



## Conference Overview

The Arts & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): A Synergistic Pairing  
September 24-26, 2020

University of Delaware – Newark, DE  
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library – Winterthur, DE

**Young Audiences Arts for Learning** and **Little Kids Rock** will be supporting the **State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE)** as official conference partners in SEADAE's upcoming national conference, ***The Arts & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): A Synergistic Pairing***.

Taking place **September 24-26, 2020**, in Delaware's scenic **Brandywine Valley**, the conference will explore relevant intersections between SEL competencies and learning in and through the arts, while offering a meaningful platform for the arts education community to be involved in the national SEL dialogue. To learn more, please visit [SEADAE's website](#).

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Over the past decade, the topic of **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** has taken hold as an umbrella term for constructs related to non-cognitive development, character education, behavioral management, and 21st century skills. Numerous studies conducted around the effects of SEL-based instruction on student achievement show that SEL competency raises academic performance and positively impacts students' attitudes toward themselves, toward others, and toward school. However, despite many SEL programs drawing heavily on arts activities to impart social and emotional growth in students, little research and development has taken place within the arts education community examining the important relationship between Social Emotional Learning and arts disciplines.

***The Arts & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): A Synergistic Pairing***, the 2020 national conference of the **State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE)**, will explore relevant intersections between SEL competencies and learning in and through the arts, while offering a meaningful platform for the arts education community to be involved in the national SEL dialogue. This conference aims to bring together a diverse group of arts as well as non-arts professionals and practitioners – including those from the fields of neuroscience, policy administration, higher education, and behavioral development. It aims to support equitable access to SEL and arts learning as means to improve academic achievement; build sustainable support systems and networks that increase student, teacher, family, and community engagement; and strengthen understandings with the goal of influencing arts education at the nexus of policy, research, and practice.

***The Arts & SEL: A Synergistic Pairing*** represents the culmination of a year-long professional learning project for SEADAE. With sessions held at the **University of Delaware** (Newark, DE) and **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** (Winterthur, DE), the conference promises to be an immersive, inquisitive, and enriching learning experience for all.

Priority areas of focus and discussion will include:

- The role of trauma informed instruction and pedagogy within the arts and SEL

- Legislative inclusion of social and emotional behavioral factors into metrics for student success
- State adoption of SEL competencies
- Data on the impact of SEL and arts-integrated learning on academic and behavioral development
- Strategies for engaging non-arts based SEL organizations and others to become better informed about the appropriate intersections between SEL and arts learning
- Arts-based somatic education and its interconnectedness with SEL
- Insights into the neurobiological benefits of arts education