The World Alliance for Arts Education is a network of the four organisations: International Theatre/ Drama and Education Association (IDEA), International Society for Education through Art (InSEA), International Society for Music Education (ISME) and World Dance Alliance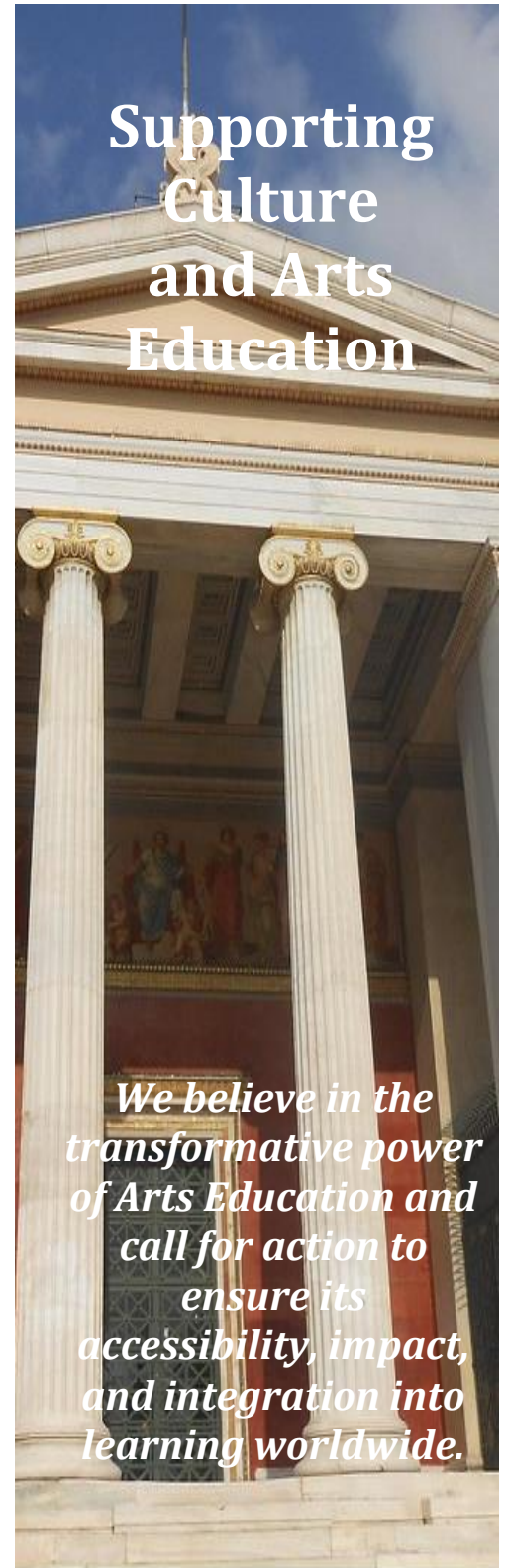 (WDA) – a powerful voice for advocacy, networking and research. The World Alliance for Arts Education is committed to advancing arts education for all learners, at all age levels, in formal and informal settings. Working as a united force for arts education, the partnership of the four organisations is uniquely designed to work alongside one another. WAAE is also one of the key players in Culture and Arts Education that work closely with UNESCO to strengthen Arts Education and Education through Arts across the world.
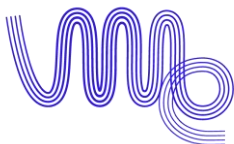
The 10th Global Summit of the World Alliance for Arts Education, October 17–19, 2024, titled ARTS, NATURE, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION: HARMONY IN UNITY was organised by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in Greece. During this event Mr Ke Leng, the Programme Coordinator at the Cultural Policies and Development Entity, Culture Sector, UNESCO, presented the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education that was signed in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. The following declaration is the result of the discussion initiated by Mr Ke Leng relating to the implementation of the Framework, as well as the subsequent consultation with organisations and stakeholders that are represented by the World Alliance for Arts Education. In addition, the discussions and presentations that took place during the Summit with participants and attendees from 33 countries and more than 55 Universities across the globe, were incorporated in the following declaration to represent as many voices as possible for the support of culture and arts education. The following points are a call for action by governments, local authorities, organisations in formal, non-formal and informal settings that will make the implementation of the Framework possible.

