



NATIONAL  
ART EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION



National Association  
for Music Education



National Dance Education Organization  
Advancing Dance Education in the Arts



Educational  
Theatre  
Association™



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### TEACHER LEADERS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PROJECT: CONNECTED ARTS NETWORKS

**September 14, 2022** — Connected Arts Networks (CAN) announces the selection of 70 Teacher Leaders in visual and media arts, theatre, music, and dance. These arts educators from around the country will spend the next 4 years engaged in virtual Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) through one of the four partnering arts education organizations: National Art Education Association (NAEA), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), and National Dance Education Organization (NDEO).

In the 1st year of the project, Teacher Leaders will receive specialized virtual training to build their capacity to address **social-emotional learning** and **equity, diversity, and inclusion** within arts instruction. They will have an opportunity to conduct action research within virtual PLCs centered on problem solving for their classrooms and deepening their own practice. By equipping teachers with skills in these pressing areas, we believe we can both support educators and positively impact students. Members of the four initial PLCs will begin to form and facilitate their own virtual learning communities of arts educators and maintain these communities of support until the end of the project.

#### Congratulations to NAEA's Teacher Leader Team!

- Amber Arnold
- Janine Campbell
- Heather de Koning Foley
- Cassie Dunlavey
- Leslie Grace
- Matthew Grundler
- Rachael Harrison
- Melissa Hronkin
- Frank Juarez
- Lidia Menniti
- Hilary Morefield
- Tim Needles
- Gayle Nicholls-Ali
- Kimberly Olson
- Ann Ossey
- Chay Ross
- Raine Valentine

For more information about CAN and NAEA Teacher Leaders, visit the CAN website here:

<https://www.arteducators.org/community/connected-arts-networks-can>

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



Program activities for this project are fully funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Assistance for Arts Education Program.