



December 2021 Newsletter



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FATA advocates for the expansion of access to professional art therapists & leads the state in the advancement of art therapy as a regulated mental health and human services profession.

We provide information, resources, and meaningful network opportunities to it's members and the public.



# 2021 FATA Board of Directors

## President



**Alicia Ballestas,  
ATR-BC**

Alicia Ballestas is a bilingual Board-Certified Art Therapist. Alicia is a graduate of Long Island University, C.W Post, and currently works for Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a Clinical Art Therapist supporting the social and emotional health of students with developmental and emotional disorders. Alicia has experience providing services to immigrants and foster families. After the Parkland shooting in 2018, she has been providing art therapy services for the community where she grew up as an adolescent. Alicia enjoys exploring, going to the beach and finds running to be a meditative experience.

## President- Elect



**Franchesca Lastra  
Vicente,  
MS, ATR-BC, LMHC**

Franchesca graduated from the University of South Florida in 2015 with a BA in Studio Art and a minor in psychology, and then went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Art Therapy from Florida State University, graduating in 2017. She is currently a Registered and Board Certified Art Therapist as well as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the Brandon, Florida area. She currently works at Brandon Regional Hospital with their intensive outpatient services program, providing group art therapy sessions to adults. In the past, she has also had the opportunity to work with many clients and have experience working with children, adolescents, adults and older adults in a variety of settings including day centers, inpatient settings, homeless shelters, and senior living facilities. She has been a member of the American Art Therapy Association since 2016 and joined her local chapter in Florida in 2017. Currently, she is the president elect of FATA and have previously taken on roles as treasurer and assisted the governmental affairs chair with efforts to pursue licensure in the state of Florida. As of right now, she has enjoyed focusing on building her career as an art therapist, building a family, and pursuing her creative endeavors. In her past-time, she enjoys crafting and working with a variety of art mediums, including oil pastels, charcoal pencil, acrylic paint, and creating sculptures with found objects.

## Secretary



**Amy Bucciarelli,  
MS, ATR-BC, LMHC**

Amy Bucciarelli is a board-certified art therapist and licensed mental health counselor. She has nearly fifteen years of experience in clinical and higher educational settings. Her clinical focus is serving children, teens, and adults with critical and chronic medical health issues, and caring for the healthcare workers who serve these populations. Artistically, Amy is fascinated with mandalas and the symbolic language of art. Amy has published and presented about art therapy assessments, mandalas, practitioner self-care, the therapeutic use of hand papermaking, bereavement and technology, and the collaboration of the creative arts therapies and arts in health programs. Amy is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Depth Psychology with a focus in Jungian and Archetypal Studies. Amy's work ultimately evolves from the belief that creativity is a lifestyle that promotes personal balance and holistic wellbeing.

## Treasurer



**Victoria L. Beck,  
ATR-BC**

Victoria (Vicky) is a Board Certified Art Therapist and Certified Florida Art Teacher (K-12). Vicky is a true Floridian, born and raised in St. Lucie County. She started her school journey at Florida School of the Arts where she received her Associate in Art and Associate in Science in Technical Theatre doing stage and lighting design. She then went to the University of Central Florida, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Art Education. She stayed in the Orlando area and taught art at an elementary school for 3 years, and ultimately wanted to continue on for her master's degree in art therapy. Vicky completed her Master of Arts in Clinical Art Therapy from Long Island University, Post, in New York. After finishing her master's program, Vicky returned home and has been working as an Art Therapist in Florida since 2013. She started working with children and adolescents at an inpatient crisis and stabilization unit. Currently, she works full time with children, adolescents, and adults at an inpatient mental health facility in Stuart, FL. Vicky is also one of the co-owners of a working clay studio, Peacock Clay Collaborative, in Ft. Pierce, FL. Here, she loves making functional pottery as well as sculptural and handbuilt creations alongside her fellow peacock members. Vicky also loves spending time at the beach and on the ocean boating and fishing, spending time with her family, running, and traveling the globe.