Supporting Culture and Arts Education

We believe in the transformative power of Arts Education and call for action to ensure its accessibility, impact, and integration into learning worldwide.

Empowering Arts for Personal and Social Growth

Promote Arts for Well-being. Develop programs that use the Arts to address social issues like inclusion, diversity, and mental health.

Foster Empathy and Understanding. Encourage artistic expression as a tool for dialogue, reconciliation, and inclusivity.

Fight for Democracy. Empower democratic citizenship and peacebuilding through Arts Education.

Encourage Youth Leadership. Support students in leading arts initiatives that promote cultural exchange and social impact.

Strengthening Arts Autonomy and Arts Integration in Education

Advocate for Each Art Form Individually. Every art form (music, theatre/drama, visual arts, dance) has its own unique content, methods, and materials. No art form can substitute another in education. Specialist teachers should be prioritised in teaching each art form.

Integrate Arts with Other Subjects. Integrate the Arts with other subjects and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEAM) to boost creativity and innovation.

Support Educators. Invest in teacher training, resources, and professional development to empower educators in delivering meaningful arts experiences.

Collaborate with Cultural Institutions. Partner with museums, theatres, concert halls, galleries and artists to bring real-world artistic experiences into classrooms.

Encourage Community Engagement. Promote local arts initiatives, festivals, and creative projects that extend learning beyond schools.

Expanding Access and Inclusion

Make Arts Education Universal. Every student, regardless of background or location, deserves access to quality arts education from an early age.

Celebrate Diversity. The arts are a universal language. We champion diverse cultural expressions that foster understanding and global dialogue.

Encourage the Integration of Diverse Knowledge Systems, including First Nations and Indigenous knowledge, into the arts curriculum, alongside the decolonisation of research.

Reach Underserved Communities. Programmes that support marginalised and disadvantaged groups should be prioritised, ensuring arts education is accessible to all.

Leverage Technology. Use digital platforms, VR, AI and hybrid learning models to make arts education more accessible, flexible, and engaging at the same time requiring an ethical, inclusive, and human-centred approach in their use.

By taking decisive action in these areas, we can build a future where Arts Education is a driving force for personal growth, social progress, and cultural innovation. WAAE, working closely with organisations and institutions for the Arts and Culture and Arts Education across the globe, systematically supports UNESCO's initiatives. The 10th Global Summit provided an open platform for advocating the importance of the Arts and discussed pathways for implementing the recent UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education.

We call on policymakers, educators, artists, and communities to join us in making Arts Education accessible, valued, and recognised as an essential part of learning at all stages of life.

Advancing Research and Innovation

Support Interdisciplinary Research. Connect universities, schools, and cultural organisations to develop innovative Arts Education methodologies.

Document and Share Best Practices. Create open-access platforms to exchange teaching strategies, case studies, and successful program models.

Enhance Lifelong Learning. Expand Arts Education opportunities beyond traditional schooling, including workplace learning and adult education.

Advocating for Investment and Policy Reform

Increase Arts Education Funding. Secure financial support from public and private sectors to provide the necessary resources and infrastructure.

Influence Policy. Urge governments to integrate Arts Education into national curricula and prioritise its development.

Measure and Showcase Impact. Conduct research and share success stories to highlight the benefits of arts education and drive further support.

Transforming Education Through the Arts

Reform Curriculum and Teaching Methods. Develop adaptable learning models that incorporate artistic practices for deeper engagement and understanding.

Ensure Every Child's Right to Arts Education. Advocate for policies that guarantee universal access to creative learning opportunities.

Showcase the Impact. Demonstrate how Arts Education enhances cognitive, emotional, and social development, enriching lives and communities worldwide.