



AATA 2025 Slate of Candidates

The American Art Therapy Association Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 election slate for leadership positions with the Association.

In support of AATA's mission and critical strategic priorities, the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee remain committed to increasing diverse representation across all volunteer positions. The Directors and the Nominating Committee extend their collective gratitude to candidates represented on this year's ballot for their willingness to serve the Association.

Online voting for the 2025 Annual Election commences on October 23, 2025, and will remain open for 30 days. All voting members will receive a notice with instructions via email from AssociationVoting.com. To help inform your vote, you'll find each candidate's biographies and the responses they provided to questions posed by the Nominating Committee below. (In order to maintain the integrity of the personal views relayed by the candidates, the contents of their biographies and responses to the questions posed by the Nominating Committee have not been edited.) Also, you may review the full position descriptions [here](#).

Thank you for voting and being a part of selecting the next volunteer-leaders to move our association and the art therapy profession forward!

Candidates for the Board of Directors

You will have the opportunity to vote for THREE candidates for the Board of Directors.

Kachina Mooney

Kachina Mooney, MA, LPC, ATR-BC, resides and works in the Pittsburgh, PA, region within her own private practice, Go Glo Therapy, supporting the LGBTQ+ community. Kachina has served on the board of the PA Art Therapy Association as Governmental Affairs Chair and has also served as Nominations Committee Chair for the AATA. Kachina worked diligently in 2024 to support the AATA conference committee as the Local Arrangements Advisor, helping to guide and support attendees of the conference. Along with her private practice work, Kachina is an adjunct professor for several Art Therapy programs and supervises master's-level interns and post-graduates.

Alicia Seymour

Alicia Seymour, MA, ATR-BC, NCC, specializes in grief, trauma, and identity from an existential, humanistic, transpersonal, and spiritual perspective. She currently owns a private practice, See More Art Therapy, in McDonough, GA where she works with a variety of clients experiencing loss, life adjustments, and identity reintegration. She is the author of *Artful Grieving* (2025) and has given numerous national and international presentations, workshops, and interviews on the benefits of combining traditional grief counseling models with art therapy to improve client outcomes.

Bani Malhotra

Bani Malhotra, Ph.D., ATR-BC is an art therapist, educator, and a researcher. She completed her doctorate from Drexel University and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Virginia Commonwealth University. With background and training in both psychology and art therapy, Bani has extensive experience providing art therapy services across diverse clinical and community settings. She is also an active contributor to the field through ongoing publications and scholarship. With a longstanding commitment to AATA, Bani has worked as

an intern for the organization, currently chairs the International Shared Interest Group, and contributes as a member of AATA's Research Committee.

Marybeth Orton

Marybeth Orton, ATR-BC, ATCS, ICST, LPAT-S, is Senior Lecturer and Director of the Art Therapy Program at University of Louisville, where she has taught and supervised graduate students for over two decades. She has held multiple leadership roles, including two terms as President of Kentucky Art Therapy Association and Chair of Kentucky Licensing Board for Professional Art Therapists. Nationally, she contributes as an AATA conference reviewer and serves on the publishing committee of International Association of Sandtray Therapists' Sandtray Scribe magazine. A committed volunteer, she served several terms as President of Wonderful Animals Giving Support (WAGS), strengthening its community reach.

Jessie Woolhiser Stallings

Jessie Woolhiser Stallings, ATR-BC, LIMHP, LPC, LMHC is the clinical director for a nonprofit serving the Omaha NE metro area. Jessie also teaches undergraduate art therapy classes for the University of Nebraska Omaha. She was instrumental in the Nebraska Art Therapy Licensure Coalition's successful licensure bid, and as of 2025 Nebraska has an art therapy specific certification/licensure. She is also the author of Special Interests in Art Therapy With Autistic People: A Neurodiversity-Positive Approach to Empower and Engage Participants. Jessie is a late identified adult with ADHD and is working to center neurodiversity positive methods in our field.

