

Re-Ignite

A virtual gathering of the MAEIA statewide community

Thursday, June 29, 2023



advancing creativity in education

Welcome!

While we wait to begin, please introduce yourselves in the chat and let us know where you're zooming from!



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Purpose for Gathering



Orienting to ourselves, each other, and the profession we share



Mapping the MAEIA Resources



The Creative Act: A Way of Being with Writing and Conversation



Next scenes within MAEIA's Creative Act



Context, Connection, and Choice of Conversation

Purpose of MAEIA

- Improve the quality of your arts education program
- Monitor and improve student learning in the arts
- Support professional practice and improve teacher effectiveness
- Advance arts as a key element of a well-rounded education



MAEIA Resources and Initiatives

1

PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Michigan Blueprint for Quality Arts Education
- Program Review Tool to support the continuous improvement process

2

STUDENT-CENTERED RESOURCES

- 360 MAEIA Performance Assessments in Dance, Theatre, Music, Visual Arts

3

EDUCATOR-CENTERED SUPPORT

- Professional Learning & Presentations
- MAEIA Academy
 - Self-paced professional learning courses

4

NATIONAL & STATE POLICY SUPPORT

- MI K-12 Arts Education Data Collection and Reporting
- MAEIA Partners & Regional Arts Ed Networks
- Arts Education Partnership Advisory Council

Mapping the MAEIA Resources



MAEIA WEBSITE

- Maeia_artsednetwork.org
- All of the resources are free and available to use and adapt



EDUPATHS COURSES

- Available via the Professional Learning page of the MAEIA website



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- Virtual and in-person presentations and professional learning on implementing the MAEIA resources



CREATING THE COMMUNITY AND INCREASING CAPACITY

- Regional Arts Ed Networks
- Unique SEL & Culturally Responsible Teaching content
- Making your professional lives easier

Orienting

To the moment, the space, each
other, the experience



The Creative Act: A Way of Being



We will be inspired by excerpts from *The Creative Act: A Way of Being*, which we'll use as a framework for our conversations and writing sessions.

The book's author, Rick Rubin, is a music-producing legend who has fostered creativity with a diverse roster of artists ranging from L.L. Cool J to the Beastie Boys and Adelle to the Dixie Chicks. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, "His presence in the studio simply seemed to make good artists better."

We will align our work with Rick's passion for the practical, and yet cosmic, practice of artmaking in various disciplines: dance, theatre, visual art, music, literature.

"The reason we're alive is to express ourselves in the world. And creating art may be the most effective and beautiful method of doing so. Art goes beyond language, beyond lives. It's a universal way to send messages between each other and through time." - Rick Rubin



Everyone is a Creator

- Creativity is a fundamental aspect of being human. It's our birthright. And it's for all of us.
- Regardless of whether or not we're formally making art, we are all living as artists. We perceive, filter, and collect data, then curate an experience for ourselves and others based on this information set.
- To live as an artist is a way of being in the world. A way of perceiving. A practice of paying attention.



Tuning In

We can accept new information with delight instead of making comparison to what we already believe.

We can live in the moment rather than worrying about future consequences.

We can be spontaneous and curious, rather than analytical and jaded.

Tuning In With a Collective breath – can you smell the cinnamon and star anise?



Awareness

The gift of awareness allows us to notice what's going on around and inside ourselves in the present moment.

And to do so without attachment or involvement.

The ability to look deeply is at the root of creativity. To see past the ordinary and mundane and to get to what might otherwise be invisible.

The Vessel and the Filter

As artists, we seek to restore our childlike perception: a more innocent state of wonder and appreciation not tethered to utility or survival.

No matter what tools you use to create, the true instrument is you. And through you, the universe that surrounds us all comes into focus.



The Unseen

The act of creation is an attempt to enter a mysterious realm. Art is our portal to the unseen world.

Pay particular attention to the moments that take your breath away – a beautiful sunset, a piece of music, the elegant design of a complex machine.

