

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the American Art Therapy Association's Board of Directors and National Office team, welcome to AATA's 50th Annual Conference: **Celebrating 50 Years of Healing Through Art!** We could not have reached this milestone without our members, and we are honored and humbled to join with you here in Kansas City at the culmination of our year-long celebration!

So much has happened since we saw you last in Miami.

We achieved stand-alone **licensure for art therapists in Connecticut**—with ongoing art therapy legislative activity in more than 20 states! The first **ten art therapy graduate programs have been approved for external accreditation** (and counting!). We are connecting with each other more than ever, thanks to our **member Online Forum, MyAATA**, and soon we'll be

enjoying a super-charged online education experience! We have strengthened collaborations, old and new, with our friends in the mental health and arts spaces. We worked with the **British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT)** to offer the **inaugural international research conference** in London, furthering the reach of art therapy across the globe. To advocate for strong federal behavioral health policies and in support of the arts, we partnered with **Americans for the Arts** on Arts Advocacy Day again and, for the first time, with the **National Council for Behavioral Health** for their Hill Day. We are additionally working with the Healthy Parks Healthy People Initiative of the **National Parks Service** to bring art therapy into the parks.

This year, we have also been working hard to enhance/reinforce/fortify the Association's governance. Last year, the Board established a **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Initiative** and made DE&I a core priority within the strategic plan. We are proud to welcome the IVY Planning Group to lead DE&I learning opportunities for all conference attendees as well as train the Board and chapter leaders. We encourage you to join the informal roundtable discussion during their Pop-Up learning session on Thursday at 12:00 p.m., and participate in the Focus Group, **What Makes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Hard?** on Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Finally, thank you to all our conference sponsors and exhibitors, especially to our Bronze Sponsors: Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB), Blick Art Materials, Faber-Castell, Herron School of Art + Design, and HPSO.

We look forward to meeting each of you and encourage you to say "hello" between sessions or at the opening or closing celebrations. We're so glad you've chosen to join us for our 50th anniversary conference, and we can't wait to see what we'll achieve together in the next fifty years!

SINCERELY,

CHRISTIANNE STRANG PHD, ATR-BC, CEDCAT-S
PRESIDENT, AATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SINCERELY,

CYNTHIA YOUNG WOODRUFF CAE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AATA

A NOTE FROM AATA'S PRESIDENT



I have been honored to be the American Art Therapy Association's 25th President. I know that all of our strides forward and the work that we have accomplished are thanks to the collective efforts of the many individuals who love this profession as much as I do. Each member of the AATA contributes to and shares our successes. I especially appreciate the contributions of each member of my board and the staff of the AATA National Office.

I also want to congratulate the incoming Board Members and sincerely thank our outgoing Board Members Daniel Blausey, Jennifer Jividen Jackson, and Michaela Kirby for their service to the profession.

I am pleased and confident as I pass the torch to my friend and colleague Margaret Carlock-Russo. I know that she will provide strong leadership as we begin the next 50 years of healing through art.

Together, I'm confident that our association will continue to grow stronger in service to our profession, our community, and our clients.

CHRISTIANNE STRANG

GREETINGS



Dear Friends and Colleagues,
On behalf of the American Art Therapy Association's Conference Committee, thank you for "meeting us in the middle" of America's heartland here in Kansas City. We are so happy to be **Celebrating 50 Years of Healing Through Art with you!**

Thursday's **An Evening with Rising Stars and Legacy Members** will highlight this

golden anniversary with a special, not-to-be-missed event. Don some gold attire, and join me in walking the red carpet! Following the **Presentation of Awards, Honors, and Scholarships**, honoring AATA's annual Research, Honors, and Scholarship awardees, enjoy the **Conversations with Legacy Members: AATA Then, Now, and in the Future** presentation with some of the AATA's pioneers.

If this is your first conference, consider attending the **Newcomer's Session** on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., and for those of you who have attended before, we do have a new session format that I hope you check out – "Pop-Up" Learning!

