Meeting the Challenges of a Changing World through Innovation and Creative Collaboration

Alabama Arts Alliance
Alabama Arts Summit
‘23

UAB’s Alys Stephens Center
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
APRIL 27-28
CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, April 27, 2023

7:30 a.m.  Registration and Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  “Get Rhythm” with John Scalici (MK Sirote Theatre)

8:45 a.m.  Welcome and Opening Plenary Session (MK Sirote Theatre)

9:15 a.m.  The Alabama State Department of Education

9:30 a.m.  Keynote with Olivia West Plsek: “Collaboration is a Roller Coaster”

9:30 a.m.  “Collaborating for a Better World Building on 2030 Skills”

11:00 a.m. “Building it From the Ground Up”

11:45 a.m.  LUNCH (Lower Lobby)

1:00 p.m.  Roundtable discussion: “Wicked Problems” (Lower Lobby)

2:15 p.m.  Grant Opportunities (MK Sirote Theatre)

2:45 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
- AAEI grantees Group A - Adjourn to the Odess Theatre
- AAEI grantees Group B - Adjourn to the Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall

2:45 p.m.  “artlook®Alabama” (MK Sirote Theatre)

 “Connecting People and Building Relationships in Your Community”

4:00 p.m.  Celebration of AAEI Grantees (MK Sirote Theatre)

4:45 - 6:30 p.m.  Reception at the Abroms-Engle Institute for Visual Arts

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Friday, April 28, 2023

7:30 a.m.  Registration and Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  “University of Alabama New College & New College Life Track” (MK Sirote)

8:45 a.m.  Welcome and Plenary Session (MK Sirote Theatre)

9:00 a.m.  Featured presentation with Dr. Michael Zabala: “Engineering in the Arts”

10:30 a.m.  “Peter Pan Jr.” by Hamilton Middle School

11:00 a.m.  “Alabama MTSS & the Power of Us: Collective Responsibility for the Success of Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day”

11:40 a.m.  Advocacy Tips

12:00 p.m.  LUNCH (Lower Lobby)

1:00 p.m.  Roundtable discussion: “Creative Clusters” (Lower Lobby)

2:15 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
- AAEI grantees Group B - Adjourn to the Odess Theatre
- AAEI grantees Group A - Adjourn to the Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall

2:15 p.m.  “Amp Up Arts” and “UAB Arts” (MK Sirote Theatre)

3:30 p.m.  Closing and Adjourn (MK Sirote Theatre)

Thank you for joining us!
AGENDA
Thursday, April 27, 2023

7:30 a.m. Registration opens *(Box office entrance - upper level)*

7:30 a.m. Breakfast *(Lower Lobby)*
- Student Performance: Alabama School of Fine Arts Musical Ensemble

7:30 a.m. Visit vendors *(Upper Lobby)*

8:30 a.m. “Get Rhythm” with John Scalici *(MK Sirote Theatre)*

8:45 a.m. Welcome and Opening Plenary Session *(MK Sirote Theatre)*

9:15 a.m. The Alabama State Department of Education *(MK Sirote Theatre)*
- Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education
- Andy Meadows, Arts Education Specialist

9:30 a.m. Keynote with Olivia West Plsek: “Collaboration is a Roller Coaster” *(MK Sirote)*

10:30 a.m: BREAK - Visit Vendors

11:00 a.m. Owen Foster: “Collaborating for a Better World Building on 2030 Skills” *(MK Sirote)*

11:30 a.m. Melissa Hughey & Dwayne Craft: “Building it From the Ground Up” *(MK Sirote)*

11:45 - 12:45 p.m. LUNCH *(Lower Lobby)*
- Student performance: McAdory High School Theatre Program

12:45 p.m. BREAK - Visit Vendors

1:00 p.m. Roundtable discussion: “Wicked Problems” with facilitators *(Lower Lobby)*

2:15 p.m. Grant Opportunity with Arts Council Program Managers *(MK Sirote Theatre)*

2:45 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
- AAEI grantees Group A - Adjourn to the Odess Theatre
- AAEI grantees Group B - Adjourn to the Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall

2:45 p.m. Morris K. Sirote Theatre
- Donna Russell: artlook®Alabama
- Shellie Whitfield: “Connecting People and Building Relationships in Your Community”