Let's discuss in breakout rooms! What moments take your breath away? Describe one to your colleague.



Look for Clues

Notice connections and
consider where they lead.

When something out of the
ordinary happens, ask
yourself why. What's the
message? What could be
the greater meaning?

Look for what you notice
but no one else sees.





Practice

A practice is the embodiment of an approach to a concept. This can support us in bringing about a desired state of mind. When we repeat the exercise of opening our senses to what is, we move closer to living in a continually open state.

We build a habit. One where expanded awareness is our default way of being in the world.

We begin to see ourselves as part of a greater whole that is constantly regenerating itself. And we may then tap into this all-powerful propagating force and ride its creative wave.

Practice

To support our practice, we might:

- set up a daily or weekly schedule of rituals
- take three slow, deep breaths upon waking every morning
- eat our meals mindfully, slowly savoring each bite with appreciation
- take a daily walk in nature with gratitude and connection.
- Photo: Ann Arbor park



Living Life as an Artist

Living life as an artist is a practice. You are either engaging in the practice or you're not.

It makes no sense to say you're not good at it. It's like "I'm not good at being a monk." You are either living as a monk or you're not.

We tend to think of the artist's work as the output. The real world of the artist is a way of being in this world.



Submerge

Broadening our practice of awareness is a choice we can make at any moment.

In service of this robust instinct, consider submerging yourself in the canon of great works.

This applies to every choice we make. Not just with art, but with the friends we choose, the conversations we have, even the thoughts we reflect on. All of these aspects affect our ability to distinguish good from very good, very good from great.

They help us determine what's worthy of our time and attention.



Nature as Teacher

There's a reason we are drawn to gazing at the ocean. It is said the ocean provides a closer reflection of who we are than any mirror.

Photo: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Look Inward

If we focus on what's going on inside ourselves – sensations, emotions, the pattern of our thoughts – a wealth of material can be found.

Our inner world is every bit as interesting, beautiful, and surprising as nature itself.



Self-Doubt

- We're all different and we're all imperfect, and the imperfections are what makes each of us and our work interesting.
- We create pieces reflective of who we are, and if insecurity is part of who we are, then our work will have a greater degree of truth in it as a result.
- You're the only one with your voice.



Setting

Interference may come from the voices within.

The ones in your head that murmur you're not talented enough, your idea isn't good enough, art isn't a worthwhile investment of your time, the result won't be well-received, you're a failure if the creation isn't successful.

Make it Up

All art is a work in progress. It's helpful to see the piece we're working on as an experiment. One in which we can't predict the outcome.

If you start from the position that there is no right or wrong, no good or back, and creativity is just free play with no rules. It's easier to submerge yourself joyfully in the process of making things.



Make it Up

In Japanese pottery, there's an artful form of repair called kintsugi.

When a piece of ceramic pottery breaks, rather than try to restore it to its original condition, the artisan accentuates the fault by using gold to fill the crack.





Intention

Art creates a profound connection between the artist and the audience. Through that connection, both can heal.

Our thoughts, feelings, processes, and unconscious beliefs have an energy that is hidden in the work. This unseen, unmeasurable force gives each piece its magnetism.



Rules

A rule is any guiding principle or creative criterion. It might exist within the artist, the genre, or the culture. Rules, by their nature, are limitations.

We assume the equipment and format are part of the art form itself. Yet painting can be anything that involves the use of color on a surface for aesthetic or communicative purpose. All other decisions are up to the artist.



Rules

Instead of sounding like others, value your own voice.
Develop it. Cherish it.

**Holding every rule as breakable is a healthy way to
live as an artist.**

Image and Case Study: An Incredibly Human Thing



Beginner's Mind

Try to experience everything as if for the first time.

Childlike superpowers include

- being in the moment
- valuing play above all else
- having no regard for consequences
- being radically honest without consideration
- having the ability to freely move from one emotion to the next without holding onto story.



Listening

Certain bass sounds can be felt only in the body; they can't be perceived by the ears.

Communication moves in two directions, even when one person speaks and another listens silently.

When the listener is totally present, the speaker often communicates differently. Most people aren't used to being fully heard, and it can be jarring for them.

Listening, then, is not just awareness. It's freedom from accepting limitations.



Habits

Discipline and freedom seem like opposites. In reality, they are partners. Discipline is not a lack of freedom, it is a harmonious relationship with time.

Managing your schedule and daily habits well is a necessary component to free up the practical and creative capacity to make great art.

Creativity-supporting habits can begin the moment you arise each day. It's helpful to set scheduled office hours or uninterrupted periods of playful joy that allow your imagination to soar.

Find the sustainable rituals that best support your work.



Habits

Create an environment where you're free to express what you're afraid to express.

Pictured: Detail from Artwork from An Incredibly Human Thing. For several months, I painted as the Artist in Residence at McLaren Hospital and explored themes of wellness and health, including my COVID experience and the process of rebuilding my capacity to think, speak, and move appropriately.

[WRITE – What is the thing you're afraid to express? How can your environment help you be free to express it?]



Momentum

Once enough data is collected, and the vision is clear, it can be helpful to set deadlines for completion.

Unless actively working to make something better, avoid listening to it, reading it, playing it, looking at it, or showing it to friends.

Keep in mind that it's also possible for something great to be made very quickly.

When you're on a roll in the Craft phase, work toward a full first draft. Maintain the momentum, working around any trouble areas.

Point of View

Art is choosing to do something skillfully, caring about the details, bringing all of yourself to make the finest work you can. It is beyond ego, vanity, self-glorification, and need for approval.

Point of View

The goal of the art isn't to attain perfection. The goal is to share who we are. And how we see the world.





Completion

If you've truly created an innovative work, it's likely to alienate as many people as it attracts. The best art divides the audiences. If everyone likes it, you probably haven't gone far enough.

In the end, you are the only one who has to love it. This work is for you. The work is done when you feel it is.

Releasing a work into the world becomes easier when we remember that each piece can never be a total reflection of us, only a reflection of who we are in this moment.

In an environment where nothing is permanent, we produce static artifacts. Mementos of spirit.

Time

Is it time for the next project because the clock or calendar says it's time, or because the work itself says it's time?





The Abundant Mindset

In the abundant mindset, the river never runs dry. Ideas are always coming through. And an artist is free to release them with the faith that more will arrive.

If we live in a mindset of scarcity, we hoard great ideas.

The recognition of abundance fills us with hope that our brightest ideas still await us and our greatest work is yet to come.



24/7 (Staying in It)

The artist's job is never truly finished.

In many occupations, when we go home, we leave our work behind at the office. The artist is always on call. Even after we get up from hours engaged in our craft, the clock is still running.

This is because the artist's job is of two kinds:

The work of doing.

The work of being.

Creativity is something you are, not only something you do. It's a way of moving through the world, every minute, every day.



The Art Habit

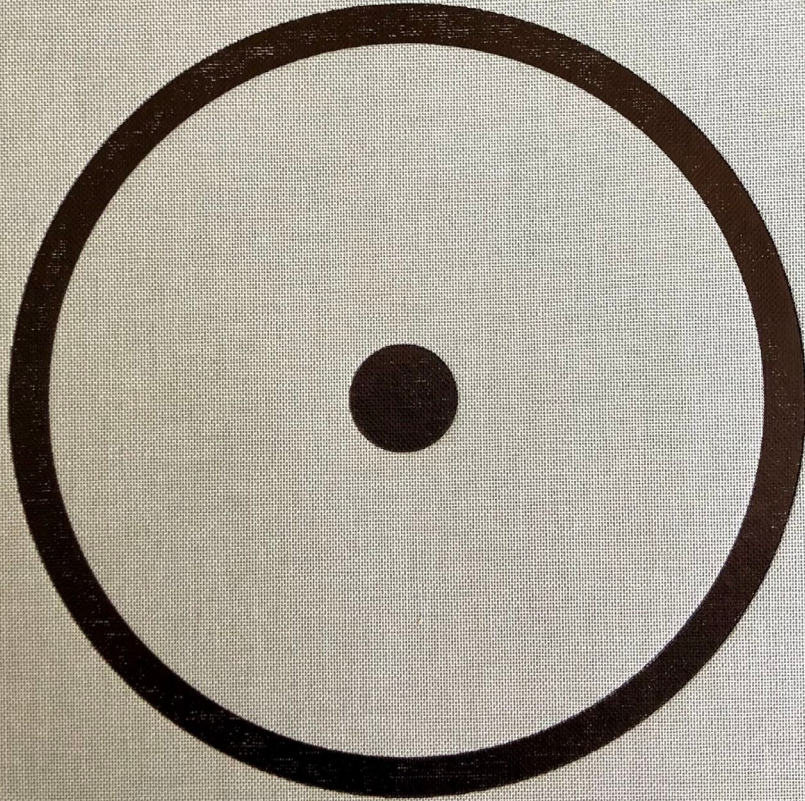
Whatever you choose, it's helpful to have fellow travelers around you. They don't have to be like you, just like-minded in some way.

Creativity is contagious.

When we spend time with other artistic people, we absorb and exchange a way of thinking, a way of looking at the world. This group can be called a Sangha. Each person in this relationship begins seeing with a different imaginative eye.

Being part of an artistic community can be one of the great joys of life. We are so glad you are part of our MAEIA artistic community!

The
Creative
Act:
A
Way
of
Being



Rick Rubin

The Creative Act: A Way of Being

Much more is available from Rick in the book!

Final Thoughts on Why Make Art

As you deepen your participation in the creative act, you may come across a paradox. Ultimately, the act of self-expression isn't really about you.

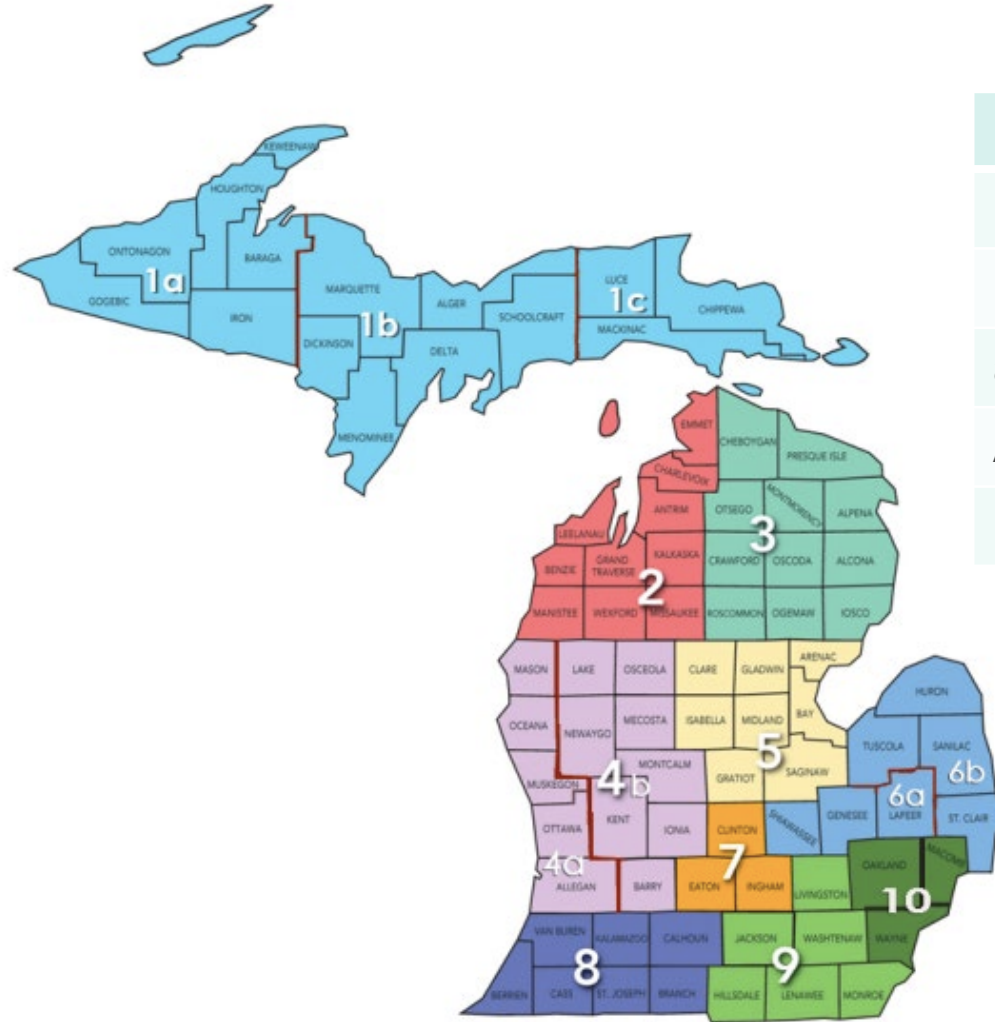
Art is a reverberation of an impermanent life.

