

Voices in Art Education: A Movement Embracing Abilities and Identities of Disability

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Students who embrace the way they look, act, speak, think, and feel will overcome part of the conflict that accompanies the normalization of one body type or mentality over others. Educators from Moore College of Art & Design supports taking the critical step in supporting students to celebrate their identities by ensuring their teachers foster an inclusive and whole-person environment for learning and art-making. Our panel members facilitate this step through the promotion of dialogue amongst a professional global community of art educators, and the advancement of visual arts experiences for individuals with diverse learning needs. Panel members will offer audience participants skill-building strategies and opportunities to reflect and respond to their individual perspectives on art education for special populations. This convergent approach of first-person and person-first perspectives aims to diversify ways in which research and practice can inform teaching and learning in and through visual arts.

Bios:

Veronica Hicks, PhD (ABD), explores relationships between art students and teachers who are labeled with triple jeopardy—a term referring to an individual who is Black, disabled, and a woman. Veronica works collaboratively with a past art student designing a co-authored comic focusing on conscious-raising and solidarity through art. The Divas With Disabilities Project named Veronica a Global Ambassador for DWD in 2015. She received the Penn State Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award in 2015-16 and named a Penn State Africana Research Center dissertation fellow for 2016-17 due to her intersectional dissertation research and comic book project.

Lauren Stichter is the Director of the Masters in Art Education with an Emphasis in Special Populations program at Moore College of Art & Design. She is the president-elect for the National Art Education Association Special Needs in Art Education Interest Group, the SNAE Chairperson for the Pennsylvania Art Education Association and a board member of the Council for Exceptional Children Division of the Arts. Lauren has presented regionally and nationally for organizations like The Kennedy Center VSA Program, National Art Education Association, Pennsylvania Art Education Association, The World Congress on Special Needs Education, and The Council for Exceptional Children.

Amanda Newman-Godfrey is a full-time faculty in art education at Moore. She is an ABD Doctoral Candidate in Art and Art Education at Teachers College Columbia University. She has been an art educator in schools, state agencies, and in higher education for 22 years. She has presented at state and national conferences, was the recipient of the Doctoral Dissertation Grant for outstanding research, and was named a “Rising Star in Higher Education” by TC Today magazine. She is the co-author of a forthcoming chapter on creative arts curriculum for students with Autism. Amanda will defend her dissertation in Autumn 2017.