Association of Teaching Artists Announces the 2019 ATA Award Winners: Dale Davis, Ali Santana, and Ed Friedman and Maura O’Malley from Lifetime Arts

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New York, NY: The Association of Teaching Artists, the oldest independent organization serving Teaching Artists in the US, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Distinguished Service to the Field Awards. The Distinguished Service to the Field Award will be given to Dale Davis, the Innovation in Teaching Artistry Award will be given to Ali Santana, and the Teaching Artist Ally Award will be given to Ed Friedman and Maura O’Malley from Lifetime Arts.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 17th 6:00PM - 8:00PM at The New School’s Jazz Performance Space to kick off Teaching Artist Appreciation Week (May 20-27).

Established in 2002, the ATA Awards were the first in the nation to recognize artist educators. The ATA Awards seek to raise the visibility of Teaching Artists within the arts in education and community arts fields and in the organizations and institutions for which they work as well as honor innovation in teaching artistry. Nominations are made by peers in the teaching artistry field and winners are selected by panel review.

- **The Distinguished Service to the Field Award**, given to a long-tenured artist educator is awarded to ATA founder, and out-going Executive Director Dale Davis for her more than 20 years of service supporting Teaching Artists in New York state and beyond through the creation and growth of the organization. Davis was instrumental in the creation of the first ATA Awards and getting Teaching Artists Appreciation Week, the third week of May, nationally recognized.

- **The Innovation in Teaching Artistry Award** in its inaugural year given to an early-mid career Teaching Artist demonstrating innovation and excellence in the field, is awarded to Ali Santana. Santana is a multi-media Teaching Artist with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) where he has developed a series of multi-media arts programs for the MoMA Teens. For the inaugural year, ATA has partnered with Lincoln Center Education’s Teaching Artist Development Labs. Santana has won a full scholarship to attend and deepen teaching artist practice through meaningful encounters with live works of art, keynote speakers, panels, field trips, small group learning, and opportunities for social mixing with teaching artists from all over the world.

- **The Teaching Artist Ally Award** renamed from the “Golden Administrator Award” given to a professional or organization integral to the work of teaching artists, but not a teaching artist themselves is awarded jointly to Ed Friedman and Maura O’Malley co-founders of Lifetime Arts. Lifetime Arts builds the capacity of organizations and Teaching Artists to design, deliver and sustain arts education programs for older adults and has guided the design and funding of multiple training workshops for over 1000 Teaching Artists across the U.S.
ATA is pleased to partner with both The New School’s College of Performing Arts (CoPA) and *Teaching Artistry with Courtney J. Boddie* podcast to host the 2019 ATA Awards. CoPA’s many undergraduate and graduate programs in Drama, Jazz, Classical and Contemporary Music have strong curricular connections to teaching artistry, including the new masters in Arts Management & Entrepreneurship. ATA seeks to raise the visibility of teaching artistry as a viable career path for the next generation of artists and is thrilled to see CoPA integrate this work into their curricula. *Teaching Artistry with Courtney J. Boddie* podcast highlights teaching artistry’s impact across communities. The show features riveting conversations with teaching artists and arts education leaders, who work with intention to move the profession forward, exact change and are fiercely devoted advocates for the arts.

Attendees will receive give-aways from ATA Awards sponsor Blick Arts Materials, network with arts education professionals, enjoy drinks and refreshments and have the chance to win raffle prizes including tickets to top NYC cultural institutions, musical instruments, teaching artist books, professional development, and more. Tickets, $5, can be purchased at: [https://ataawards2019.eventbrite.com](https://ataawards2019.eventbrite.com)

**The ATA Awards**  
Friday, May 17, 2019  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
The New School, Jazz Performance Space at Arnhold Hall  
55 West 13th Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10011

**About the winners:**

**Dale Davis** is a founder of New York State Poets In The Schools and [The New York State Literary Center](#) where she serves as Executive Director. She has edited and published over 600 books for NYSLC and written 12 hip-hop theater pieces that have been performed in juvenile justice facilities. Davis has lectured throughout the country including the College Board’s National Forum *Education and The American Future* and served as a consultant on Youth Culture to ABC Network. Her writing has appeared in publications from *The Iowa Review* to *The New York Times* and chapters in *Unseen Cinema* and *Classics in the Classroom*, and been honored by The President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities and The Center for Disease Control National AIDS Clearinghouse. She was a founder of the Association of Teaching Artists and ATA’s first Executive Director where she initiated the Distinguished Service to the Field Award, National Teaching Artist Appreciation Week, and the Teaching Artists Forum the first national gathering of TAs. In 2019 she created [The Artist as Educator](#) to gather meeting points between an artist’s work and practice as an educator and collect and reflect upon the contributions of artists to education, communities, and culture.