Kerry Kruk-Borisov

With over 21 years of clinical, supervisory, and administrative work in community-based and private practice settings, I believe in stewardship. I am an adjunct faculty at my alma mater, Eastern Virginia Medical School, where I was selected to serve on the Alumni Association as Board member (2008-2015), president, (2015-2017), and past president (2017-2020). Concurrently, I was appointed as Alternate CQI member on the Virginia Region 5 Regional Quality Council, and founded the Region 5 Human Rights Committee while working at a city behavioral health agency. I have been on the AATA Research committee as member (2022-2025), and then Chair (2025).

Questions for the Candidates for Board of Directors

Question 1: What leadership values and governance practices would you rely on to guide your decision-making to support the mission of AATA?

Kachina Mooney: Leadership values that are core to who I am would rely on tenets of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability in leadership. For me, ethical governance starts with listening to diverse voices and ensuring all decisions align with AATA's mission to advance the art therapy profession. I value transparency in communication, collaborative decision-making, and responsible stewardship of our resources. My leadership approach emphasizes strategic thinking, equity, and responsiveness to member needs. I aim to foster a culture of trust and shared purpose, always asking how each decision supports the visibility and integrity of the field and the well-being of those we serve.

Alicia Seymour: I believe AATA is only as strong as its members whose voices and hard work make our success possible. I believe in considering the unique insights and diverse experiences of all when deliberating decisions. In addition, the impact of decisions must be considered in the context of both short- and long-term mission of the organization as a whole. Although it is impossible to satisfy the desires of all members individually, I believe it is critical to carefully consider the needs of members and the goals of AATA when making important decisions.

Bani Malhotra: Operating from a values-driven leadership and inclusive governance practices, I aim to support AATA's mission with decision-making that centers lived experiences of the membership and practices that foster creative collaboration. Embodying an art therapist's skills in empathetic listening of all stakeholders, and care and respect for the community, I would commit to decision making that reflects authenticity of organizational values and actions. I aim to foster a culture of community engagement, feedback, and continuous learning, ensuring that AATA's work remains both impactful and responsive to those we serve.

Marybeth Orton: I would draw on leadership values of integrity, transparency, and collaboration, which have guided my service as President of the Kentucky Art Therapy Association, Chair of the Kentucky Licensing Board for Art Therapists, and several terms as President of WAGS. In each role, I emphasized respectful dialogue, consensus-building, and accountability to ensure decisions reflected both mission and community needs. My governance practices center on inclusivity, fiscal responsibility, and ethical stewardship of resources. By listening attentively, engaging diverse perspectives, and leading with clarity, I aim to strengthen AATA's mission and advance the visibility and impact of art therapy.

Jessie Woolhiser Stallings: I espouse a servant leadership style, I want to hear from stakeholders and be open to their concerns. I also strive to understand a situation from as many angles as possible to inform my decision making.

Kerry Kruk-Borisov: Stewardship, accountability, and transparency are primary values guiding my clinical, administrative, and service work. As an art therapist, I am aware of the rigorous dedication to professional identity that sustains the field. Accountability and transparency build trust and reflect the values of the profession and the organization. These shared values are especially required in leadership roles when considering the impact across communities. I have participated in strategic plan development at a human services agency where I learned the necessity of humility, ethical decision-making, and incorporating feedback from all stakeholders to ensure equity and to inspire engagement.

Question 2: AATA's values include a commitment to strengthening AATA's cultural proficiency. What actions would you take to maintain AATA's values as an inclusive organization that respects and incorporates the perspectives and contributions of our members?

Kachina Mooney: I would advocate for inclusive policies, equitable representation in leadership, and ongoing education on anti-oppressive practices. I believe in actively listening to and amplifying voices from historically marginalized communities. I would encourage clear and honest dialogue, create space for diverse member input in organizational decision-making, and support initiatives that reflect cultural humility and responsiveness. Strengthening cultural proficiency requires continuous reflection and accountability, and I am committed to fostering an organizational culture where all members feel seen, valued, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to the growth and evolution of the art therapy profession.

Alicia Seymour: As a cis gender, hetero passing, white woman, I recognize my privilege and responsibility to continue to listen to and advocate for those who do not come from same position as I. This is especially true in my private practice where most of my clients represent diverse backgrounds. I believe AATA must continue to provide a platform to amplify all voices and strive to welcome diversity and differing points of view in everything we do. In a world that seeks to silence so many, AATA must remain a space where all are heard and valued for their differences.

