

# The State of Teaching Artistry: Realities & Possibilities

With Eric Booth and Gowri Savor



# Opening Remarks.- Welcome from the NGCAE



## Housekeeping Items:

- This session will be recorded and uploaded into the “Resources” Section in our website
- Please keep your camera on as much as possible, or as much as you feel comfortable
- Make sure to participate! We will be monitoring the chat with your questions and comments.

# Opening Remarks.- Welcome from the NGCAE



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# Meet your Hosts: The State of Teaching Artistry: Realities & Possibilities



Eric Booth



Gowri Savor

# The State of Teaching Artistry: Realities & Possibilities

On this sheep scale, how do you feel about teaching artistry today?



# The State of Teaching Artistry: Realities & Possibilities

## We'll be exploring:

1. The current climate. What do we need to change?
2. Where do teaching artists thrive? Opportunities in the field.
3. Resources.
4. How can we do better?
5. What areas need our attention? Areas of growth and examples of 2 great projects.
6. Advocacy with the Guild.



# 8 Difficult Truths about the Profession of Teaching Artistry

- **TAs are underpaid**, with few exceptions, and always have been
- TAs struggle with the issue of **health insurance coverage** — #1 challenge
- There are still **few reliable pathways** into the profession
- There are still **few ways to climb in a career** other than moving into administration
- Sustaining a career requires **entrepreneurial agency**
- The **largest share of TA work is still in schools**, but it is decreasing
- TA work is **isolating** and often feels **lonely**
- The TA field is still **largely invisible**, almost **entirely unfunded** as a field, and **lacks effective infrastructure** and committed advocates

# What is the reality right now?

## The 3 'F' s

- 1 Funding:** reduction in federal funding for the arts, humanities, research, and education
- 2 Fear:** geographic/ political climate, projects that work with underserved populations and address DEI
- 3 Future:** IP theft, copyright infringement, consumer protections, rise of AI.



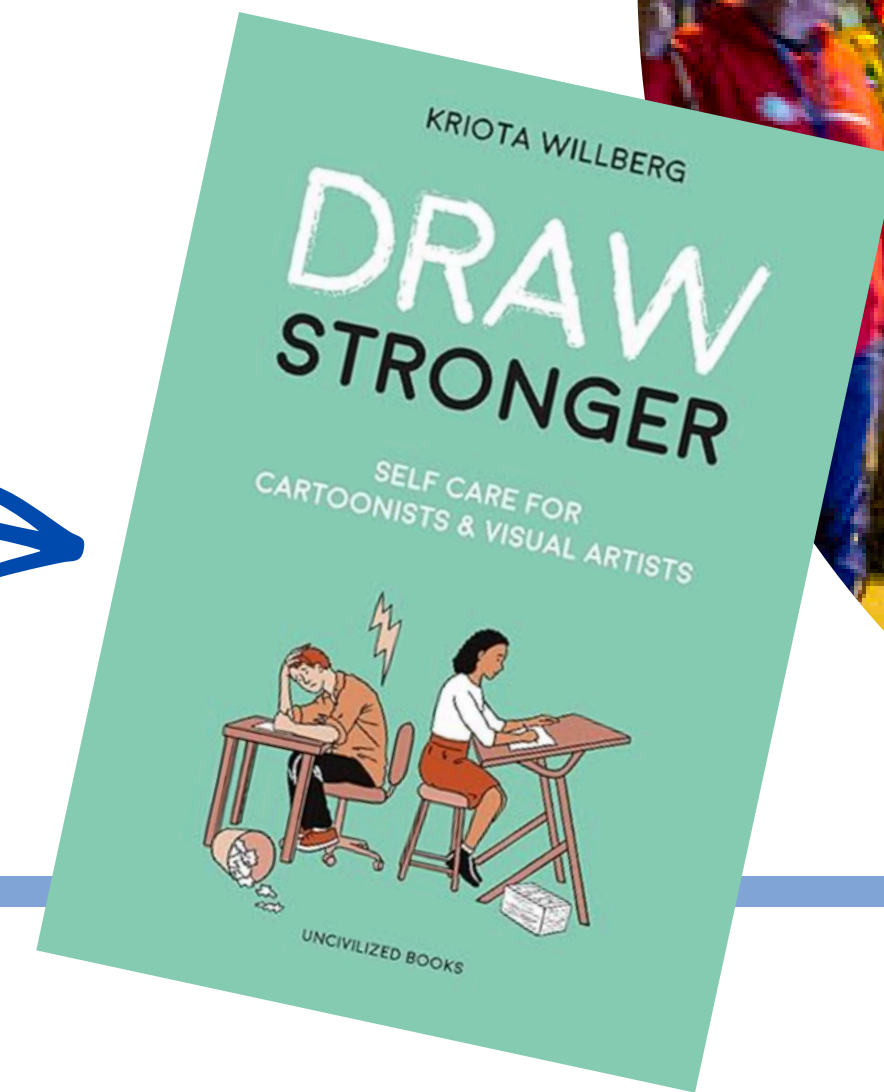
# What Can We Change?