4 p.m. Celebration of AAEI Grantees *(MK Sirote Theatre)*

4:45 - 6:30 p.m. RECEPTION at the Abroms-Engle Institute for Visual Arts

WICKED PROBLEMS are large-scale problems that are resistant to singular solutions – they are problems that are multi-causal (may have multiple causes) and multidimensional. They are challenging to solve precisely because they are systemic and intertwined with other problems. Wicked problems push the boundaries of disciplinary understanding and call for cross-disciplinary collaborations: the integration of diverse perspectives and multifaceted solutions. The arts and humanities are fluent in dealing with such complexities with methods and practices that center deep observation, listening, empathy and imaginative possibilities – modes that are essential to ethical decision-making and knowledge equity.
AGENDA

Friday, April 28, 2023

7:30 a.m.  Registration opens (Box office entrance - upper level)
7:30 a.m.  Breakfast (Lower Lobby)
  - Student Performance: Alabama School of Fine Arts Musical Ensemble
7:30 a.m.  Visit vendors (Upper Lobby)
8:30 a.m.  Jennifer A. Caputo: “University of Alabama New College & New College
  Life Track” (MK Sirote Theatre)
8:45 a.m.  Welcome and Plenary Session (MK Sirote Theatre)
9:00 a.m.  Featured presentation with Dr. Michael Zabala, “Engineering in the Arts” (MK Sirote)
10:00 a.m: BREAK - Visit Vendors
10:30 a.m. “Peter Pan Jr.” by Hamilton Middle School (MK Sirote Theatre)
11:00 a.m. “Alabama MTSS & the Power of Us: Collective Responsibility for the Success of Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day” (MK Sirote Theatre)
  - Sean J. Stevens, Instructional Services Program Coordinator
  - Cristin M. Dillard, Education Administrator
  - Kristie P. Shankles, Education Specialist for Alabama Multi-Tier System of Supports (AL-MTSS)
11:40 a.m. Advocacy Tips
12:00 - 12:45 p.m. LUNCH (Lower Lobby)
  - Student Performance: Huffman High School Theatre Department
12:45 p.m.  BREAK - Visit Vendors
1:00 p.m.  Roundtable discussion: “Creative Clusters” (Lower Lobby)
  - with facilitators
2:15 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
  - AAEI grantees Group B - Adjourn to the Odess Theatre
  - AAEI grantees Group A - Adjourn to the Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall
2:15 p.m.  Morris K. Sirote Theatre
  - Ashely Lucier, AmpUpArts
  - Lili Anderson, UAB Arts
3:30 p.m.  Closing and Adjourn (MK Sirote Theatre)

CREATIVE CLUSTERS are a network for people working in the development of creative programs or projects. The network is interested in regeneration and/or development of projects that deliver outcomes in both cultural and educational terms. Within this group you find people with which to collaborate, that will provide support for your program, to support you. Keep this within sight.
Olivia is a professional writer for themed entertainment design and video game design with a specialty in world-building and immersive experiences. She has always loved telling stories that bring people together. Olivia attended the University of Alabama for her undergraduate degree, majoring in Digital Media and minoring in Creative Writing. Following that, she attended the Savannah College of Art and Design to obtain her master’s degree in Themed Entertainment Design. After graduating from SCAD, Olivia worked at Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale, California. Then she worked for 5 years at Universal Creative in Orlando, Florida, as a show writer, beginning as the primary writer for the Universal theme park in Beijing, China. After Universal Studios Beijing, she worked on many more Universal projects, including the newest roller coaster in Islands of Adventures, “The Velocicoaster,” for which she was the main writer. Olivia then worked at Avalanche, the video game design arm of Warner Brothers Games, and thus transitioned to being a game writer. With Avalanche, Olivia was a Senior Narrative Designer on the highly anticipated AAA video game, Hogwarts Legacy.

Currently, Olivia works as a freelance writer, along with running a cooking blog, and she just finished writing her first novel.

Michael Zabala, PhD, Associate Professor of Engineering, Auburn University

Dr. Michael Zabala is the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council Endowed Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He is also the Director of the Auburn University Biomechanical Engineering (AUBE) Lab where his research focuses on human performance and injury prevention. Dr. Zabala graduated from Auburn University in 2007 with a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and from Stanford University with a Master’s degree and PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 2010 and 2013, respectively. His research in the AUBE Lab includes work on active lower-limb exoskeleton technology, ACL injury risk determination, lower-limb prosthetic devices, and biomechanical analysis of various artforms.