Bani Malhotra: For me, a commitment to strengthening cultural proficiency starts with building trust to value diverse perspectives. I will lean on multi-modal communication channels as a Board member and as an organization that creates intentional opportunities for diverse ways of expressing, engaging, and

dialoguing. I will promote participatory approaches, inviting meaningful input from members at every level to shape priorities and policies. Inclusivity and accessibility are central to my identity and professional commitment, and my goal will be to ensure that participation isn't just symbolic, but genuinely empowering and reflective of diverse voices in our field.

Marybeth Orton: To advance AATA's commitment to cultural proficiency, I would nurture a vision of inclusion that goes beyond representation to cultivate true belonging. Guided by my leadership experience, I would prioritize reflective listening, shared leadership, and inclusive decision-making to help AATA grow into an ever more responsive, member-centered organization. I envision initiatives that foster mentorship, expand access, and open leadership pathways for underrepresented voices, while embracing cultural humility as a lifelong practice. Through collaboration, transparency, and courageous conversations, I hope to help AATA flourish as a vibrant, welcoming community where every voice matters and shapes our shared journey forward.

Jessie Woolhiser Stallings: I would continue dialogues with the communities our organization represents. There are many different cultures represented within AATA, and we need to truly listen to and work with those whose voices have not been historically heard not just in AATA but also in our society.

Kerry Kruk-Borisov: My scholarly work has focused on anti-oppressive research practices which requires critical analysis and reflexivity to deconstruct structural imbalances that sustain limited perspectives and prevent real evolution and transformation. In my work on the Research Committee, I have sought collaboration across committees which may increase momentum, engagement, problem-solving, and shared initiatives toward equitable practices. I will continue to support such collaborative Research Committee initiatives. As a white female, I am aware this positionality reflects the dominant narrative in the field, therefore I believe my obligation is to engage in difficult conversations with an emphasis on cultural humility to enhance proficiency.

Question 3: Serving on the AATA board requires dedication and consistent involvement. How would you manage your current professional and personal responsibilities while contributing your skills and passion to participate fully in the work of the board?

Kachina Mooney: I approach all professional commitments with intentionality, dedication, and follow-through. I have evaluated my current responsibilities and am confident in my ability to commit the time/energy required to serve on the AATA Board. I manage my schedule strategically and prioritize work that aligns with my values and advancing the field of art therapy is one of them. I'm deeply committed to showing up consistently, contributing meaningfully, and collaborating effectively with fellow Board members. With strong time management skills, clear priorities, and a genuine passion for AATA's mission, I'm fully prepared to engage in this important leadership role.

Alicia Seymour: My current success is a direct result of my hard work and dedication. I have a proven track record of being a valuable team member in my work with a variety of professional organizations and am known for going above and beyond. Before agreeing to the nomination for a board position, I reached out to former board members to research responsibilities and carefully evaluated my current workload to ensure I could fulfill the expectations of the board. I feel confident in my ability to meet these needs in a healthy and balanced way that will benefit AATA and their members.

Bani Malhotra: Serving on the AATA board would be a meaningful extension of my personal and professional commitment to art therapy. As a creative clinician and researcher, I have learned to approach responsibilities with curiosity, adaptability, and collaboration. I utilize clear communication, effective task-management and team planning to stay organized and responsive. I am intentional about

my professional commitments and view this as an opportunity to align my efforts and values through service to the profession.

Marybeth Orton: Balancing multiple responsibilities has been a constant thread in my life. Growing up on a farm taught me resilience, discipline, and the value of hard work—principles that continue to guide how I approach leadership and service. My family, creative self-care, and professional commitments ground and inspire me. Through years of leadership, I have learned to manage complex responsibilities while remaining present, prepared, and collaborative. I am eager to bring that dedication to AATA's board, devoting time and energy to shaping a visionary future, strengthening our profession, and amplifying the transformative power of art therapy in the lives we serve.

Jessie Woolhiser Stallings: As the clinical director of a human service agency, engagement in professional organizations is important which is helpful in balancing these duties. Additionally, I will build my schedule to dedicate time to AATA and our constituent needs while also continuing to take time for personal self-care.

