://www.npr.org/2017/08/14/543390148/resources-for-educators-to-use-the-wake-of-charlottesville
http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=arte_pubs
https://insiderlouisville.com/metro/mayor-calls-for-review-of-public-art/

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