



GREETINGS, ISAE MEMBERS!

The learning and reflection that come from professional development opportunities are incredible, but what do we actually DO with all that inspiration? If inspiration is really just the first step, how do we transform it into action?

Art does not exist in a vacuum, and neither do art educators.

Perhaps I'm just speaking from personal experience, but I'm slightly embarrassed to admit that—at this very moment—I have a desk drawer full of notes, ideas, and observations from previous National Conventions. Yes, there are tons of doodles, too. Now, of course, I have acted on some of the ideas that were of particular interest to me, but it pains me to think of the potential missed connections, exemplars, or ideas that I simply was not ready to conceptualize at the time. The amount of new information can feel overwhelming at times! If you can relate, let's take the first steps toward making a change—together!

What can we do to keep the experience alive after a NAEA Convention ends? Below are a few tips that I hope will help us make the most of our time in or our next professional learning opportunity.

SCHEDULE TIME TO REFLECT

Reserve an hour to think strategically. What sessions did you enjoy the most? Who inspired you? Reflect on the items that you envision making an impact on your school, artmaking practice, and life. What big changes do you hope to make over time? What smaller changes could you make today?

GET ORGANIZED

Create a physical or digital folder to compile notes, contacts, printed mate-

rials, and so on, and prioritize the items. Review the materials within the first few weeks of your return, and again a few months after the event to consider your thoughts with fresh eyes. Remember, you can often download presentation materials through the official NAEA Convention App. Save your relevant inspiration in a convenient place.

SHARE RELEVANT RESOURCES WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

Art does not exist in a vacuum, and neither do art educators. You've had the privilege of being inspired by some of the most influential figures in art education—now it's time to share the wealth. Consider those in your professional and personal circles who might benefit from some of the knowledge you have gained. Sharing is caring!

KEEP IN CONTACT WITH NEW CONNECTIONS

It doesn't take much effort to keep in touch. Send an email to that presenter whose session you enjoyed. Follow that new friend on social media. Connecting with other attendees and presenters is a fantastic way to keep the energy flowing after the event. Relationships are often the best resources, so expand your circle for greater feedback and inspiration. Go ahead and expand your personal and professional network!

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ISAE ONLINE

ISAE was specifically formed to inspire a sense of community among art educators in independent settings. I'd like to personally encourage you to stay connected with our Interest Group and to share your unique experiences with us. You can find us on all of your social media hotspots:

- Instagram: @ISAE.NAEA
- Facebook: Independent School Art Educators Interest Group



Evan Thomas
ISAE President

- Through the NAEA website: click on "Community" > click on "Interest Groups" > click on "Independent School Art Education," and you are on our page.
- Via email: ISAEpresident@gmail.com

Talk to you soon,

Evan Thomas
ISAE President ■



If you have not already done so, please take this 15-minute ISAE survey about your role as an art educator in an independent school! Your input helps us understand the needs of our growing educator community.

Evan Thomas

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