

Summer Symposium 2024 – Final Report

The 2024 Summer Symposium held at the University of Dayton was a great success! This program is sponsored by the OAEA Distinguished Fellows and began as a pilot program in 2016 at the Columbus College of Art & Design. Sixty-one people registered to attend and were able to choose from fifteen different workshops during the two-day event. This workshop series is different from the OAEA annual conference in the fall because it is not focused on what you may take back to your classroom, although some materials and experiences may be adjusted and used in the typical educational setting. Plus, it's just



plain fun playing with art materials and connecting with fellow art educators. College credit and PDUs were available, and certificates were sent to participants electronically.

This years' program was made possible by a wonderful planning committee and seventeen instructors presenting fifteen workshops. Special thanks go to the University of Dayton for allowing us to use their campus free of charge, this included

parking. It was a special treat to have an exhibit on display at the UD gallery featuring the work of Sarah Brashears. We also had a small exhibit of work by the presenters.

Lodging was available through UD housing at the Caldwell apartments near the workshop venue (Fitz Hall). These units included two bedrooms and two bathrooms, so it was easy to share. We used six rooms for twenty people. Other people chose to stay at alternative locations near by.

Thanks also go to K12 Gallery & TEJAS for their help hosting the Monday night opening reception. Speaking of Monday night, West Region art educator/musician Ben Davis and his band mate Pete, performed for the group with the West Region Summer art show serving as back drop.

Since this years' event took place in Dayton West region members played a huge role in organizing, presenting, and attending Summer Symposium (about a third of the participants were from the West region). West Region also contributed \$150 to support the project. On top of the art experience, Summer Symposium provides a donation to the Ohio Art Education Foundation; this year we contributed \$1,200 to the OAEF. This project runs on a very tight budget and is only possible with donated space.

2024 Summer Symposium Planning Committee

Lindsay Gustafson and Suzanne Mitolo, Co-Chairs

Darden Bradshaw and Sarah Brashears, UD Relations/Logistics

Linda Hoeptner-Poling and Carly Sherman, Professional Development

Alice Tavani, PR/Marketing

Nancy Vogel, Hospitality

Bev Finkel, OAEA Treasurer

Trina Parrish, OAEA Data/Form Chair

2024 Workshops – Special thanks to all Fellows and friends who shared their time and talents!

- Jess Williams, Guest Artist/UD Faculty member, *Wheel Thrown Pottery and Trimming Master Class (day and a half session)*
- Jake Schimburg, *Digital Photo Tips and Tricks*
- Gayle Trueblood and Matt Young, *Beads and Beyond: Polymer Clay*
- Lynda Berman, *Dip Candle Making (presented twice)*
- Michele Hamsher, *Watercolor Extravaganza*
- Alice Tavani, *Alcohol Inks-Not your Average Cocktail*
- Kurt Reichert, *Basketry Coiled Necklace*
- Lisa Girlie, *Creating an Art Journal You'll want to Use*
- Cathy Sweny, *Textural Landscapes: Needle Felting (full day session)*
- Edie Davidson, *Etching on Copper (full day session)*
- Sue Ayers, *Papier Mache Vessels*
- Lindsay Gustafson and Alexis Morgan, *Yarn Painting*
- David Wolff, *Painting the Landscape with Pastels (presented twice)*
- Mary Frances Downs, *3D Needle Felted Plushies*
- Sarah Brashears, *Mixed Media Portraits*



Summer Symposium 2024
Final Financials

Income

Registration PAID	4,358.00	(Square fees deducted)
West Region Donation	150.00	
UD Housing	2,062.00	
TOTAL	6,570.00	

Expenses

MASTER CLASS HONORARIUM	1/\$300	300.00	(free registration)
Materials reimbursement	15/\$60	1,239.00	(over budget)
FOOD		519.00	
Monday Night Welcome budget	\$250		
Breakfast/Bagels/coffee budget	\$400		
Snacks/water budget	\$300		
Monday Night (Ben & Pete)		300.00	
OAEF Donation	60@\$20	1,200.00	
Office/name tags/printing /misc		61.06	
Thank yous		50.00	
UD Housing		2,062.00	
K12 Donation		200.00	
Refunds		127.00	
TOTAL		6,058.06	

Evaluation

The Planning Committee met right after Summer Symposium to discuss the project – pros and cons. All agreed it was a success based on our experience and initial comments from participants who especially liked the variety and quality of the workshop. Organizationally, it was very helpful to have co-chairs and would suggest doing that in the future or perhaps having a committee person in charge of the presenters and scheduling. The registration cost was **\$80 with presenters paying half (\$40)**. We decided to send out a survey to participants to gather further feedback. Some things to consider for next year:

- Increase the material budget for presenters. \$75 was suggested but feel \$70 was more in line with the budget. Presenters can charge a small material fee if this amount will not cover their expenses.
- Create a form for presenters that includes all their logistical needs.
- Add signage to the PR/Marketing job.
- Some people had some technical difficulties with the registration process.

- We liked the “Unplugged” logo and encourage using that again.
- Plan a Tuesday night event. This would be especially appreciated by those from out of town or attending the event alone.
- While the Welcome Reception was a positive experience for most, the live music was a little too loud for conversation. We suggested either recorded music or acoustical.
- Participants liked the food but there was a suggestion to include more protein options.
- We planned an “encore” event at The Dayton Art Institute for the day after the Symposium for anyone interested in staying over or any West region member, but not enough people signed up to run the program. This is understandable after two full days of activities.
- Communication through the website and eblasts was successful. The only thing we forgot was to include the cost of the event right on the front page.

One of the jobs for the Summer Symposium Chair is to secure a chair for the following year. This task is in-progress at the writing of this report.

Suzanne Mitolo