

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2018

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

## Interest Network:

Creative Arts Therapies

## Lead Contact Person:

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## Annual Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.

### Objectives:

The objective of this year was to re-activate the Creative Arts Therapies special interest network.

The initial activities include appointing a network chair, gathering information (network history and interest), and setting objectives for the following year.

### Activities Completed:

-Yumi Shirai was appointed Chair of the Creative Arts Therapies Special Interest Network.

-The initial online-network meeting was held in February 2018 for the membership meet and greet. Five members participated. Although we tried to gather the network's previous objectives and activities, all of the five members who participated in the initial meeting had just joined the network within the past year so we did not have enough information at the time of the meeting to set our network's direction for the upcoming annual AAIDD conference.

-An online survey for gathering members' background and interests was implemented in March 2018. Four members participated. Of these four, only one was planning to attend the upcoming annual AAIDD meeting. Among the survey choices, "establishing networking", "identifying opportunities" and "learning about our members' activities" were the three most identified interest of the members.

-The Chair gathered the network activity record from the AAIDD office, and communicated with the previous network chair, Dr. Howard Miller. He stated that establishing an online-based networking site was the previous network's main objective, and that continued work on this objective would benefit the network members and the field. This online-based networking site should be inclusive of all arts related therapeutic and habitation programs.

-The Creative Arts Therapies Special Interest Network hosted a network business meeting at the annual conference. Although only two members participated in the business meeting, we had an active discussion on our network's objectives and activities for the upcoming year. Michelle Boulanger Thompson was appointed Vice Chair of this network.

-We obtained one additional network member who shares our network's interest through another AAIDD networking event.

### Fund Use:

As our initial network activities have been data gathering, we did not use the network fund this year.

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## Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

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

### Objectives:

- a) expand network member involvement, including members' participation in the network activities and new member recruitment.
- b) develop an online-networking site.
- c) host a network event at upcoming AAIDD meeting.

### Activities:

- a) Monthly online-network meetings will be scheduled. The meetings will be used to track and further develop planned activities as well as for the members' networking opportunities.
- b) Network member email recruitment through AAIDD and disability network (e.g., UCEDD).
- c) Facebook site development. This will serve as a single source for all arts-related therapeutic and habilitation program information where members can share their related activities, ideas and opportunities in their communities. We hope that this will also recruit new members (especially community/non-academic members) to join our network group. We plan to post a list of related program/activity links and periodically highlight members' projects and up-coming events on the Facebook site. To promote a smooth leadership transition in the future, we will set up a Gmail account for the network to develop the Facebook site.
- d) Expand the network via connecting/cross-listing our Facebook site to existing organizations/program sites.
- e) Host an event at AAIDD annual meeting. We would like to host an event that promotes creative arts in our community. We are planning to have an art exhibit/contest. However, plans may change as we discuss this activity in the monthly network meetings with our network members and community partners.