MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

F. Robert Sabol

Amast! I am writing this column during a 7,700-mile, 15-hour return flight, while going nearly 600 miles an hour at 39,000 feet somewhere over India, Afghanistan, and Russia. This year a delegation of 16 art educators from 11 states and 2 foreign countries served as delegates in the NAEA International Art Education Research Program as we traveled to India.

Curriculum content, availability of instructional supplies and materials, assessment of learning, and professional development were recurring topics in discussions with our Indian counterparts.

In fully understanding the Indian art education system and curriculum content, it was of equal importance that the delegation be immersed in the more than 10,000 year old history of India, which included the ancient Indus valley civilizations and conquests by the Mughuls, Muslims, and the British, as well as the rich and varied artistic culture of India. We traveled through congested city streets to visit a number of artists who painted classical Indian miniature paintings, wove exquisite rugs, crafted rich hand-made papers, printed elegant textiles, produced amazing pottery, and created stunning jewelry. We enjoyed exotic foods, whose names we usually could not pronounce, and watched and participated in delightful dance and puppetry performances.

In addition to riding in our tour bus, we rode rickshaws, camel carts, and elephants to some of the historic venues. We visited a number of monuments, including the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort, Delhi’s Red Fort, Humayun’s Tomb, and the five-story victory tower of Qutb Minar built in 1199, Jaipur’s City Palace and Amber Fort, and the Jantar Mantar Observatory. Many other sites proved helpful for fully understanding the cultural heritage of the people of India, the art educators teaching in their schools, and the culturally rich and varied student populations in the schools we visited.

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Dear NAEA members,

As we can continue to explore the basic idea of creativity and how we can apply it more effectively in our educational lives, the idea that creativity may spring from the right combination of locational elements is intriguing. The idea that creativity in the community might unleash a bounty of positive outcomes is even more compelling. Creative Placemaking asserts that it animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.

It also makes me wonder if the very definition of art education might be too limiting a concept for the full experience of art education. So, in this issue’s interactive Prezi, we explore the question “Is Art A Class?” We’ve posted it at www.arteducators.org. Take a look, and then tell us of innovative ways you have brought your students to an “art state of mind” in the comments section.

Deborah B. Reeve

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Congratulations to all NAEA state affiliates and the many state leaders and members for all of their efforts that ensured successful full conferences! NAEA President Bob Sabol, Executive Director Deborah B. Reeve, and President-Elect Dennis Inhulsen participated in conferences held in OK, NE, IA, FL, AL, MI, and WA!

A BIG welcome to new NAEA members! The voice of art educators is growing ever stronger! Have you personally invited a colleague to join our vibrant professional community?

2013 NAEA National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, under the direction of the 2013 National Convention Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Willett. Fort Worth promises BIG as a first-time NAEA Convention site and an opportunity to experience world-class museums and Texan hospitality first-hand! View schedules and register online at www.arteducators.org/Convention

Your vote counts! Don’t miss your personal link to vote electronically (e-mailed to you in October) to elect NAEA’s next President-Elect, Division Directors, and Eastern Region Vice President (special election). Congratulations to all candidates!

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) is shaping the future of arts education! See the latest update on the work of the NAEA Standards Writing Team, chaired by NAEA President-Elect Dennis Inhulsen. Visit www.arteducators.org/nccas/ for up-to-date information.

EduTalk Radio – President Bob Sabol and President-Elect Dennis Inhulsen are talking about Why Art Matters and the Next Generation of Visual Arts Standards. All shows are archived on the NAEA website at www.arteducators.org/advocacy/advocacy-resources-visibility

NAEA Research Commission: Find out more about the work of the NAEA Research Commission, chaired by John Howell White, by visiting www.arteducators.org/researchcommission

SummerVision DC: 2013. Engage in a “life-changing” professional development opportunity experienced through world-class DC museums! Space is limited. Choose from two sessions: July 9-12 (Session I) and July 23-26 (Session II). Early registration discounts through December 31, 2012. (www.arteducators.org/summervision)

Submit your exemplary lesson/unit plans! Share your most effective lesson plans by submitting them to the Instructional Resources Gallery. Find templates at www.arteducators.org/learning/NAEA_Lesson_Unit_Plan_Final.docx

NAEA Next! 2011-2014 Strategic Plan! See the Year One Strategic Accomplishments achieved by NAEA leaders, members, and staff working together! http://prezi.com/f-lzzwf5xv3d/mission-forward/. See priorities for Year Two.

NAEA Formal Position Statements: Find out where NAEA members stand on issues impacting art education through position statements vetted and recommended by the Delegates Assembly for adoption by the Board of Directors. Visit www.arteducators.org/statements

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB)—recommendations by NAEA and the arts education community: www.arteducators.org/advocacy/advocacy-esea-reauthorization

Revised Standards Documents coming next summer! New editions of Principles, and Standards for School Art Programs and the Design Standards for School Art Facilities publications are in progress under the leadership of NAEA Review Committees.

Advocacy White Papers written by Distinguished Fellows and invited scholars to support the tenets of Learning in a Visual Age are available at www.arteducators.org/whitepapers

A Conference for National Art Honor Society students and advisors: Coming Summer 2014! There are now more than 47,000 high school and middle school art students in 1,800 chapters across the nation! Do you have an NAHS Chapter? Find out more at www.arteducators.org/nahs. Also be sure to check out the new NAHS website, NAHS Link!

What is NAEA’s BIG AUDACIOUS GOAL? It’s getting 65,000 more art educators to join NAEA! We are committed to growing our professional community and encourage every member to get a member by personally inviting a colleague to join!

The 50th Anniversary of “I Have A Dream”: Announcing the Dream @ 50—a K-12 art contest, music/dance festival, and video tributes to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech—encouraging creativity and collaboration in the classroom and empowering our students with the tools to make the world better. Find out more at www.thedreamat50.com

So Much More Than What You See: Remarks made October 12, 2012, by Dr. Deborah B. Reeve, NAEA Executive Director, at the Opening of the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers 2012 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Exhibit at the U.S. Department of Education: www.arteducators.org/advocacy/advocacy-resources-message

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Cleansing the Palette

Deborah B. Reeve

In 1976, on his Turnstiles album, Billy Joel released a song called “New York State of Mind”:

Some folks like to get away,
Take a holiday from the neighborhood.
Hop a flight to Miami Beach or to Hollywood.
But I’m takin’ a Greyhound on the Hudson River line.
I’m in a New York state of mind.

There is something uniquely powerful in the idea of being rooted in a particular place—a place whose rhythms and foods, its culture and architecture, even its color palette and quality of light, have a distinctive appeal to you and present an iconic brand to others.

That relationship between place and the workings of the mind are at the heart of the white paper, Creative Placemaking (www.nea.gov/pub/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf), produced for The Mayors Institute on City Design under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Arts.

As we continue to explore the basic idea of creativity and how we can apply it more effectively in our educational lives, the idea that creativity may spring from the right combination of locational elements is intriguing. The idea that creativity in the community might unleash a bounty of positive outcomes is even more compelling. Creative Placemaking asserts that it animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.

Deborah B. Reeve, EdD, Executive Director
NAEA, 1806 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 300
Reston, VA 20191. DReeve@arteducators.org

View the interactive Prezi accompanying this article at www.arteducators.org