## Self-Protection

Protecting **yourself**:

- Your time
- Your health and physical body (mind/ spirit too)
- Draw (RE-draw!) some boundaries
- Check your contracts and proposal templates. Are your rates up to date?

**Not just for visual artists but for ANYONE working at a computer/ desk!**



# What Can We Change?

## Retraining and Learning New Skills

### Refreshing **your mind**:

- Get training in new settings with new population: creative aging, accessibility, healthcare, etc.
- Understand the current landscape: podcasts, books, TED talks.
- Brush up on digital skills: Canva Affinity, DaVinci Resolve, etc. (free)
- Practice/ learn creative skills: Domestika, Udemy, Skillshare, Masterclass, Kahn Academy (all paid)

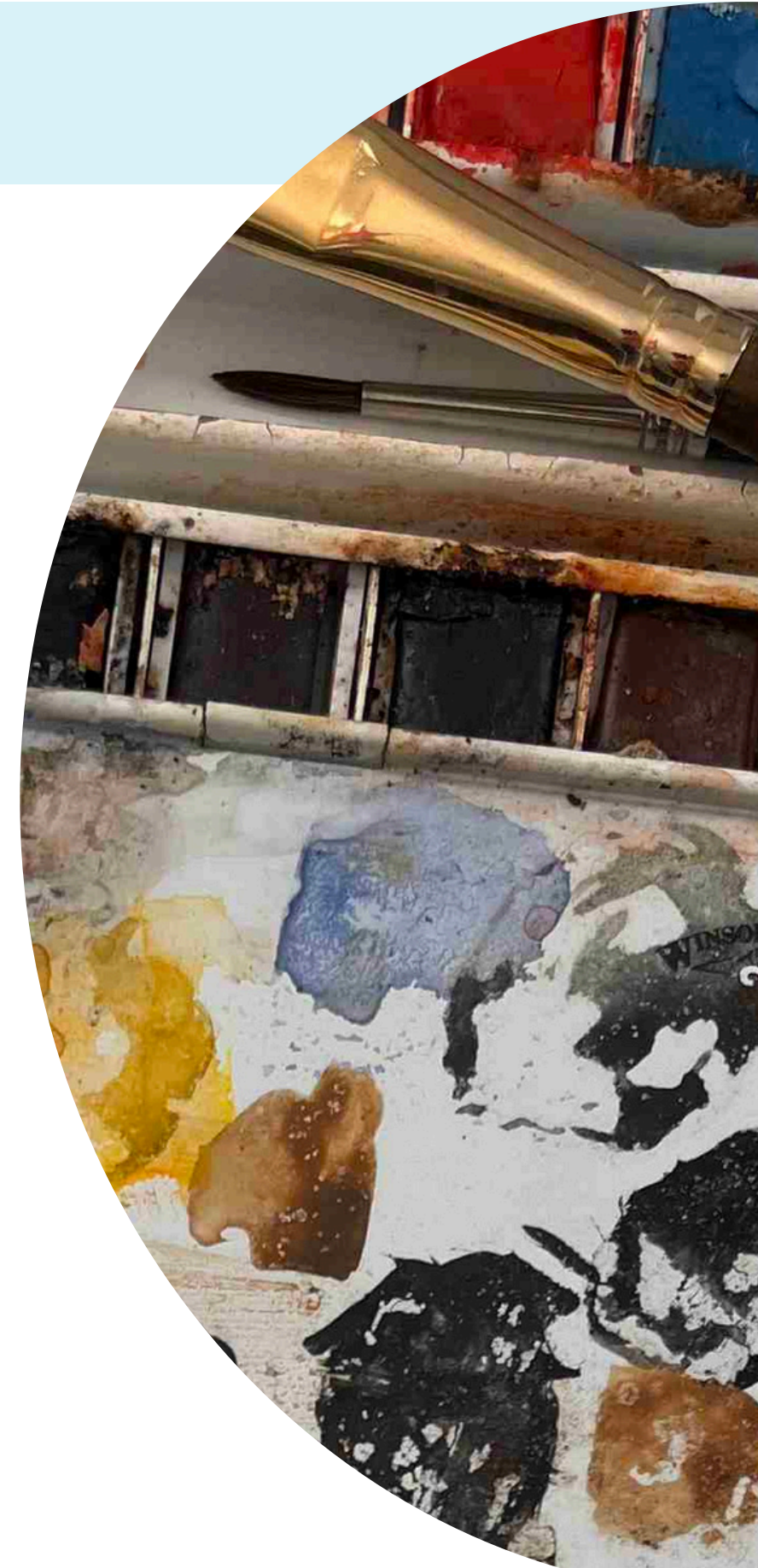


# What Can We Change?

## Marketing and Communications

Re-marketing **your brand**:

- What do you offer? Evolve your offerings to match our changing world.
- Do less, do better; sharpen the quality of your work and put your energy where it matters.
- Website refresh! Make it more accessible.
- Reconsider those rates and account for hidden costs.
- Stay relevant.



