



## 2017: Facts, figures and helpful resources from AATA

*AATA National Office  
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2017 was a year marked by numerous accomplishments for the profession and for the Association. Read below a summary of achievements in public awareness, advocacy, organizational statements, campaigns & partnerships, professional developments, and the member experience.

### Public Awareness

- The AATA's [fact sheets](#) serve as quick references on art therapy, the Association and our values, art therapy education, research, and more.
- The **video series** [Art Therapy in Action](#) offers viewers the opportunity to learn from subject leaders about important topics in the field – from client groups, to social justice, to research and the history of art therapy.
- The *Voices of Art Therapy* [story library](#) provides first-hand accounts about how art therapy helps people, one story at a time.
- The above resources are easily found on our **brand new public website**. Read the [President's Welcome letter](#) for more details.

### Advocacy

- In the 2017 legislative sessions, the AATA has supported art therapists in gaining licensure in Oregon and Delaware, title protection in Arizona, and passage of a private insurance reimbursement bill in Maryland.
- Following years of efforts from the AATA and members, the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system no longer classifies art therapists under the Recreational Therapists code (29-1125) and has removed art making from the definition of Recreational Therapists. Art therapists are now coded as "Therapists, All Other" (29-1129). These changes are an important step in establishing art therapy as a distinct profession in federal statistical agencies.
- **We anticipate as many as 14 states will submit bills for licensure or title protection in 2018.**

### Organizational Statements

- The AATA updated the [definition of the profession](#) as well as the organization's [Mission statement](#).
- The AATA developed [Vision](#) and [Values](#) statements.

- The Board of Directors ratified the [\*Statement Affirming Healthy Development Across the Lifespan of Individuals within LGBTQIA Communities\*](#) in which the Board “admonishes treatment purported to cure or curb natural variations of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.”

## Campaigns & Partnerships

- In light of the numerous natural and human-caused disasters of this year, the AATA hosted a national fundraising campaign, “[Art Therapy Relief for Our Communities](#)”, which has to date raised \$1,435 towards our Emergency Trauma Recovery –Art Therapy Program fund, which now holds over \$12,000. The online campaign continues through Dec 31st, 2017 and the AATA has begun accepting grant applications from chapters for art therapy-based programming to support affected communities.
- The AATA continues to work with peers and partners in the arts and in mental health care organizations. We stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans for the Arts at Arts Advocacy Day, engaged in important research discussions with the National Endowment for the Arts, and were an in-kind sponsor of SAMHSA’s National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day. The AATA is also an active member of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), which represents shared interests in federal policy for leading mental health professions. Our participation allows us to advocate for our clients.

## Membership

- The MyAATA site has been revamped to enhance the user experience.
- The AATA is in the process of launching the brand new **MyAATA Community**, a virtual meeting place where members can connect, exchange resources, and support each other professionally.
- The AATA is also building a new and improved AATA **Mentor Match Program**, where students and new professionals can build relationships with experienced art therapists for mutually beneficial support and career development advice.

## Professional Development

- We have **doubled our catalogue of continuing education offerings through the [Institute for Continuing Education in Art Therapy \(ICE/AT\)](#)**. In 2018, you can expect that catalogue to grow by a few dozen more! And be on the lookout out for a new and improved online learning platform to make your experience that much better.
- Our 48<sup>th</sup> annual Conference in Albuquerque attracted over 1,200 people, our second-largest number of attendees (our 47<sup>th</sup> annual Conference in Baltimore holds the record), and over 230 educational sessions, the most in our conference history!



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