



Advancing Art Education

September 2, 2009



**Council for Art
Education, Inc.**

Sponsor of Youth Art Month

Dear Colleagues:

This is a most important time in our nation's history, and, in fact, the world's. And—it's a time for us to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the value of visual arts education in developing the human potential of our nation's youth if we are to prepare our students for success in the 21st century. Yes—*Art Shapes the World!*

Youth Art Month (YAM) provides a unique opportunity for you to demonstrate this value to your community, your state and our nation! Throughout the 48-year history of this prominent program, students and their visual arts teachers have been recognized for the distinct learning achieved through the arts. Student work has been showcased and celebrated at multiple levels, raising the awareness of the importance of teaching and learning in the arts in communities and state capitols across our great land.

We applaud those of you who have provided leadership to annual statewide YAM activities and who have contributed significantly to the growth and stature of YAM over the years.

This year, as a new multi-year thematic is introduced, *Art Shapes the World*, we ask you to reflect upon the importance of YAM and identify new ways that you might extend the YAM experience as we make our voices heard and help school and community leaders realize that the visual arts are essential to a high-quality and balanced education.

While most states have participated on some level over the years, NAEA and CFAE together are committed to ensuring participation in our Flag Event and documented observances of YAM in 2010 by **every** state and the District of Columbia. As YAM Chairpersons or elected leaders in your state association, we are looking to each of you so that together we can achieve this ambitious goal. When the flags are displayed in our nation's Capitol this coming spring, it's critically important for President Obama, Secretary Duncan and all of our representatives on Capitol Hill to see the value of arts education as reflected by every state's participation.

Thank you for your passion and commitment to advancing art education in the work you do each day to ensure all students receive a high-quality and balanced education!

Warm wishes for a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

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