A Letter from the Executive Director, Quanice Floyd

Happy School Year 2020!
I’m so excited to be here at AEMS as the new Executive Director and am overwhelmed by the amount of support that you all have shown me over the past month and a half. As ED, my goal is to ensure that every single student in the state of Maryland has access to high quality arts education. Arts Education is a civil right and ALL students in Maryland should have access to it regardless of their neighborhood, zip code, city, or county.

Last week, AEMS and the rest of the nation celebrated Arts in Education with AFTA’s National Arts in Education Week. During the week, we celebrated and honored arts educators throughout the state and want you all to continue to show love to our arts educators by using the hashtag
#ThankAnArtsEducator no matter the time of year. Also last week, a report came out that [New Jersey is officially the first state to provide universal access to arts education programs](https://aems-edu.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/link-fixed-celebrating-national-arts-in-education-week-artlook-maryland-aems-website-and-more) in every school, what an amazing accomplishment! Now is the time to make Maryland the second state to provide universal access to arts education -- and we can do it!

As we all walk this journey towards liberation through arts education together, just know that AEMS is here to serve you! Want us to visit your school district? Let's do it! Need us to help with curriculum? You got it! AEMS is nothing without you all who do the work on the ground every single day and we want to make sure that we give as much support as we can. If you want to connect, please feel free to send me an email at qfloyd@aems-edu.org.

Onward and Upward!

Quanice

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**AEMS Arts Education Spotlight**

**MAIN Event: A Dramatic Approach to Reading and Science - Frederick County**

In mid-July, AEMS hosted a summer institute for Frederick County public educators to provide professional development in the use of arts integration lesson planning. Highly-respected arts integration specialists Lenore Blank Kelner and Susan Denvir led the institute Butterfly Ridge Elementary School, imparting valuable information to over 20 Frederick County teachers about the incorporation of standards-based drama techniques to help children learn in the areas of science, nonfiction reading, and English language skills.

Attendees were ecstatic about the experience, speaking to the "contagious" and "GREAT" enthusiasm of the presenters, and voicing appreciation that Kelner and Denvir had given them tools to "instruct true drama skills, rather than using 'skits' or games" and to "encourage students to take risks." A planned STEAM institute with Maria Barbosa will be held at Butterfly Ridge in the fall. Both the planned STEAM institute and the Arts Integration institute were made possible by funds from the Delaplaine and Ausherman Family Foundations. Many thanks to Patty Hosfelt and Dawn Getzendanner for their generous assistance in planning and implementing this arts integration institute!
AEMS hopes everyone had a creative and grateful National Arts in Education Week! Continue to thank the arts educators in your schools and communities for the important work they do in bringing creativity into children’s lives.  
#BecauseofArtsEd #MDArtsEd #ArtsMakeSchoolsBetter #ThankAnArtsEducator

**artlook® Maryland Updates**

The [artlook® Maryland](https://aems-edu.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/link-fixed-celebrating-national-arts-in-education-week-artlook-maryland-aems-website-and-more) project continues apace with numerous pilot districts having already completed and submitted their data. After an active summer of engaging with arts partners around the state, AEMS has garnered interest and support from organizations large and small, and will continue to host partner meetings in the future.


Want to learn more about [artlook® Maryland](https://aems-edu.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/link-fixed-celebrating-national-arts-in-education-week-artlook-maryland-aems-website-and-more)? Watch this short, informational video, to find out what it's all about!
Over the spring and summer, AEMS has hosted meetings in all 4 of artlook® Maryland’s pilot districts (Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Queen Anne’s County) and is now adding arts partners to the data platform’s portal for launch in early Winter.

If you are an arts organization or teaching artist interested in joining the artlook® Maryland platform, click here to claim your account; if your organization does not appear in the claim account list, please fill out this short form so that we can get in touch with you further.

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Recent AEMS Events

Artscape 2019
AEMS sweated it out during the brutal heat of Artscape, promoting awareness about the need for arts education advocacy, and engaging with festival-goers. Our Bloomberg Arts Interns, Ariel and Kairiq, were stoic volunteers throughout the blazing weekend. The AEMS Artscape booth had postcards that constituents decorated with their own creative abilities and used to write to their representatives, a selfie wall where people displayed their relationship to the arts, and a Statement of Support that over 330 Artscape attendees signed. The statement read:

“I support Arts Education in Maryland Schools' belief that all students deserve equitable access to arts education, so that they can learn and achieve in and through dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.”

