



**NEED TO KNOW WEBCAST**

**Creating a Safe Space:  
Our LGBTQ+ Students and Their Allies**

**Title:** Creating a Safe Space: Our LGBTQ+ Students and Their Allies

**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 | 7-8 pm ET

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What is a Safe Space? How do you create one in your classroom and school? What benefits does it have in the lives of our students? These questions and more will be explored in this session which will introduce the concept of a Safe Space and provide tools to create these spaces in art classrooms and beyond. A Safe Space is a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for all students, especially those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and more. These spaces are becoming more integral in our schools as more of our students continue to identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, but are too afraid to be themselves in our society. As art educators, our classrooms are typically seen as a respite from core classes and provide students with an opportunity to explore, experiment, and express themselves through various mediums. Creating a Safe Space within this environment is not only natural, but will become instinctual after this session.

*Please note that participation in this webcast does not provide NAEA professional development credit.*

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### Presenters:



**Carlos A. Cruz, President, NAEA LGBTQ+ Interest Group**

Carlos A. Cruz is a secondary art teacher, specializing in film and animation at Beacon Charter High School for the Arts in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. With a background in animation, video editing, and photography, he focuses on creating digital art experiences for his students, regardless of their socio-economic background. Carlos earned his Bachelor's Degree in Film, Animation, and Video at the Rhode Island School of Design (2003) and his Master's Degree in Art Education at Rhode Island College (2018). He has a passion for art education and is involved at the state and national level, currently holding two leadership positions: events co-chair, Rhode Island Art Education Association (RIAEA), and president, NAEA LGBTQ+ Interest Group.



**Barry Morang, Past President, NAEA LGBTQ+ Interest Group**

Barry Morang is a state licensed K-12 art educator, currently teaching at the elementary level. He considers his teaching style to be a collaborative exploration of the medium and subject, which creates an ongoing transfer of knowledge and cohesion among disciplines and participants. Barry believes that understanding how gender, identity development, sexuality, and biases impact art education and student learning can improve how we as teachers and students can make sense of our experiences, solidify our person, and further our learning in and out of the classroom.

