

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WhyArts to Receive 2025 NATA Prism Award**

*Omaha, NE* — WhyArts, Inc. has been named the recipient of the **2025 Prism Award** by the **Nebraska Art Teachers Association (NATA)**. The award will be presented at the **NATA Fall Conference Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 17, 2025**, at The Magnolia Hotel in Omaha.

The Prism Award recognizes outstanding contributions to art education, leadership in curriculum development in schools and communities, and active participation in professional endeavors at both state and national levels. NATA, a professional organization dedicated to advocating for and advancing quality art education in Nebraska, selects awardees who exemplify these values.

“Receiving the NATA Prism Award is a tremendous honor,” said **Mary Gibilisco, Executive Director of WhyArts**. “WhyArts is committed to ensuring that all individuals — regardless of age, background, or ability — have access to meaningful arts experiences. This recognition affirms the work of our teaching artists and partners who bring creativity, learning, and joy to communities across Nebraska.”

**Lucia Milone, President of the WhyArts Board of Directors**, added: “The Prism Award highlights the incredible impact WhyArts has had in advancing inclusive art education. Our board is proud to support this work, and we are grateful to NATA for recognizing the dedication of our staff and artists who make the arts accessible for everyone.”

The award will be presented during the evening banquet at the NATA Fall Conference, which begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

#### **About WhyArts, Inc.**

WhyArts provides access to inclusive arts education and experiences for historically marginalized and underserved communities by creating strategic partnerships that connect professional teaching artists with community organizations.

#### **About the Nebraska Art Teachers Association (NATA)**

The Nebraska Art Teachers Association is a professional organization whose mission is to advocate for and advance quality art education in Nebraska. NATA annually recognizes educators and organizations that contribute to excellence in art learning, leadership, and professional development.

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