Kerry Kruk-Borisov: While working full-time, I am also a doctoral student. I have been able to engage in the research committee alongside these other roles. As I have moved into the Chair position, I am aware of the time and focus needed to develop and carry out the work plan. I lean on my humor, my preference for connecting with others, and creativity to find ways to achieve balance, growth, and progress. I appreciate an action-oriented approach to committee work that involves small group collaboration to make the most efficient use of time and talents.

Candidate for Secretary

Michael Galarraga

Michael Galarraga, LPC, ATR-BC, CSAC, CSOTP, is a bilingual (Spanish-speaking) art therapist, adjunct professor for graduate art therapy programs, and the current Secretary of AATA. His work has often centered People of Color in the LGBTQIA+ community through his private practice, Intersection Therapy, LLC, in Philadelphia, PA.

Questions for the Candidate for Secretary

Question 1: What leadership values and governance practices would you rely on to guide your decision-making to support the mission of AATA?

Michael Galarraga: I have served on the AATA Board as a Director from 2022-2023 and as Secretary from 2024-2025. In that time, I have been part of the Strategic Planning implementation (2022-2023) and reimagining (2024-2025) which has been a helpful tool to guide the association and Board in carrying out the mission and values of the AATA.

Question 2: AATA's values include a commitment to strengthening AATA's cultural proficiency. What actions would you take to maintain AATA's values as an inclusive organization that respects and incorporates the perspectives and contributions of our members?

Michael Galarraga: As Secretary, I have been tasked with reviewing the Policies and Procedures manual with the Executive Director and together we have combed through this document in the past year to understand what policies and procedures limit access to members. In doing so, we have

provided edits and suggestions to rewrite these policies for the present guidance for our membership. I have also been the Mentor Match Ambassador this past year which has been an offering that has helped me consider what equitable networking can look like for our members.

Question 3: Serving on the AATA board requires dedication and consistent involvement. How would you manage your current professional and personal responsibilities while contributing your skills and passion to participate fully in the work of the board?

Michael Galarraga: I have served on the AATA Board as a Director from 2022-2023 and as Secretary from 2024-2025. In that time, I have successfully managed my volunteer roles for the AATA as well as my employment career goals to run a successful private practice and be an adjunct professor supporting students coming into the field of art therapy...I get the job done!

Candidate for President-Elect

Traci Bitondo

Traci Bitondo, Ph.D., LPAT, LPC, ATR-BC, ATCS, ACS, is an Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Caldwell University, where she teaches graduate-level courses in counseling and art therapy. She serves on the AATA Board of Directors and Co-Chairs the Professional Affairs Committee. Traci is the immediate Past President of the New Jersey Art Therapy Association and has received awards from both AATA and the New Jersey Counseling Association for leadership and advocacy. Alongside her academic and leadership roles, she maintains a private practice and provides clinical supervision to counselors and art therapists in training.

Questions for the Candidate for President-Elect

Question 1: What leadership values and governance practices would you rely on to guide your decision-making to support the mission of AATA?

Traci Bitondo: I approach leadership with enthusiasm, integrity, and a deep belief in collaboration and shared responsibility. I try to model transparency, accountability, and open communication in all aspects of my work. I've learned that progress happens when others are actively involved and diverse perspectives are welcomed, because meaningful work is built by a community, not one person alone. Having seen how far our profession has come, I remain committed to supporting our members, strengthening the field as a whole, and ensuring that the communities we serve continue to benefit from the growth and impact of art therapy.

Question 2: AATA's values include a commitment to strengthening AATA's cultural proficiency. What actions would you take to maintain AATA's values as an inclusive organization that respects and incorporates the perspectives and contributions of our members?

Traci Bitondo: I believe maintaining an inclusive organization means staying attentive to the many experiences within our membership and the communities our work touches. I'm committed to helping AATA continue supporting efforts that reduce barriers to entering, remaining, and growing in the profession. It's also essential that our members have access to education that prepares them to serve diverse communities—and that those communities, in turn, have access to diverse, well-prepared art therapists. Continuing to foster accessible education, mentorship, and communication helps strengthen

connection, accountability, and understanding across our profession and ensures our work remains responsive and relevant.

