

National Art Education Association Women's Caucus

LOBBY ACTIVISM

Feminism(s) + Art Education

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An outcome of the first Women's Caucus Lobby Activism event in 2008 was a call for the Women's Caucus to organize mentorships. This notion of enacting change prompted subsequent Lobby Activism themes that are represented in the guiding questions for the Lobby Activism events.

Five editors of the forthcoming anthology, titled *Lobby Activism: Feminism(s) + Art Education*, present a summary of the contemporary scholarship included in the text to illuminate praxes of activism among art educators and how art educators on all levels are enacting change.

Why enact change? Feminist activism is work toward justice for all; it is a call to feel compassion and empathy for others. We are in a time of tremendous change and alarm about the violation of democratic principles, due process, reproductive, and human rights. Art and education have a huge role to play in raising awareness and enacting positive changes. We enact change because we care.

This presentation by the editors is a catalyst for small group conversations to share their challenges of enacting change within their professional contexts and to explore strategies to overcome these challenges.

STRATEGIES for crafting feminist activism begin with a **conversation**, invites and involves the **participation** of many other people, involve artists and **creative communicators**, and **generates action**. If feminists are to sustain powerful lobby activism that is both constructive and impactful, we should **embrace the notion of building bridges and coalitions** and think seriously about how to reflect that belief in our language use and action. To enact change, the following may help to develop one's capacity for building coalitions that sustain social justice advocacy.

Guiding questions from our Lobby Activism *Enacting Change* chapter to consider:

- What kinds of strategies might enact change with the aim of bridging differences and inter-generational divides and building coalitions?
- How might the collective voice of a group serve as a catalyst for activism and for solidarity?
- How might you go about *meeting people where they are* to understand their point of view about feminism in ways that might be different than yours?
- What kinds of structures and conditions are needed at professional conventions that would support the entangled realities of professionals, i.e., motherhood, caregiving, and professional commitments?

The session will conclude with a set of strategies co-developed by session participants.