

SYDNEY GALYEAN

Visual Art Educator | Practicing Artist | Graphic Designer | Community Art Educator
Arab, Alabama | sgalyean@arabcityschools.org | (256) 738-4071

EDUCATION

B.A., Graphic Design / Advertising — The University of Alabama | 2006-2010

- GPA: 3.4

Teacher Certification Coursework — Athens State University | Certification completed 2020

- Entered teaching through an emergency certification pathway before completing certification requirements.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visual Art Teacher — Arab Junior High School, Arab City Schools | 2018–Present

- Teach middle school visual art, with an annual student load of approximately 250 students.
- Develop studio-based curriculum emphasizing creative risk-taking, problem solving, craftsmanship, student voice, and connections to contemporary and historical art.
- Create opportunities for students to participate in exhibitions, competitions, collaborative projects, and community-based art experiences.
- Help develop and maintain an outdoor art space where students can observe and draw directly from nature, including flowers grown in the space, while also participating in the everyday care of the area.
- Use the outdoor space to connect artmaking with observation, ownership, stewardship, and students' relationship to their school environment.

COMMUNITY ART EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder / Art Educator — Art & Co. | 2025–Present

- Co-founded a community art initiative with fellow art educator Cassie Walkington to expand access to creative experiences beyond the traditional school setting.
- Plan and teach summer art camps serving children approximately ages 5–13, adapting instruction and projects for a wide range of developmental levels.
- Develop public-facing art experiences including children's and adult classes, workshops, pop-up events, paint nights, and community art activities.
- Create opportunities for children and families to engage with art in community settings and to see art education as something that can happen outside the school day.
- Design original projects, promotional materials, paint-by-number kits, apparel, and other accessible art experiences.

PROFESSIONAL DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Graphic Designer — Little King Manufacturing | 8 years | [2010-2018]

- Created apparel graphics and production-ready artwork using Adobe and CorelDRAW software.
- Worked with apparel approvals, technical specifications, color separations, pre-press preparation, and production workflows.
- Developed professional experience in visual communication, client-focused design, problem solving, and commercial art production.

GRANTS, PROJECTS & STUDENT RECOGNITION

Outdoor Art Space / Community Arts Project — Arab Junior High School | 2022-2023

- Participated in development of an outdoor creative space supported through an Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council grant.
- Collaborated with educators, community supporters, and artists to expand opportunities for students to create and learn outside the traditional classroom.

PALS / MPALS Student Recognition | 2019-Present

- Supported student participation in area and state-level art competition; multiple students earned placements.
- Two of my area first-place students advanced to the state level and won, receiving recognition including a plaque, monetary award, and Governor's Luncheon participation.

Fine Arts Showcase | [2019- Present

- Students earned second- and third-place recognition for submitted projects.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Art Education Association Conference — Chicago, Illinois | 2026

Alabama Art Education Association / Camp McDowell | 2025

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

School & District Service — Arab City Schools

- Sunshine Committee
- Budget Committee
- Collaborative work with high school visual art educator on student and community arts initiatives.

STUDIO & CREATIVE PRACTICE

Practicing Artist | Ongoing

- Maintain an active studio practice alongside teaching, including painting, mixed-media work, graphic design, and commissioned artwork.
- Develop personal bodies of work exploring landscape, water, atmosphere, color, and place.
- Use continued studio practice to inform teaching and to remain connected to the vulnerability, experimentation, and problem solving asked of students.

SELECTED SKILLS

Art Education: Curriculum development; middle school studio instruction; community art education; youth art camps; collaborative projects; exhibitions and competitions; outdoor and place-based art experiences.

Studio / Design: Painting; drawing; mixed media; graphic design; apparel graphics; print production; color separation; pre-press.

Software: Adobe Creative Suite; CorelDRAW; Google Workspace.

APPLICATION FOCUS

Graduate Study: Master of Art Education, University of Georgia, Lamar Dodd School of Art.

Areas of Interest: Contemporary art education; community-based art education; curriculum and pedagogy; student creative risk-taking; place-based learning; artistic practice; teacher inquiry and research.

DRAFT NOTE: Replace bracketed items with exact dates/contact information before submission. Sections can be expanded with exhibitions, awards, presentations, memberships, or additional professional development.