Position Statement on Professional Development
[Adopted March 2011; Reviewed and Revised in April 2014]

NAEA asserts that meaningful, rigorous professional development, targeted toward the visual arts and visual arts education, are essential to the lifelong learning of art educators. NAEA believes that all art educators should have access to ongoing professional development appropriate to their role.

NAEA supports opportunities for building enriched relationships between theory and practice. Examples of professional development opportunities include: studio practices; engagement with contemporary and traditional art forms; curriculum design and instructional methods; leadership development, emerging and ever changing technologies and their relation to art and education; and theories related to lifelong learning, cognition, and human development.

NAEA recognizes these opportunities can take place in a variety of contexts and supports peer to peer learning among professionals. NAEA believes that optimal professional development can take place through self-study and self-initiated outreach, participatory learning communities, mentoring relationships, and formal presentations and events.

NAEA believes that dynamic professional development takes place as visual arts educators and organizations partner toward shared professional goals. These opportunities can take place among colleagues, as well as with universities, museums, galleries, cultural organizations, community groups, government agencies, and philanthropic organizations; between NAEA divisions; as well as with non-visual arts professionals. Meaningful professional development can also take place between the visual arts and other artistic disciplines, as well as between the visual arts and other subject areas.

NAEA promotes professional development and learning through local, state, and national conferences, web-based platforms, institutes, in-services, workshops, and retreats that share a variety of perspectives.

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