**Ali Santana** is a multi-disciplinary artist working with collage, video, photography, sound, and performance. Santana, a native Brooklynite is influenced by community, natural patterns, unquantized rhythms and, ancient cultures. His work often explores topics related to Black American identity, urban colonization, observations of nature, and sensory perception. Ali's live audio-visual shows combine video art and experimental cinema with booming beats, sound design and field recordings which are chopped, looped, and arranged in real time to perform an abstract method of storytelling that he dubs Boom Bap Cinema. Ali is also an experienced educator. In his current post as a teaching artist at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Teens program, he shares his artistic practice in music production, performance, and video art with NYC high school students, teaching them video production & editing,
collage, and beatmaking. He prioritizes accessibility, creative problem-solving and resourcefulness, emphasizing that anyone can use art as a tool for change. More at: www.alisantana.com

**Ed Friedman, Executive Director/Co-founder Lifetime Arts:** Ed has spent over 40 years in parallel careers serving the arts community, and older adults and their families. At Lifetime Arts, Ed is instrumental in the coordination and implementation of multiple national initiatives and writes a monthly column, “Ed Talks,” on topics related to Creative Aging. Ed also oversees the organization’s finances, staffing, and speaks about Lifetime Arts’ work at conferences and symposia across the country. Ed played a key leadership role at The Bronx Council on the Arts as Deputy Director for two decades. He has directed programs at senior centers and home care organizations, and created and led a caregivers’ support group in the Bronx. Ed received a B.A. in Psychology from Hunter College and M.A. in Liberal Studies from Empire State College (SUNY). His plays and monologues appear in a number of anthologies and have been produced throughout the NY metropolitan area and around the country.

**Maura O’Malley, CEO/Co-founder Lifetime Arts:** Named a 2017 “Influencer in Aging” by PBS Next Avenue, Maura promotes the field of Creative Aging at major national conferences in the arts, public library and senior service sectors. With almost 40 years’ experience in arts management; including program design and implementation, arts education, development and community cultural work, she has informed policy and created innovative programming for adults and children with premiere arts and educational organizations including the NYC Department of Education, Studio in a School and Young Audiences/New York. Maura leads the development of Lifetime Arts’ national programming models, training programs and resources for Creative Aging stakeholders including teaching artists. Maura graduated from Pratt Institute with a BFA in Painting and earned a Master of Public Administration in Arts Policy and Planning from NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is a proud member of the National Advisory Board of the Teaching Artists Guild.

**Lifetime Arts:** Founded in 2008 as an arts service organization, Lifetime Arts’ programs and services support a vision that embraces “positive aging” with arts education at the core. Our mission is to encourage Creative Aging by promoting the inclusion of arts education in organizations that serve older adults; to prepare teaching artists to develop the creative capacity of older adult learners; and to foster lifelong learning in and through the arts by increasing opportunities for participation in community-based programming. Working nationally, we provide training, technical assistance and resources to build the capacity of teaching artists, arts and community organizations, senior service providers, public libraries, funders and government agencies to support Creative Aging programming. Creative Aging programs benefit older adults by decreasing social isolation through new learning networks and catalyze new community partnerships in both the arts and aging sectors - expanding the reach and impact of teaching artists and arts organizations.
**About the Association of Teaching Artists:** The Association of Teaching Artists is the oldest, independent organization serving Teaching Artists in the country. ATA serves teaching artists in New York State and has a national and international following. It is a clearinghouse for information at the intersection of art and education that builds the knowledge base of Teaching Artists.

The Association of Teaching Artists:

- Is a forum and a knowledge commons for the professional practice of Teaching Artists;
- Is a practitioner led network for communication, connection, and the exchange of resources;
- Is a community of practice to support and expand opportunities for the work of Teaching Artists in education and in communities;
- Recognizes and celebrates distinguished achievement by Teaching Artists;
- Advances policies and initiatives that broaden opportunities and recognition for the work of Teaching Artists.

ATA reaches approximately 30,000 Teaching Artists and arts professionals weekly through its website, listserv, and social media. ATA’s website is used by Teaching Artists throughout the world to connect to resources and information, by arts organizations designing professional development and training for Teaching Artists, and by higher education institutions in graduate courses for artists in education and community service.

[www.teachingartists.com](http://www.teachingartists.com)

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