

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2022

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose. (See the *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

Interest Network:

Creative Arts

Lead Contact Person:

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Website: <http://aaiddcreativearts.com>

Annual Report: July 2022

Objectives for 2021-2022:

- a) Expand membership and network member involvement
- b) Increase network visibility and collaboration
- c) Increase awareness of the critical role of creativity to promote inclusion and belonging for all people

Activities for 2021-2022:

1) Hosted monthly steering committee meetings to plan and prepare all member quarterly meetings and an AAIDD conference symposium application.

2) Hosted quarterly all-member meetings with theme-based short presentation and group discussion: Creativity is Everywhere for Everyone

Oct 1: Assistive Technology/Anticipation:

How can Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Assistive Technology (AT) support creativity & imagination?

Discussion Lead: Michelle Boulanger Thompson, MS, OTR/L [Occupational Therapist]

Jan 7: Power of Visual Support:

How did virtual learning platforms become the impetus to inspire creative engagement and learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic?

Discussion Lead: Samantha Brophy, ATR-BC LPC [Art Therapist]

April 1: "Theater/Performing Arts" Adaptation Techniques:

How can theatrical expression and techniques improve service delivery and engagement?

Discussion Lead: Tamara Shetron, PhD [Theater Director] & Kevin Spencer [Magician]

3) Prepared and submitted an AAIDD conference symposium application. In collaboration with the IN members, we developed a symposium proposal with three individual papers. However, only two were accepted for separate poster presentations. Our intent of this symposium is to create a space for group sharing and discussion on how creativity can contribute to varied aspects of our lives. As a group, we decided that two separate posters would not provide a solid platform for our purpose, so we decided to withdraw from the presentation this year. Our hope is to refine the proposal and be granted a symposium spot for the next year.

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4) Granted five AAIDD/Creative Arts IN Membership Scholarships. We provided five.

5) Hosted election for executive board members

We now have seven members/positions in the executive team who will help support the overall strategic planning and tasks of the Creative Arts IN:

- a) Chair: Michelle Thompson
- b) Vice Chair/Research: Tamara Shetron
- c) Secretary/Treasurer: Laura Hales
- d) Social Media: Sam Brophy
- e) Innovation/Information: Seana Higgins
- f) Membership/Communication: Anna Mumford
- g) Advisory Mentor: Yumi Shirai

6) We continue conducting research implementing surveys and interviews with creative arts organizations which provide services to people with IDD, asking about their technology use, and impact as well as lessons learned from the COVID-19.

Thus far, we have collected 22 survey entries, and additional 22 interview data.

Fund balance as of May 22, 2022:

Fwd. Balance (use first/forfeits first)	\$100.00
2019 Rebates (use second/forfeits second)	\$115.00
2020 Rebates (use third/forfeits third)	\$145.00
2021 Rebates (use fourth/forfeits fourth)	\$180.00
Total Fund Balance	\$540.00

Fund balance as of July 2022:

2022 July 2022 five (5) membership scholarships	-\$475.00
Total Fund Balance	\$65.00

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Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

Objectives for 2022-2023:

- a) Continue to expand membership and network member involvement
- b) Increase Creative Arts network visibility and collaboration (within AAIDD and in wider community)
- c) Increase Creative Arts network collaboration with other AAIDD interest networks (i.e. Spirituality, Gerontology, Health & Wellness, Technology)
- d) Increase awareness of the critical role of creativity to promote inclusion and belonging for all people
- e) Include and amplify voices of artists with IDD in the Creative Arts network

Proposed Activities for 2022-2023:

- 1) Host monthly steering committee meetings to plan and prepare all member quarterly meetings
- 2) Refine and submit conference symposium proposal/s (AAIDD, other conferences such as AERA or AUCD). Topics to address the importance of creativity and creative arts in the lives of people with IDD
- 3) Host quarterly all-member Creative Arts IN meetings with theme-based short presentation and group discussion on topics related to creative arts
 - a. Invite wider AAIDD membership to attend to learn about the impact of creativity and creative arts in the lives of artists with IDD
- 4) Develop a database of creative arts studios (inclusive, progressive, etc..) in the US and internationally
- 5) Reach out to self-advocates to include their representation, voice, and self-advocacy in our Creative Arts network (meetings, websites, presentations)
- 6) Ensure our Creative Arts network is inclusive and accessible by working towards implementing the following in our meetings, websites, presentations:
 1. Plain Language
 2. Accessible technology
 3. Presented by people with IDD
 4. Possible subcommittee of people with IDD to run ideas by
- 7) Explore the possibility of starting a Creative Arts Journal