# 2021 FATA Committee Chairs

## Government Affairs Chair



**Joseph Scarce,  
Ph.D. ATR-BC**

The Government Affairs Committee helps shape strategies for advocacy of art therapy as a licensed mental health profession.

## Membership Committee Chairs



**Sin Hui Lim, MS &  
Nicole M. Rivero, MS**

The Membership Committee aims to engage FATA members and encourage member involvement within the association to empower Florida art therapists and offer resources to help enrich their professional lives.

## Multicultural and Social Justice Committee Chair



**Cristina Pineros,  
ATR-BC, LPC, LMHC**

The FATA Multicultural and Social Justice Committee is dedicated to advocate for racial and social equity for black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), including immigrants and the LGBTQIA+ community. Our goal is to increase diversity and inclusivity within the art therapy field and the community that we serve.

## Scholarship Committee Chair



**Raquel Ferrell-Kirk, MS, ATR-BC**

The Scholarship Committee aims to support the field of art therapy and those who wish to pursue it by helping fund educational activities for art therapists and/or art therapy students. The committee works to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the application and selection processes.

## Student Representative



**Anna Proia,  
FSU Art Therapy Student**

The Student Representative consists of being the Member-at-Large, which acts as a liaison between the Florida Art Therapy Association and FSU Student Art Therapy Association.

## Call for Volunteers!

FATA is always looking to connect with its members and has many volunteer opportunities available. Take a look at the several committees that you can join, and get in contact with us for more information!

### Please join us!

- Social Media Committee
- Government Affairs Committee
- Multicultural Social Justice Committee
- Membership Committee
- And More!



# A Year in Review

## Legislative Letter Writing Event

### Importance of Licensure

Art therapists have more opportunities to provide mental health services as licensed art therapists with eligibility to be reimbursed for their services. Please be aware that after 2025 art therapists will no longer be able to apply for licensure as a mental health counselor applicant for a LMHC will have to be from a Counseling program that is CACREP accredited.

We are currently seeking a sponsor for the Art Therapy Licensure bill for next legislative session to support additional mental health treatment in Florida. Therefore, we recently held a legislative letter writing event and will be offering these quarterly.

Please feel free to contact us for more information on how you can contact your local state representative to advocate for a state art therapy license and if you would like to assist with our state legislative efforts.



## Wheels of Diversity in Art Therapy: Pioneers of Color Film

This panel discussion featured a viewing of 53 minutes documentary: Wheels of Diversity in art therapy: Pioneers of color. The film offers a historical progression of diversity and multicultural competence within the mental health profession. It celebrates the following professional visionaries of color in the field: Georgette S. Powell, Cliff Joseph, Lucille Venture and Charles Anderson.

Panelists engaged in the discussion of the importance of multicultural inclusion, socio-economic inequality, as well as the challenges and controversy that some art therapists have encountered throughout the history of art therapy. Panelists highlighted the importance of diversity, cross cultural practices, and empowerment of minorities within the field.

## Stars of Hope Event

Stars of Hope is a global initiative to share creative messages of hope and support to those impacted by tragedy. Stars of HOPE empowers people of all ages to transform individuals and communities in need of hope through the power of art and messages of healing.

On December 12th, 2021, FATA collaborated with Carmela Coffee in Parkland, Florida, to create stars of hope to send to Oxford High School and the Oxford community for the shooting tragedy. This event aims to make a difference by using creativity to give hope, show compassion and promote healing within the community.



# A Year in Review

## Surfside Community Event

The Florida Art Therapy Association and the Bass Museum teamed up to offer “Art Cares: Community Art Therapy Open Studio,” the event aimed to create a space for the South Florida community to gather and heal following the building collapse in Surfside several weeks prior. The event, held in the museum’s atrium and showcasing both art therapy and music therapy, provided the opportunity for what one visitor called “magical healing and remembrance”. It took a dedicated team of art therapists all sharing their time and expertise to make this event a success. Some worked behind the scenes to help coordinate and plan the event, some served as advisors on cultural considerations needed to help us effectively serve the Jewish community impacted by this loss, and of course there were those who were on hand during the event.

