


AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

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

Interest Network:	Creative Arts
Lead Contact Person(s): Michelle Thompson (Chair): Old Dominion University mlthomps@odu.edu and Tamara Shetron (Vice Chair): Texas State University tamara.shetron@txstate.edu	
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:	May 2, 2025 zoom meeting; Positions: Innovation/Information and Membership/Communication
2023-2024 Report	
For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.	
Objectives for 2023-2024:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Expand membership and network member involvementb) Increase network visibility and collaborationc) Increase awareness of the critical role of creativity to promote inclusion and belonging for all peopled) Collaborate with other AAIDD Interest Networks	
Activities for 2023-2024:	
1) Hosted monthly steering committee meetings to plan and prepare webinars hosted by this interest network, discuss ways to expand our interest network, discuss possible future collaborations, and discuss ways to make our interest network more accessible and meaningful to artists with IDD.	
2) In collaboration with the AAIDD Religion and Spirituality IN for their webinar series, representatives of Creative Arts IN hosted and presented a webinar on how creative arts could expand access to religious and spiritual practices for people with IDD. We also provided examples of what these practices might look like. Presented a webinar sponsored by RespectAbility and the AAIDD Religion & Spirituality IN on Creative Arts & Spirituality May 8, 2024: https://www.respectability.org/?s=spirituality+creative+arts	
3) Continue to work on webinar "Promoting Creative Inclusive Practices through the Lens of UDL." which covers the following poster presentations from 2023. We hope to be ready to present the webinar in Spring 2025.	
a. Poster #1 Yumi & Laura: "Expanding the Use of Inclusive Arts Practice Framework in a Large Spectrum of Community Living."	
	

Due September 4, 2024

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b. Poster #2 Tami & Sam: "Flexible Approaches Supporting People with IDD in Creative Spaces Translate to Practical Arenas."



c. Poster #3 Michelle & Peter: "Utilizing the Principles of UDL to Foster Equity and Creativity for Artists with IDD."



4) Used our funds to pay for postcards and colored pencils for 600+ attendees of the AAIDD Conference 2024. Postcards had creative activity to color on one side; information about Creative Arts Interest Network on the other side.

5) We continue to develop a database of creative arts studios (inclusive, progressive, etc..) in the US and internationally.

6) We have seven members/positions in the executive team who will help support the overall strategic planning and tasks of the Creative Arts IN, with 2 open position as of July 2024. Two members who served last year resigned due to family medical issues. Our next scheduled elections will be May 2025 monthly zoom meeting (2nd Friday 3-4pm EST).

- a) Chair: Michelle Thompson
- b) Vice Chair/Research: Tamara Shetron
- c) Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Temple
- d) Social Media: Sam Brophy
- e) Innovation/Information: **OPEN 2024-25**
- f) Membership/Communication: **OPEN 2024-25**
- g) Advisory Mentor: Yumi Shirai

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7) We are now synthesizing the findings of our research (mixed methods: surveys and interviews) with creative arts organizations that provide services to people with IDD for a peer-reviewed journal format. In this study, we asked participating organizations about their technology use, its impact, and lessons learned from COVID-19.

8) Social Media

- Website: <http://aaiddcreativearts.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221768532011107>

9) Since the 2024 AAIDD Conference we have started conversations with several other interest networks to discuss collaboration. These INs are: Technology, Religion & Spirituality, and

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11) We continue to develop a database of creative arts studios (inclusive, progressive, etc..) in the US and internationally.

12) We have seven members/positions in the executive team who will help support the overall strategic planning and tasks of the Creative Arts IN, with 2 open position as of July 2024. Two members who served last year resigned due to family medical issues. Our next scheduled elections will be May 2025 monthly zoom meeting (2nd Friday 3-4pm EST).

2024-2025 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the coming year (July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.

Objectives for 2024-2025:

- a) Continue to expand membership and network member involvement
- b) Continue to increase Creative Arts network visibility and collaboration (within AAIDD and in the wider IDD and Arts communities)
- 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 2024-2025:

- 1) Host monthly steering committee meetings to plan and prepare all member quarterly meetings and conference proposals/presentations
- 2) Submit conference symposium proposal/s (AAIDD, other conferences such as AERA

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or AUCD). Topics to address the importance of creativity and creative arts in the lives of people with IDD.

- 3) Host 2-3 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.
 - b. Topics for 2024-25 to include:
 1. "Artists' Rights"
 2. "Mindfulness & Nature"
 3. "Artists' Voice, representation, and self-advocacy through the arts"
 4. Universal Design for Learning (to increase participation & engagement)
- 3) Continue to 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/Simple Language
 2. Accessible technology
 3. People with IDD participate and present and/or subcommittee of people with IDD to run ideas by if not available to joint the IN
 5. Universal Design for Learning applied to our meetings and presentations
- 7) Explore the possibility of starting a Creative Arts Journal. It would be interesting to see the format of other journals that accept arts (e.g., Canadian journal of disability studies), as well as accessible journal formats from other fields (e.g., <https://www.insea.org/imag/>; <https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/content/visual-essays>).
- 8) Collaborate with the AAIDD Technology, Religion & Spirituality, and ___ Interest Networks (meetings, projects, etc)