In 2019, Dr. Zabala created the Engineering in the Arts study abroad course. This is a three-hour course offered to Auburn University engineering students and is held in Florence, Italy, over the course of four weeks in the summer. The course centers on engineering principles associated with multiple forms of art such as the playing of musical instruments, painting, Renaissance architecture, and dance. Students also learn about key historical figures of the Renaissance that held major influence on the origins of biomechanics and engineering, as well as modern-day Western art and architecture.
PRESENTERS

Annemarie Anderson, MFA
Director of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, Alabama State Council on the Arts

Lili Anderson
Executive Director of Visual and Performing Arts
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Jennifer Caputo, MA
Senior Instructor
New College LifeTrack at the University of Alabama

Euri Carr, MEd
Performing Arts Program Manager
Alabama State Council on the Arts

Barton “Dwayne” Craft, MS
Fine Arts Supervisor
Huntsville City Schools

Cristin Dillard, MLIS
Education Administrator for College and Career Success
Alabama State Department of Education

Owen Foster, MID
Founder
Aether Global Learning & Shift Design Camp

Melissa Hughey
Master Arts Educator
Madison, AL

Amy Jenkins, MA
Visual Arts Program Manager
Alabama State Council on the Arts

Anne Kimzey
Literary Arts Program Manager & Folk Arts Apprenticeships
Alabama State Council on the Arts

Ashley Lucier, MEdL
State Director
Amp Up Arts

Dr. Eric Mackey, PhD
State Superintendent
Alabama State Department of Education

Andy Meadows, MFA
Arts Education Specialist
Alabama State Department of Education

Kaci Norman, MEd
Arts in Education Program Manager
Alabama State Council on the Arts

Donna Russell
Executive Director
Alabama Arts Alliance

John Scalici
Founder
Get Rhythm! Programs

Kristie Shankles
Education Specialist for Alabama Multi-Tier System of Support
Alabama State Department of Education

Sean Stevens, MEd
Program Coordinator of Instructional Services
Alabama State Department of Education

Jacqueline Viskup, PhD
Community Arts Program Manager & Arts Facilities
Alabama State Council on the Arts

Shellie Whitfield
Executive Director
Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce
Performances

String and Vocal Ensembles from

ALABAMA SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Director: Alex Fokkens, Chair of the Music Department

Hamilton Middle School Theatre Students
Performing “Peter Pan Jr.”

Director: Cindy Howie; Asst. Director: Mary Beth Hall
Choreographer: Alysse Beasley
Assistant Principal and Arts Coordinator Benja Jackson; Principal Norman Ballard
Cast and Crew: Sixty-seven students in grades 5-8

The arts program of Hamilton Middle School was launched 4 years ago with the assistance of an AAEI grant and has expanded ever since thanks to the dedication of not only the teachers and administrators, but also the students, parents and community.

Click on QR code for more information about their art program.
Performances

Huffman High School Theater Department

Director: LaTosha Anderson,
Principal: Dr. John C Lyons Jr.

The Huffman High School Drama Club was created in 2019 by Mrs. LaTosha Anderson. This organization aims to strengthen and cultivate student’s engagement, communication skills, teamwork, collaboration, social, and emotional learning. During the past four years, students have performed and produced productions that enhanced their experiences in and outside the theater. The creativity and direction students take to bring life towards performances that are written and recreated are phenomenally received by a variety of audience members.

Moving forward, the Huffman High School Drama Club looks forward to collaboration, grant opportunities, scholarships, and performing in other venues statewide.

McAdory High School Theatre Program

Director: Jordan Dewitt, McAdory High School Theatre Program
Principal: Gary Bowen

McAdory High School Theatre is very grateful for the opportunity to present selections from their recently closed production of “Mean Girls: High School Version!”

Follow them on Instagram @mcadoryhstheatre for info on future productions and behind-the-scenes photos!
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Master Arts Educator  
Madison, AL

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Director of National Partnerships  
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Elizabeth “Liz” Boykin  
Secretary  
Organizational Correspondence  
Program Coordinator  
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Partnerships & Engagement  
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Aether Global Learning & Shift Design Camp  
Tuscumbia, AL

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Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
UAB Arts in Medicine  
Calera, AL

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Business Analyst  
Milo’s Tea Company  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Erin Langley  
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Executive Director  
Eastern Shore Repertory Theatre  
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Andy Meadows, M.F.A.  
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Arts Education Specialist  
Alabama State Dept. of Ed.  
Montgomery, AL

Meghan Merciers, D.M.A.  
Post-Secondary & Professional Engagement  
Executive Director, School of the Arts  
University of North Alabama  
Florence, AL
Jonathan “Heath” Mixon
Conferences & Events
Director
UAB’s ArtPlay
Birmingham, AL

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Fantasy Playhouse Children’s Theater and Academy
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State Agency Liaison
Arts Education Program Manager
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Montgomery, AL

Tricia Oliver
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Past President AAEA
Opelika, Al

Ricky Trione
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Arts & Disabilities
Artist
Fairhope, AL

Bryant Whelan
Fine Arts Programming
Executive Director
Eastern Shore Art Center
Fairhope, AL

Shellie Whitfield
Community Outreach
Executive Director
Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce/
Big Fish Art Studio
Wetumpka, AL

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Montgomery, AL

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Gadsden, AL

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Karmessa Padgett
Professional Development Project Manager
Madison, AL

Alabama Arts Alliance

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Celebrating 40 years of Leadership and Service

The mission of the Alabama Arts Alliance is to increase public awareness of and engagement in the arts through education and advocacy.

The Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, aka the Alabama Arts Alliance, was established in 1983 in partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. It was incorporated in 1987, and the non-profit status was approved in 1988.

The Arts Alliance started off as a volunteer organization, but soon hired a part-time executive director. Donna Russell is the 3rd executive director of the organization and the position is now full-time, with an executive assistant and a part-time special projects coordinator.

The Arts Alliance developed the Imaginative Learning Workshops in the 1990’s which were modeled after the Kennedy Center’s professional development program. Those workshops have since then evolved into SAIL (Sustaining Artful Instruction and Learning), an annual arts integrated summer professional development workshop. The organization also established the annual Arts Education Summit, which is now known as the Arts Summit.

Since its inception, the Arts Alliance has forged partnerships with the ALSDE, AIEA and statewide arts education organizations, as well as joining the Americans for the Arts State Arts Action Network, the Creative States Coalition, the Southern Advocacy Group, and becoming the Advocacy Captain for Alabama.

The Arts Alliance is working in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama State Department of Education, and the Alabama Institute for the Education in the Arts on Amp Up Arts, formerly known as the Artistic Literacy Consortium.

The latest endeavor of the Alliance is facilitating artlook®Alabama for the State Department of Education.
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:

In-Person Summer Professional Development

Date: June 21-23, 2023

Location: Troy University Montgomery Campus

For more information and to register, visit
https://www.alartsalliance.org/sail-2023

Alabama Arts Alliance

Alabama Arts Summit

‘24

SAVE THE DATE

March 14 - 15, 2024

Red Mountain Theatre

Birmingham, AL
artlook®Alabama is a virtual platform that connects Alabama students with the arts! You too can get on the artlook map!

In partnership with the Alabama Arts Alliance, the Alabama State Department of Education continues to add schools to the artlook®Alabama dashboard which allows school districts to search for arts opportunities and to collect, map, and analyze data regarding the availability and distribution of arts staffing, funding, and services on a school-by-school basis.

School systems may use this dashboard to make data driven decisions on priorities and needs to support Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.

Working toward equitable participation in quality arts education for all students, data collection will assist in understanding the impact of arts education in Alabama. The ALSDE and the Alliance work closely with arts educators, administrators, and cultural organizations around the state to identify teaching artists and arts organizations’ educational resources and the needs of schools around the state.

Schools may use this dashboard to identify their unique community needs in arts education in addition to searching for providers they may be interested in partnering with.

You can search through all the data collected via the public-facing map and data dashboard at https://alabama.artlookmap.com/
(Select “Schools” or “Partners” on the dropdown menu on the top left)

For more information, please visit
https://www.alartsalliance.org/artlookalabama
or email artlookal@alartsalliance.org
Why support arts education?

Students with access to arts education are:

- 5X less likely to drop out of school
- 4X more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 3X more likely to receive a bachelor's degree
- 30% more inclined to pursue a professional career
Enhancing the quality of life and economic vitality for all Alabamians by providing support for the state’s diverse and rich artistic resources.

**Fiscal Year 2022 Impact**

**SWEET HOME ALABAMA**
Council grants strengthen communities by supporting anchor institutions, infrastructure growth, and the pride of place that improve livability. 3 out of 4 Alabamians live in a city where a grant was funded.

**GROWING AUDIENCES**
With 1.7 million participants, 1 out of 4 Alabamians participated in Council-funded projects, along with more than 40,000 tourists visiting events from Huntsville to Dauphin Island, Roanoke to Livingston, and 83 cities across 52 counties.

**ARTS ECOSYSTEM**
Public funding for arts and creativity is a high-return investment that benefits every Alabamian. By strategically funding public programs and capacity growth of non-profit arts organizations and schools, grants from the Council are an essential part of strengthening our state’s creative economy.

**EDUCATION**
PreK-12 students benefited from Council grants, including 867 teaching artist residencies and performances at Alabama’s schools.