FATA would like to extend a special thank you to the AATA and its Trauma Recovery - Art Therapy Program Fund which helped provide funds to support this effort, Stars of Hope which provided stars and painting supplies, and the Bass museum which donated use of its space, materials and staff support for the event. Thanks to long standing and positive working relationships between our local creative arts therapists, the art therapy studio was complemented by the presence and performances of music therapists and we are grateful to Creative Arts Therapies of the Palm Beaches for the donation of these therapists’ time and talent.

FATA would also like to recognize this event’s planning committee- Alicia Ballestas, Kelly Burns, Raquel Farrell-Kirk, and Cristina Pineros; our advisors Craig Siegel and Dr. Lisa Wasserman, and our volunteer art therapists for the event- Alicia Ballestas, Kelly Burns, Paula Hammond, Cristina Pineros, Dr. Lisa Wasserman, Joe Scarce, Nicole Rivero, Lulu Figueroa, and Morgan DeGilio.

“Art Cares: Community Art Therapy Open Studio” took place during the Jewish celebration of Sukkot, a holiday marking the years the Jewish people spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land that is often celebrated by building a temporary structure or sukkah, which some people decorate with garlands. Sukkot invites believers to find gratitude in times of difficulty or loss. This theme served as the inspiration for our communal art project, a paper garland. Participants were invited to create a link by decorating a paper strip with images or words that represent either side of this duality of gratitude for what we have and acknowledgement of what we’ve lost. The links were joined together to form a chain and the completed project will be displayed to serve as a visual reminder that feelings of loss and feelings of gratitude, feelings of grief and feelings of joy, are all linked together and these are the links that create our lives and connect our community.



# A Year in Review

## Membership Social Networking Events

The Florida Art Therapy Association hosted two membership social events in which FATA members were invited to network with other art therapists in Florida as well as spend a Saturday morning creating art together.

The membership social events have been a great way to keep in touch with art therapists in different areas of Florida through the virtual platform. We have met on Saturday mornings twice this year and have used these events as a way to not only network, but also to wind down and enjoy time with each other after the work week. Many art therapists who have participated in these events have used this time to talk about the populations they are working with as well as how they have adapted their practice during Covid-19. This has been a truly rewarding experience meeting art therapists from different parts of the state and to be able to relate to professionals in our field and learn from each other.

Please consider joining our next membership social event which will also include an all member meeting in **March 2022**. More information on this event will be coming soon to your email inbox. Stay tuned!



## Member Spotlight

The FATA member spotlight for 2021 is Cui Jing who was the recipient of FATA's annual Black, Indigenous, and Student of Color Scholarship for Art Therapy Studies and FATA's American Art Therapy Conference Scholarship this year. Cui Jing was also the recipient of the 2021 AATA Prasad Family Foundation - International Student Scholarship. Jing is an international art therapy doctoral student from China studying at Florida State University. Cui Jing shares, "I used to think that art was only for professional artists. Now, I believe art serves everyone equally. Different from traditional psychotherapy's focus on talking, I am excited to explore the true nature of art to evoke people's inner voice that benefits their mental health."

Congratulations Jing and the best of luck to you in pursuing your career as an art therapist!



## FATA Scholarships for Members

Did you know that FATA offers at least 3 scholarships per year!?

FATA offers one student scholarship for Black, Indigenous, and/or Students of Color for the purpose of Art Therapy Studies and one student and one professional scholarship to attend the yearly American Art Therapy Conference.

If you did not have the opportunity to apply to our annual FATA scholarships this year, don't worry! We will be offering these scholarships again in 2022. Be on the lookout for more information soon.

Best of luck!

*Thank you*

To all FATA members for your dedication  
and support.

We couldn't do it without you!



## Connect With Us



@floridaarttherapy



Florida Art Therapy Association



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[www.floridaarththerapy.org](http://www.floridaarththerapy.org)