Dr. Essam Daod, Co-founder and Mental Health Director of Humanity Crew, will give Saturday's featured keynote address, and if you have not already purchased tickets to the master class **The Healing Power of Art with Refugees & Migrants**, you may purchase tickets today at the registration desk. Further conference highlights include a plenary session featuring Dr. Angela Clack with the AATA's Multicultural Committee: **Breaking the Chains of Racial Trauma in Therapy**.

There are many more ways to celebrate the past fifty years of healing through art during conference. View member artwork before plenary sessions during the digital **Member Art Exhibition**, and join us Saturday afternoon for the Annual Memorial Ceremony as we honor the lives of art therapists who have passed away this year.

Finally, many thanks go to the entire **Program Review Committee** for their hard work in preparing such a diverse educational program featuring over 230 sessions, and kudos to all the volunteers on the **Conference Committee** who have worked tirelessly for a successful conference!

SINCERELY,

Susan Boxer Kappel

SUSAN BOXER KAPPEL MA, ATR-BC, LCAT, CGP
CONFERENCE CHAIR

WELCOME TO KANSAS CITY!



The **Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)** is thrilled to welcome you to the AATA's 50th Annual Conference.

Kansas City is the perfect space for celebrating the AATA's momentous half century birthday and rich art therapy history. Our conference is located in the heart of Kansas City, an area flourishing with creativity.

Kansas City is a maker's town, enjoying a golden moment of celebrating the arts at every level. We invite you to experience Kansas City via our **free light rail system**, which connects our various downtown neighborhoods. Live music, excellent restaurants, cultural arts, and innovation are all palpable elements of Kansas City's renaissance.

Our **Night on the Town** will extend over the entire week of the conference, and we invite all AATA attendees to participate in a photo scavenger hunt, incorporating all of the downtown neighborhoods, including **Crossroads, Power and Light District, River Market, Union Station, and Crown Center**.

Our weekend overlaps with **First Fridays in the Crossroads**. Throughout the weekend, all art studios, art galleries, bars,

restaurants, and venues in the Crossroads neighborhood are open to the public, and there is a festive spirit at these monthly events.

We also invite you to take a short cab ride to the **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, our world-class art institution, with extended hours on Thursday and Friday evenings. Kansas City is also home to the United States' only **National World War I Museum and Memorial**, an incredible and moving museum which holds the most comprehensive collection of artifacts related to World War I.

Please swing by the **LAC table** so we can assist in any way. Our local table will feature a community service project focused on inspiring resilience for our most vulnerable citizens: for a nominal fee, you can purchase materials to make your own **inspirational button**. We will pass these buttons to people in homeless shelters and other places of refuge. Funds raised from this project will be donated to local organizations serving the Kansas City community.

Finally, don't miss our closing **After Party** event! Dress in "**Roaring '20s**" themed costumes, and dance the night away. If you did not purchase a full registration package, you're welcome to purchase a ticket to this event at the registration desk.

WARMLY,

Sherri Jacobs

SHERRI JACOBS MS, LMFT, MA, ATR
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR



PROCLAMATION

Art Therapy Week in the City of Kansas City, Missouri

WHEREAS; the American Art Therapy Association is the leading non-profit organization advancing the art therapy profession, the American Art Therapy Association provides its members with the latest information, resources, and meaningful networking opportunities; and

WHEREAS; its' mission is to advocate for the expansion of access to professional art therapists and lead the nation in the advancement of art therapy as a regulated mental health and human services profession; and

WHEREAS; The Association's culture is one of inclusion, where we are open to people of all backgrounds, as well as new concepts and artistic expression that continue to expand the effectiveness of art as healing therapy; and

WHEREAS; the American Art Therapy Association is celebrating its hallmark anniversary conference of "50 Years of Healing through Art" in which more than 1,100 art therapists and mental health professionals will gather together in Kansas City to join this remarkable achievement and event:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Quinton Donald Luca, Mayor of Kansas City, pay tribute to and celebrate with the American Art Therapy Association, and by virtue of the present official document, proclaim

Art Therapy Week in the City of Kansas City October 27 through November 2, 2019

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I call upon all residents of the Kansas City, to join me in honoring Art Therapy Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the city of Kansas City to be affixed.

DONE, in the Office of the Mayor, on the October 27th day of October in the year 2019.


Quinton Donald Luca