# What Can We Change?



**What are some creative or innovative marketing ideas you can share with the group?**



# Purpose Threads

## The Seven (plus one) Purpose Threads of the Teaching Artist Field

### Name of thread

### Primary purpose of the work

**Work of art**

**To enhance the encounter with art works**

**Art skills development**

**To deepen the development of art-making skills**

**Arts integration**

**To catalyze the learning of non-arts content**

**Community**

**To enhance the life of communities**

**Activism**

**To impact a political or social movement**

**Social/personal development**

**To develop personal or social capacities**

**Partnering for non-art goals**

**To achieve goals important to other institutions**

***+ Digital***

***To activate personal artistry in digital media***

# Purpose Threads



**What other opportunity areas  
are you seeing?**



# Resources for Teaching Artists

## Information, Tools, and Support

- ITAC (International Teaching Artists Collaborative): Member resources
- TAG Assets: <https://teachingartists.com/>
- National Guild for Community Arts Education Resources
- Artists Thrive, National Resource Hub
- Springboard for the Arts Work of Art and other resources
- Arts in Education Roundtable Remote Learning Resources
- TAMA - Member Resources



# Resources for Teaching Artists

## Training (direct and indirect learning opportunities)

- Teaching Artists Connect, foundational and specialized training (creative aging, access, intro courses)
- Lifetime Arts, creative aging
- Open Door Arts, accessibility/ Accessibility Resource Hub
- TATI, for music teaching artists
- Community Word Project, (Teaching Artist Project), social justice and social emotional learning, schools)



# Resources for Teaching Artists

## Podcasts, Books, etc.

- *Why Change? The Podcast for a Creative Generation*, Creative Generation with Madeleine McGirk
- *Teaching Artistry with Courtney J. Boddie*, podcast
- *Making Change, Teaching Artists and Their Role in Shaping a Better World*, by Eric Booth
- *Your Brain on Art, How the Arts Transform Us*, by Ivy Ross and Susan Magsamen
- *Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Save Lives*, by Daisy Fancourt



# Resources for Teaching Artists

## Make your website more accessible

- <https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>
- <https://wave.webaim.org>

## TED Talks

- <https://theartofeducation.edu/2015/10/10-ted-talks-every-art-teacher-should-watch/>



**What other resources can you share?**



# Areas of Growth

## Which areas will require our attention?

- Diplomacy
- Civil discourse
- Social emotional learning
- Health
- Creative aging
- Accessibility
- Soft skills: communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, etc.



# Areas of Need: Communication & Civil Discourse

## Philippa Pham Hughes

- Writer, speaker, curator
- Curator of human connection
- Social practice artist; completed a social practice residency at the Kennedy Center.

Follow her blog: <https://artisfear.com/>

*Photo credit Philippa Pham Hughes*



# Areas of Need: Communication & Civil Discourse

## Philippa Pham Hughes

- “Hey We Need to Talk!” 2022, University of Michigan Museum of Art.
- “Hey We Need to Talk!”, 2024



*Photo credit Philippa Pham Hughes*

# Philippa Pham Hughes



Learn more at: <https://www.philippahughes.com/>

*Photo credit Philippa Pham Hughes*

# Areas of Need: Community & Youth Mental Health

## Artist: Michael Rohd

<https://michaelrohd.com/>

### **State of Mind and Listening as a Radical Act**

<https://michaelrohd.substack.com/>

### **Theater and Building Trust**

<https://michaelrohd.substack.com/p/theatre-and-buildiung-trust>





# **Closing Remarks.- Upcoming from the NGCAE**



**Guild Essentials**

**NAVIGATING THE TENSION  
BETWEEN MONEY & MISSION**

With

**LECOLION WASHINGTON  
&  
MEGHAN JASANI**

**JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**  
10:00 AM PST  
12:00 PM CST  
1:00 PM EST

**ZOOM**

NATIONAL GUILD FOR

COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION



NATIONAL GUILD FOR

# ANNUAL MEETING 2026

**June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
10 am PST | 12 pm CST | 1 pm  
EST

**Virtual - Zoom**

COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION