

Thomas J. Knab Leadership Grant



Description and Criteria for Selection

The Thomas J. Knab Leadership Grant is given in honor of the leadership contributions given by Thomas J. Knab, a NYSATA Past President (2013-15) and a Past President (2019-2021) of the National Art Education Association (NAEA). A grant of \$500.00 is awarded to an individual to support and inspire emerging leadership within the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) by providing financial assistance to attend the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Convention. This grant is specifically designed for first-time NYSATA teachers to attend the NAEA Convention who demonstrate a commitment to professional growth, leadership, and service in the field of art education.

Qualifying participants must fit the following criteria:

- Be an active teacher member of NYSATA
- Not have attended a previous NAEA Convention as a New York State educator
- Demonstrate a commitment to leadership in art education
- Have an interest in contributing to the NYSATA community
- Submit application for consideration by the posted due date

Award recipients are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in the NAEA Convention
- Share their learning and experiences with the NYSATA community by completing one of the following within one year of receiving the scholarship: (1) writing an article for *NYSATA News*, reflecting on their experience and insights gained OR (2) presenting a workshop or session at the following year's NYSATA Conference

These expectations ensure that the impact of the award extends beyond the individual recipient and enriches the broader NYSATA membership.

About Thomas J. Knab

Thomas J. Knab earned his Bachelor's in Art Education in 1987 and his Master's in Art Education in 1992 from Buffalo State College. He served as an elementary art educator at Dodge Elementary School in East Amherst, New York, for 34 years before retiring in 2024. Throughout his career, he shared his expertise as a Tennessee Arts Academy instructor, presenter at state, national, and international conferences, author of numerous professional publications, and artist exhibiting his assemblage and collage artwork in regional and solo exhibitions. His service to the profession included leadership roles with the National Art Education Association (NAEA), the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA), the National Art Education Foundation (NAEF), and numerous national committees dedicated to advancing art education.

The Thomas J. Knab Leadership Grant was established in 2026 to honor Thom's outstanding contributions to the field of art education. His distinguished service includes serving as President of both the National Art Education Association (2019-2021) and the New York State Art Teachers Association (2013-15), guiding strategic initiatives that strengthened the profession, mentoring art educators nationwide, and advocating for excellence in visual arts education. His lifelong commitment to leadership, professional development, and service has been recognized through numerous state, regional, and national honors, including the NAEA Art Educator of the Year Award and the Marion Quin Dix Leadership Award.

A check in the amount of the grant will be issued to the recipient once proof of conference registration and travel plans have been received.

Submission Outline

Please use the following overview of required information and materials that should be prepared for digital submission

- Personal information (name, address, city, state, zip, phone, email, region, etc.)
- School district or college/university of employment details (name, address, state, zip, phone etc.)
- Principal and superintendent or college department chair and dean of college (name and email)
- Leadership experience (local, regional, state, and national)
- Proposed budget for the \$500 including the following
 - (1) Convention registration fees
 - (2) Travel plans
 - (3) Accommodation plans
- A personal narrative responding to the questions, (1) *Describe your experience and goals related to leadership and service in art education* and (2) *How will receiving this grant to attend the National Art Education Association convention help you grow as a leader?*
- Two letters of recommendation
- Selection of format to report back to the membership in return for grant received (written article for *NYSATA News*, reflecting on experience and insights gained or presentation of a workshop OR session at the following year's NYSATA Conference)
- Application submitted on webpage www.nysata.org/grants by the posted deadline