Question 3: Serving on the AATA board requires dedication and consistent involvement. How would you manage your current professional and personal responsibilities while contributing your skills and passion to participate fully in the work of the board?

Traci Bitondo: What I've found helps me manage leadership roles is balance, preparation, and community. I stay organized and intentional with my time, relying on planning and clear communication to meet my responsibilities. I also draw strength from my personal and professional communities, which help me stay grounded and supported so I can give my best to each role. My teaching, supervision, and clinical practice keep me connected to the realities of the field—those roles motivate and inspire me, giving purpose to the work I do and the leadership roles I take on, including my service to AATA.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee

You will have the opportunity to vote for ONE candidate for the Nominating Committee.

Tamara Galinsky

Tamara Galinsky is an art therapist in private practice outside Washington, DC, specializing in sexuality and LGBTQ+ issues. She previously served as an adjunct professor at George Washington University, where she continues to guest lecture. A published author in the AATA Journal and contributor to *Queer Worldmaking in Art Therapy* (in press), Tamara also provides supervision and training to therapists seeking to adopt a sex-positive approach. A lifelong activist, she has held leadership roles in professional organizations and volunteers with community groups dedicated to empowering marginalized communities, expanding mental health access, advancing queer advocacy, and fostering creative, inclusive spaces.

Sumin Kim

Sumin Kim is an award-winning artist, toy designer, and art therapist who has been recognized for her community outreach, including pioneering art therapy programs across multiple community settings and sharing professional work at various conferences, including the AATA Annual Conference. Sumin believes social justice means including everyone in the conversation, a value she carries into both her art and art therapy practice. Sumin creates toys that spark conversations about uncomfortable topics such as aging and racism, using art to promote dialogue and build stronger communities. She currently serves as an Art Therapist at One Love Studio, supporting the marginalized community.

Questions for the Candidates for Nominating Committee

Question 1: What principles of leadership and past experiences would guide you in the work of this committee?

Tamara Galinsky: In committee work, I am guided by accountability, transparency, and ethical stewardship. I believe effective governance depends on clarity of mission, fair evaluation processes, and responsible consideration of candidates' capacity to advance the organization's goals. Equally

important is cultivating an inclusive culture where diverse perspectives and lived experiences strengthen Board leadership. My approach emphasizes collaboration, active listening, and consensus-building, while addressing challenges with honesty and integrity. I bring a commitment to equity and social justice, ensuring that nominations processes expand access and representation. Above all, I strive to support the Board in building visionary, sustainable leadership.

Sumin Kim: I believe my greatest privilege is serving the community, and I would like to gratefully expand that privilege to the AATA community. My guiding principles are inclusivity, transparency, and global advocacy for art therapy. I care deeply about creating spaces where every member (including emerging, international, associate, or established) feels represented in decision-making. Having lived and worked across different countries, I bring adaptability and warmth to collaboration. I believe teams thrive through diversity of expertise and perspective. As part of the Nominations Committee, I will remind myself to look beyond personal preference and choose through dialogue and fairness.

Question 2: How would you work to minimize the influence of your own biases as you select the candidates most able to support the organization in meeting its mission?

Tamara Galinsky: I believe minimizing implicit bias begins with self-awareness and intentional reflection. I would examine my assumptions and invite feedback from colleagues to address blind spots. Using structured, mission-driven evaluation criteria helps ensure transparency, consistency, and focus on qualifications rather than personal preferences. I value diverse perspectives and would actively engage fellow committee members in surfacing different viewpoints, recognizing that collective judgment is stronger than any individual's. By fostering an equitable nominations process rooted in fairness, accountability, and inclusion, I can help identify candidates best prepared to support AATA in advancing its mission.

Sumin Kim: I am aware that I hold both conscious and unconscious biases, and I view it as my responsibility to continually challenge them. This is why I value working with people who think differently from me and welcome constructive dialogue that broadens my perspective. In the committee, I will rely on clear evaluation criteria, collaborative discussion, and reflection before decisions. I also welcome feedback and invite others to question my assumptions. I see bias awareness as lifelong work, and I will continue to stay curious, open, reflective, and willing to be challenged throughout this process.