Scan this code to read our annual report, review grant guidelines, and more:

$10.93 of economic impact from every grant dollar

92% of Alabamians live where the Council on the Arts funded a grant

1.7 million people participated in Council on the Arts funded activities

1,736+ jobs supported by Council on the Arts grants

Alabamians gave back:
7,000 volunteers and $2.4 million in-kind donations
THEATRE ARTS TRAINING | AGES 3-ADULT

- Camps & Classes
- Performance Showcases
- Field Trips
- After School Programs
- In-School Touring Programs
- Private Lessons
- Live Children’s Theatre

- Acting Conservatory
- Technical Theatre
- Scout Workshops
- Sensory Friendly Performances
- Fine Arts Preschool

FA N T A S Y P L A Y H O U S E . O R G

Scan for More Info!

Vulcan Materials Company
www.vulcanmaterials.com

MAKE MUSIC
JUNE 21

JOIN THE WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION OF MUSIC!

Make Music is a live, free musical celebration on June 21, the longest day of the year, with concerts on streets, sidewalks, and parks across the World.

Make Music is open to anyone who wants to take part. All of it is free and open to the public.

Launched in 1982 in France as the Fête de la Musique, Make Music celebrates on the same day in more than 1,000 cities in 120 countries around the world.

Six cities in Alabama are participating in 2023: Decatur, Florence, Gadsden, Gulf Shores, Huntsville, and Montgomery

MAKEMUSICDAY.ORG | #MAKEMUSICDAY
Be sure to visit the Arts Summit vendors:

Alabama Arts Alliance
Alabama Folklife Association
Alabama Humanities Alliance
Alabama PTA
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Interstate Character Council
Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center
Primerica
Red Mountain Theatre
UAB Arts
University of North Alabama School of the Arts
Wetumpka Wildlife Arts Festival/The Kelly
This is why we support the Arts:

Economic Impact of the Arts

Alabama
The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for $5,435,698,000 and 2.1% of the Alabama economy, contributing 43,981 jobs. (2021)

United States
Over $1 trillion in value added to the U.S. economy
4.4% of U.S. gross domestic product
4.9 million jobs

The 2021 data offers additional information about the ongoing recovery of the arts sector following the pandemic. After declining precipitously in 2020, arts and cultural production were at a higher rate than the overall economy in 2021.

Using inflation-adjusted numbers, the U.S. arts economy grew over 14% while the economy as a whole grew around 10%.

This growth in arts and cultural production is good news for state economies overall. Research confirms that the arts can improve - not merely reflect - the health of the broader economy and that the arts offer economic diversification and can help state economies rapidly recover from economic downturns.

Arts Education - an investment in Alabama’s future

Arts subjects are disappearing from the curriculum at a frightening rate, and we should all be alarmed. The damage goes far beyond the economic; it requires a long-term coherent plan and investment in creative arts education.

Creative expression has a fundamental impact on children’s communication skills, wellbeing and confidence, as well as raising aspirations. Squeezing arts out of the core curriculum at a time when many families are struggling to afford utility bills, let alone enriching extracurricular activities, will damage the future prospects of today’s children.

Arts opportunities provided through schools can be life-changing. Teachers often say that participation in the arts impacts a child’s entire education, with improvements in literacy, school attendance, behavior and motivation. But the real power of the arts resonates over a child’s lifetime. These children will become better problem solvers, critical thinkers and leaders – things we need now more than ever.

Our society is built on the creativity of many disciplines, usually after an understanding of the discipline concerned. Such is the nature of the human race. How else did airplanes, cars, televisions, computers, mobile phones and medicines, etc. come into being for the benefit of all?
Let Us Be a Part of Your Creative Journey

ArtPlay offers FREE K-12 programming

Meet the Artists Performances // A Day In The Arts Field Trips
Vocabby's World // Teaching Artists on the Road

UAB
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

UABarts
ARTPLAY COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Thank you!

We sincerely thank the Alabama Arts Alliance Board Members and Advisors for their time and dedication to the Arts in Alabama. In particular, we appreciate Melissa Hughey for chairing the Board and coordinating the Alabama Arts Summit.

In addition, we want to extend our gratitude to Dr. Elliot Knight and the program staff of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Andy Meadows, Fine Arts Specialist, Alabama State Department of Education and the State Board of Education.

Arts Summit and Alliance logos by Russ Hailey.

Please share your photos!

#ALARTSSUMMIT23
#THEARTSMAKEALABAMABETTER
Thank you to our sponsors!

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We cover what matters.
The Alabama Arts Summit is a program of

Alabama Arts Alliance

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The Alabama Arts Summit is a project of the Alabama Arts Alliance in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education through the Arts Education Initiative Grant program. Projects and programs are supported by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; and the Support the Arts License Tag Fund.