



STATE OF MAINE  
MAINE ARTS COMMISSION  
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25 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0025

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

JULIE A. RICHARD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 2015

Dear Administrator:

The Maine Arts Assessment Initiative (MAAI) is pleased to announce the 2015 Biennial Statewide Arts Education conference “Maine Arts Education: *The Measure of Success*” being held on Friday, October 9, at the Point Lookout Conference Center in Northport. On behalf of your visual and performing arts education teaching staff, I encourage you to support their participation in the conference. We are fortunate to have a vibrant Maine community of arts professionals who will attend the conference. Their common goal will be advancing arts education for the benefit of all students in Maine.

MAAI was established in 2011 by the Maine Department of Education and is presently a program of the Maine Arts Commission. The conference program is grounded in the MAAI mission of *creating an environment in Maine where quality assessment in arts education is an integral part of the work that all arts educators do to deepen student learning in the arts.*

Conference opportunities include engaging workshops on Assessment, Teacher Effectiveness, Arts Integration, Proficiency-Based Education, Movement/Dance and the Creative Process, Brain Development, Studio Habits of Mind, Benchmarking in Music, and Assessment in Visual Arts. These workshops will showcase the latest in research and practice, provide interactive learning through hands-on experiences, and challenge teacher's thinking. The content of the conference can be applied immediately to teaching and learning in your school – helping to advance your proficiency-based goals.

The MAAI shares your vision for ensuring that Maine students receive the best possible education and that your teachers possess a deep knowledge and understanding of teaching and learning. The professional learning opportunities made available through the MAAI are unparalleled in the field of visual and performing arts education in Maine. MAAI has been offering comprehensive opportunities for educators who are engaged with arts learning for over four years and the conference invites educators to experience exemplary practices, methodologies, and research. MAAI online resources are available at <http://www.maineartsassessment.com/>.

I appreciate your commitment to visual and performing arts education and in supporting your arts educators with release time and in whatever way you can, so they may attend. In closing, please accept my gratitude for your leadership that ensures a quality, comprehensive education for all students across Maine. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions by email [argy\\_nestor@maine.gov](mailto:argy_nestor@maine.gov) or by phone 287-2713.

Yours in Arts Education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Argy Nestor".

Ms. Argy Nestor  
Director of Arts Education  
Maine Arts Commission