I was here.

Break

AT THE TONE THE TIME WILL BE.....

Regional Arts Education Networks



In each region:

MAEIA Regional Lead

MACC Regional Lead

artLook Coordinator

Arts Rep for MEA Coordinating Council

Four regions in progress:

Region 5 Great Lakes Bay

Region 10 Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb

Region 1 Upper Peninsula

Region 9 Southeast

Next round:

Regions 2, 3, 6, 7

Michigan Arts Ed Data Points

1

LEADING

- produced the [most comprehensive set of arts education instruction and assessment resources](#) available in the nation
- [invested collaborators](#) across major entities poised to work together, effectively and enthusiastically, to advance creativity in education
- [professional learning](#) that serves as a magnet for educators reflecting leading edge topics with multiple tiers of support

2

LAGGING

- as only [1 of 3 states not gathering and reporting on arts education data](#)
- by not having a dedicated fine and performing arts consultant within the state department of education or [effective arts education policy](#) in place in national comparison
- in embracing STEAM over STEM to fully envelop students in creative thinking across disciplines and industries.

Chris Emdin of USC and author of *STEM, STEAM, Make, Dream* explains that the arts teach ancestry, aesthetics, and culture in addition to disciplinary skill.

Wave 1

THE LAST ARTS EDUCATION
CENSUS WAS COMPLETED
IN 2011.

K-12 ARTS EDUCATION
SURVEY FALL 2023

- PROMOTED BY MDE, MEA,
MAEIA, MACC +
- RECENTLY PILOTED
WITH MINIMAL EDITS
REQUIRED





Wave 2

ARTLOOK MICHIGAN

REAL DATA IN REAL TIME TO:

- INFORM A STATEWIDE ARTS ACTION AGENDA
- PRIORITIZE SUPPORTS BY MACC, MEA, MAEIA

NETWORKING CAPABILITY TO:

- CONNECT THE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE THE CHANGES WE DESIRE

Join Us!

When the time comes,
we will be counting on your participation.



Ideas to Explore Collectively

What are your professional needs?

What are your students' needs?

What are your district's needs?

What are your region's needs?

What are the state's needs?

Upcoming Events



Arts Assessment for
Early Career
Educators

Embodied Practices:
DEI and SEL in and
through the Arts

Arts Data Collection
for Collective Impact



MAEIA Academy
Courses coming soon!

DEI and SEL in the
Arts

Discipline specific
instruction and
assessment

Arts Advocacy and
Ambassadorship



Build a Better
Assessment
Future

August 2-3,
2023

East Lansing, MI



FAME Arts Team
Enroll for Fall 2023



Final Thoughts



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