



*Advancing Art Education*

## **Position Statement on Visual Arts as a Core Academic Subject [Adopted March 2011]**

NAEA defines visual arts as a core subject, basic to the education of all students. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, passed by the US Congress in 1965 and reauthorized in regular intervals, recognizes the visual arts as a core academic subject.

NAEA supports inclusion of a rigorous, high quality, comprehensive, sequential, and authentic visual arts program in every school for every child. Visual arts education provides every student opportunities to develop the global 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. Visual arts education provides richness and complexity to learning by engaging students in the study of artistic processes, the construction of knowledge, and critical reflection.