We hope through all the methods available, Marylanders will make their voices heard about the necessary importance of funding arts education programs.
Maryland Arts Summit Pre-Conference
In collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Fine Arts Office, Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA), and the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), AEMS helped to bring about the inaugural Maryland Arts Summit, a multi-day conference at UMBC running from June 6-8, with workshops, professional development for teachers, interactive artistic experiences, and an artists' bazaar. AEMS's annual Maryland Fine Arts Education Conference functioned as the pre-conference on June 6. During the pre-conference, over 100 participants exchanged ideas, networked, and participated in discussion and professional development workshops. In addition to the many qualified and engaging presenters who were teaching artists, teachers, or representatives from arts organizations or institutions of higher education, AEMS staff members led discussions about local arts education advocacy, the progress of artlook® Maryland, and the in-progress 2018 Deans' Roundtable report.
Awards at the Pre-Conference: Principals' Recognition Awards/Jay Tucker

After a rousing opening performance by slam poet Gayle Danley, AEMS announced the nominees and winners of our annual Alvin & Louise Meyerberg Principals' Recognition Awards. The nominees came from Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Howard County, and Queen Anne's County districts. Congratulations to all the nominees, Maureen Astarita, Jennifer Noll, Rick Robb, and Helen 'Beth' Shakan, John Schrecongost.

A special congratulations to the three awarded principles: Maureen Astarita (Baltimore County), Jennifer Noll (Baltimore County), and Beth Shakan (Anne Arundel).

AEMS also presented its annual Jay Tucker Award for Outstanding Leadership in Arts Education to Julia Di Bussolo, Executive Director of Arts Every Day. Congratulations, Julia!

Advocacy

AEMS continues to actively monitor the progress of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) work-groups; it is essential that funding for arts education is included as part of the Foundation Formula (base) Funding, and AEMS will continue to advocate for this. Click here to view the...
Kirwan Commission's schedule, materials presented at workgroup sessions, and video footage to keep track of their current progress.

AEMS is part the Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which is a group of organizations working to ensure the passage of legislation that encompasses the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission along with and updated, adequate, and equitable funding formula that has dedicated revenue sources.

Our major initiative for the fall is hosting community forums for the general public to learn more about the Kirwan Commission: what it is, where things stand, and what could happen moving forward. [Click here] to RSVP for a community forum near you!

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Get Involved!

Want to get involved with AEMS?
We are always looking for volunteers!
[Fill out this form to let us know!]
[Donate here!]

Stay tuned for more information on joining the AEMS advisory committee or board on the website!

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Stay Tuned For...

Teaching Artist Institute (TAI) teaching artist application deadline SOON! (9/25)
The [Teaching Artist Institute (TAI)] is looking for artists interested in bringing their art form to classrooms around Maryland as teaching artists. [Applications](follow the link), are open until September 25 -- right around the corner!

TAI is a comprehensive professional development experience beginning in November that empowers artists to partner with teachers, transforming learning environments and breathing joy and creativity into classrooms. Artists come away with a highly marketable fine arts residency to implement in classrooms around Maryland.

TAI's professional development programs provide artists with:

- Training in educational trends and best practices, curriculum standards, and classroom management strategies;
- Coaching from an exemplary faculty of master teaching artists;
- Opportunities to network and collaborate with other artists and teachers.

Regional Arts Institutes (September-October)
AEMS will be present at the Maryland State Arts Council's 2nd annual [Regional Arts Institutes], which take place in seven different locations across Maryland in September and October. Find one near you and RSVP today!
• Fri, 9/20, 3:30-9PM: Washington College, Chestertown
• Tue, 9/24, 3:30-9PM: Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown
• Thu, 9/26, 3:30-9PM: Goucher College, Baltimore
• Fri, 9/27, 3:30-9PM: The Writer's Center, Bethesda
• Tue, 10/1, 3:30-9PM: Ocean City Art League, Ocean City
• Fri, 10/4, 3:30-9PM: Annmarie Sculpture Garden, Solomons
• Tue, 10/8, 3:30-9PM: Chesapeake Arts Center, Brooklyn Park

MSDE "I Voted" sticker design contest (runs 9/15-10/15)
Submissions for the 2019 "I Voted" Sticker Competition are NOW OPEN! This competition is open to Maryland P-12 students working in a variety of media, including digital art! There will be 3 winning designs and cash prizes for both students and their teachers.
Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA)'s ArtsLAB 2019 (November 22, Howard County Community College)

ArtsLAB is a traveling professional development symposium, presented by MCA each year, in different parts of the state. ArtsLAB is a place where artists, arts professionals, advocates and more, come together to discuss current issues and concerns facing the arts sector. In addition to thrilling performances, the morning portion highlights an individual keynote speaker which exemplifies best practices for the topic at hand. The afternoon portion of the day is a mix of hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and case studies.

Stay tuned for more details, coming soon!

Further Reading & Media about Arts Education
Maryland Matters - Cash for Kirwan Commission Grants is Flowing to Local School Boards

Education Week - How Arts Teachers Are Strengthening Students' Social-Emotional Muscles

University of British Columbia - Music Students Do Better in School Than Non-Musical Peers