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AATA NEWS

National Recognition of Art Therapy among Decision Makers



AATA National Office

The AATA has seen significant increased interest in art therapy among decision makers across various levels of state government. Within the last year, art therapy has been represented in national events and initiatives by the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and the National Lieutenant Governors' Association (NLGA). Through the AATA's advocacy work for the profession, we are strengthening our collaborations



with Americans for the Arts (AftA). National representation for art therapy among decision makers is valuable to the AATA as we work at the local level with our chapters on legislation and rulemaking in 22 states and the District of Columbia during the 2018 legislative sessions and hope to initiate legislative efforts in at least five additional states this year. **READ MORE**

Message of Support for the People of Broward County, Florida



AATA National Office

In the wake of the tragic events that took place on February 14th at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, we mourn the 17 dead and wish the swiftest recoveries for the 14 injured. Our hearts and thoughts are with the victims, their families and friends, and the entire community as the impact of this tragedy takes shape. Although we are only seven weeks into 2018, there have already been 18 shootings at US schools and 30 mass shootings (four or more individuals being shot or killed in the same general time and location). We urge our communities and lawmakers to address the underlying causes of such senseless violence.

Art therapists as mental health practitioners are trained to provide trauma-informed care, and we encourage art therapists to act as resources in their communities as the nation grapples with this tragedy. Our local chapter, the Florida Art Therapy Association (FATA) is distributing information through their [Facebook page](#) on how and where local art therapists can help.

Here are some resources for the community:

- National Child Traumatic Stress Network – “Responding to a School Crisis” offers resources following a school shooting for students, family, and school administrators:
<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/school-personnel/crisis-situation>
- American Psychological Association – “Resources for Coping with Mass Shootings, Understanding Gun Violence” provides resources on understanding and coping with the aftermath of gun violence:
<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/10/mass-shootings.aspx>



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Featured Member: Charles Anderson, Art Therapy Pioneer



AATA National Office



Charles Anderson, ATR-BC, as a pioneer of the art therapy field, witnessed the profession take root and grow. Retired at 77, he still works part-time at Stormont Vail West Hospital, serving clients in crisis and supervising students in the Emporia State University art therapy program. Anderson held many leadership positions in the AATA. He was the founding Chair of AATA's Mosaic Committee (1990-94), was selected as a committee member on the first AATA Ethics Review Board and served two terms on the committee to review questions for the ATCB Certification Exam. The AATA awarded Anderson the Distinguished Clinician Award (2000) and the Multicultural Leadership Award (2008) in recognition of his contributions. **READ MORE**

Join us for Arts Advocacy Day, March 12-13, and Take a Stand to #SAVEtheNEA!



AATA National Office

For the second year in a row, the Administration has called for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), and other cultural agencies in President Trump's budget recommendations. Last year, through the hard work of arts advocates, the U.S. Congress firmly rejected these calls for FY 2018. On Monday, February 12, the Administration again proposed elimination for FY 2019. And again, arts advocates are united in our advocacy to #SAVEtheNEA! Join us at Americans for the Arts' (AftA) Arts Advocacy Day, March 12-13. Advanced [registration](#) is open through February 21, 2018.



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ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

Americans for the Arts statement on the President's FY2019 budget proposal



Americans for the Arts

Following the release of the Trump Administration's proposed FY2019 budget, Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch released the following statement: "I am troubled by the short-sightedness of the Trump Administration's proposed FY2019 budget, which calls for termination of the National Endowment for the Arts. The proposed budget ignores the fact that Congress soundly rejected this same attempt last year to terminate the nation's cultural agencies, including the NEA, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting." **READ MORE**

House votes to add requirements for Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuits



The Hill

The House recently passed legislation that would create additional requirements for filing lawsuits under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The legislation, which passed 225-192 largely along party lines, would prevent people from filing lawsuits alleging violations of the ADA unless business owners are given written notice and fail to offer a written response describing improvements or to make substantial progress in removing the barrier by the end of a six-month period. **READ MORE**

How creative arts therapies support the mental health of Michigan children



Model D Media

Michaela Rabin was just 2 years old when she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Suddenly, her world became a frightening place, full of painful medical procedures and strange faces obscured by surgical masks. Over the course of a year, Michaela spent 100 days in the hospital receiving treatments for her illness. In the hospital setting, Michaela's body was healing, but she was also becoming anxious and fearful. **READ MORE**

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for the AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Clara Keane at ckeane@arttherapy.org. Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the AATA. The opinions expressed and/or contents of guest articles, advertisements, and external links included in any AATA publication do not represent the positions or policies of the AATA. The AATA makes no warranty or representation concerning the accuracy of such content.

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