

So, You Want to Go to New York in March...

By Lorinda Rice (NAEA Western Region Elementary Representative) and Bob Reeker (NAEF board member), NATA Co-Presidents Elect

But the costs are too much for you to attend national convention?

In just a couple short months, thousands of art educators from around the world will descend on New York City for the 2012 National Art Education Association National Convention, March 1-4, 2012. It is the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the national convention! If you have never attended a national convention, you have missed on an amazing staff development opportunity. It is the connections and camaraderie that truly inspire art educators as ideas are shared during the 4-day convention. The synergy created while art educators learn from one another is breath taking. It is something all art educators should experience.

But again, the costs of going to New York may be too much for many of you...

Round trip flight = \$300-\$500

Hotel = \$150-\$250/per night

Registration = \$135

Food = \$30-\$50/per day

Incidentals = \$30-\$50/per day

Substitute for your classroom in your absence = depends on district and your contract

One could easily spend \$1,500-\$2,000 to attend, and if you are like us, that kind of money is just not in our personal budgets!

So, you must be creative in finding the funds...

1. District/School Board – Be sure your district and school board know you are attending the only world-wide art education staff development offered and that you will be learning from art educators from all over the world. If you are willing to present at national convention, districts and school boards may support teachers in some way. It is too late for presentation proposals for NY but you could send in a proposal for the 2013 convention in Fort Worth. Proposals are typically due June 30.
2. School – Would your principal provide any sub coverage for you? Or pay for your registration?
3. PTO – Would your PTO support your attendance in some way? Attending a national convention in NYC is prestigious. Make a presentation to your PTO letting them know what you will gain by attending the convention and how what you learn will impact their children's learning.
4. Fundraiser – Artists have always had to fund their own ways! So, create some art and have a sale. Maybe you can use a company like Original Works or Artsonia to have students make art and then sell products to families. We've made between \$600-\$1000 doing fundraisers like this. Before you do a fundraiser like this, be sure your district will allow using these funds in this way.
5. Grants – Search possible grants in your district and in the state. Money is out there; you have to be willing to search. We are fortunate in Lincoln Public Schools to have a grant worth \$750 annually to attend staff development and we are typically granted the full amount each year.

6. NATA/NAEA office – this tip won't help you for NY, but if you become a NATA president (current president and president-elect), there is money budgeted to assist travel to national convention to attend delegate's assembly. NAEA national board members have all expenses paid, including sub coverage, while an active member of the board.

7. Win an award – become involved in our organization and be recognized for your work with an award. Nebraska Art Educator of the Year receives financial support from NATA. Win a state, regional, or national award and districts may consider supporting you in some way. A kudo for you is a kudo for your district!

Final thought...

To attend the NY National Convention may be expensive but the experience is priceless!

Final, final thought...

If NY is too expensive for you to attend, consider 2013...Fort Worth, March 7-10.

Final, final, final thought...

Don't forget the incredible staff development opportunity in our own state at the NATA Fall Conference. This fall, we will be co-conferencing with Iowa in Council Bluffs and Omaha, October 5-7, 2012. With double the resources and ideas between the two states, this conference proves to be an amazing learning experience for all who attend!