



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 484 EDUCATORS IN THE ARTS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PROJECT: CONNECTED ARTS NETWORKS

**February, 2024** — Connected Arts Networks (CAN) announces the selection of 484 Teacher Participants in dance, music, theatre, visual, and media arts. These arts educators from around the country will spend the next 3 years engaged in virtual Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) through one of the four partnering arts education organizations: the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), and the National Art Education Association (NAEA).

Teacher participants will join PLCs led by national arts Teacher Leaders who have been engaged with CAN over the past 2 and a half years. Teacher Leaders have been exploring methodologies to embed strategies in equity, diversity, and inclusion; social-emotional learning; and teacher leadership into their standards-based arts instruction.

As a member of CAN, participants will have the chance to engage in peer-to-peer learning with other dedicated music and arts educators nationwide, access top arts education experts, share insights, and explore innovative approaches to reaching each and every student in their classrooms. Selected participants have demonstrated dedication to their craft and commitment to advancing equitable and inclusive practices within arts instruction. The goal of CAN is for PLCs to bring the collaborative knowledge and expertise gained through the program to teacher practice in order to create a model for sustainable arts-based teacher learning communities across the nation.

Participants will gain leadership strategies for leveraging the arts for student growth, whole-school success, community engagement, in addition to highlighting the invaluable role the arts play at the local, state, and national level.

**Congratulations to participating arts educators!**

**For more information about CAN** and to view a list of the Teacher Participants, visit the CAN website: <https://www.arteducators.org/community/connected-arts-networks-can/can-teacher-participants>

**Questions?** Contact Amy Appleton, CAN Project Director: [aappleton@arteducators.org](mailto:aappleton@arteducators.org)



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