



NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# NAEA TOWN HALL: Back-to-School Edition

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 7-8 PM ET

View panelist bios, conversation recordings, and more at [www.arteducators.org/community/town-hall](http://www.arteducators.org/community/town-hall)

It's time! The 2022–2023 school year has begun. Let's connect with colleagues and experts as they share their ideas and strategies for the year ahead. We'll discuss classroom practices, inspiration for lesson ideas, budgets and supplies, and navigating school systems and bureaucracies. We'll top it all off with advocacy and the Arts ARE Education campaign.



## Chalon Ross

Visual and Performing Arts Instructional Lead  
Alliance Cindy & Bill Simon  
Technology Academy High School  
Teacher Leader  
NAEA Connected Arts Networks  
Los Angeles, CA



## James Palmarini

Policy and Advocacy Advisor  
Educational Theatre Association  
Arts ARE Education Campaign Director  
Cincinnati, OH

### TIPS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

- Invest in creating relationships with scholars and parents.
- Understand that it's not just you. We're ALL trying to figure things out.
- Make time to breathe.

### GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- [Adobe Education Exchange](https://edex.adobe.com) free educational resources (<https://edex.adobe.com>).

### SELF-CARE SHARE

I love to create jewelry, Zen doodle, do light yoga, organize my space, and walk or roller-skate.

### TIPS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

- The Arts ARE Education [Welcome Back Arts Educator letter](#).
- [The Arts ARE Education Pledge](#).
- The Arts ARE Education [School Board Resolution](#) in support of K–12 arts education funding.

### GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- [Arts Education Partnership](#).
- [Education Commission of the States](#).
- [Lynn Tuttle](#).

### SELF-CARE SHARE

Cooking, gardening, reading, jazz, poetry, swimming, and watching my grandchild become a real person.

Find out more about NAEA Town Hall Conversations at [www.arteducators.org/community/town-hall](http://www.arteducators.org/community/town-hall)





**Elizabeth Stuart Whitehead**  
Instructional Supervisor, Visual Arts  
Prince George's County  
Public Schools  
District Heights, MD



**Olivia Gude**  
Professor  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

## TIPS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

- Relationships, relationships, relationships! Building and fostering relationships everywhere you go is key.
- The power of one—one person has the power to make change.
- The current educational crisis we are in right now is an opportunity to make change. The time is now. The arts are the secret weapon.

## GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- I have built a community of friends and art educators all over the world. Through the power of social media, I reach out for help and support when I need it. The power of crowdsourcing through social media is phenomenal. (I can share a story about the Art Praxis and how I used crowdsourcing on Facebook to help me build a proposal.) I have most of this community because of NAEA. I have been a member for 25 years. If you don't have Facebook or thousands of friends on social media, you have access to NAEA's *Collaborate*, where you can ask questions and get support related to all things art education.
- NAEA position statements. I wrote an article recently about teaching students with special needs through the pandemic, which I cowrote with a special education instructional specialist in my school district. At the end of the article, we call out several policy changes and additions that need to happen in art education. We utilized NAEA position statements to build our case.

## SELF-CARE SHARE

I take self-care vacations, turn everything off, and decompress. I also have a life coach. I bring all major problems and issues to him, and he coaches me through them. I also have amazingly supportive family and friends that have my back no matter what. Everyone chips in, steps up, and does their part.

## TIPS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

- Although teachers, students, and communities are struggling with the seemingly constant challenges of the past few years, there is always something magical about the cycle of renewal that begins with each school year. To transcend being demoralized, recall why you wanted to be a teacher. What did you hope to share with your students? Now ask yourself: "How might I shape this year's art education experiences to contribute to sustaining and healing our students, ourselves, and our communities? How can I engage students with artmaking practices that imagine and bring into being just and joyous futures?"
- Because of the pandemic and politics of this time, we are all processing so many unfamiliar internal and external experiences. Create opportunities for students to identify, investigate, and share unarticulated moments. Use art to contemplate the times when "things were just getting to be too much" or times when "not much happened." Then, through artmaking, reexperience these moments with each other, in order to create more expansive and deeper selves that take in these many experiences, and generate the potential to feel and act in fresh ways.
- Reflect on Howard Zinn's message in the preface of *A People's History of the United States*, "to hold out, even in times of deep pessimism for the possibility of surprise." Know that what you do as an art teacher can and will make a difference.

## GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Art. Set aside time, even just a few minutes a day, for artistic contemplation either in the actual world, books, or the internet. Whether it's shockingly strange or comfortingly familiar, experience art in its nuance and complexity for its own sake. Don't think about how you will teach it. Just let it become part of you.

## SELF-CARE SHARE

Gardening is a quiet-yet-stimulating retreat from books and art! There is something about observing the minute changes to a plant each day, as well as the shock of seeing giant leaps of growth after glancing away for a few days, that is grounding and exhilarating. I've come to recognize that I, like many people in this society, can name many more TV characters than plants in my immediate environment. I'm learning...

Online Professional Learning for Art Educators and FREE for NAEA Members! Convenient, relevant webinars to support your learning needs.



Professional Learning

WEBINARS

[virtual.arteducators.org](https://virtual.arteducators.org)

Art educators worldwide are asking important questions and sharing ideas on *Collaborate*, NAEA's 24/7 online community!

COLLABORATE

inspire and be inspired

[collaborate.arteducators.org](https://collaborate.arteducators.org)

Not an NAEA Member? Join your vibrant professional community for support, resources, opportunities, and inspiration!



[www.arteducators.org](https://www.arteducators.org)

The NAEA Remote Learning Toolkit is a repository of resources to help visual arts educators navigate the changing education landscape.



[www.arteducators.org](https://www.arteducators.org)