



Inspiring News and Events

From the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota

Volume 9, Issue 3 | Summer 2022

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Editor's Introduction

Lani Shapiro

“...solidarity and participation... are the foundation of democracy.”

Vea Vecchi

This issue of the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota Newsletter is all about participation. All the activities of the Network have been initiated and sustained by the intense interest and energy of particular individuals. **Monthly Gatherings** offered the first opportunity for people with interest in the Reggio Approach to meet and exchange experiences. **Book Study** emerged from the desire to read deeply and discuss challenging material about the educational project of Reggio Emilia, and its intellectual, philosophical and pedagogical underpinnings.

Documentation Labs grew out of the challenge to understand documentation in the Reggio tradition. “**Let’s Talk**” responded to a desire expressed in surveys, “We need a chance to just talk.” The idea of Remida birthed the **Loose Parts Lab**. Currently there are as many as five events each month, most free of charge.

From the beginning, the Network encouraged self-forming groups like these. Anyone can initiate a conversation around an idea related to the Reggio Approach that they want to explore with others. Do you have an unaddressed curiosity? You’ll encounter others who are potentially interested at the events listed in the extensive 2022 – 2023 Professional Development Calendar

below.

[You can download a PDF of the calendar to print and post.](#)

Next in this issue, Heidi Wolf, who spearheaded our initiative inspired by the Remida Center in Reggio, offers an update for the Loose Parts Lab, an emerging civic space where materials that would otherwise be consigned to the waste stream are offered new life.

Rie Gilsdorf reflects on an experience she offered at the End-of-Year Celebration/Annual Meeting. She shares a methodology from the *Presencing Institute*, connects it to Reggio thought and analyzes the process.

Read about additional avenues for participation in the activities of the Network.

- Apply for a scholarship.
- Join a committee.
- Propose a presentation.
- Learn more about the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA).
- Access the public library system's collection of Reggio Children publications.
- Apply for current Reggio-inspired job postings.
- Donate to the Network by shopping at SmileAmazon through links provided at the end of the newsletter.

As always, we are grateful for all the volunteer time and effort, seen and unseen, that goes into the work of the Network, to all of the contributors for their generosity, time and collaboration in making their thinking visible and to readers for engaging with those thoughts.

The Reggio Emilia educational project, "*to raise a new generation of critical thinkers who could take responsibility for themselves and for others*" was born in response to the experiences of living under authoritarian rule and World War II. The citizens of Reggio Emilia understood that the dispositions and capacities to operate as free and responsible adults are learned and internalized when children are young.

In "Unpacking Democracy, Part II," I elaborate on the theme of democratic participation to highlight practical strategies that support listening, dialogue, diversity, critical thinking and participation for the common good, drawing both from local experience and work from Reggio. Sandy Burwell brings an update on the progress of the Loose Parts Laboratory project, which supports new uses for recycled and re-purposed materials. It's an example of committed individuals working collaboratively for a creative civic initiative. From the St. Paul School of Northern Lights, Reba Batalden shares "Teachers and the Atelier," a collaborative work of educators in the studio and the classroom. Reba's second contribution, "Democracy in Action," documents how "*the ordinary daily practice of democratic participation leads to advocacy by the children.*" In this edition of the newsletter you will also find an invitation to a special Network gathering, "Rekindle Relationships, Celebrate Accomplishments & Discover Resources." Save the date, Friday May 20th.

Regular features appear at the end of each issue which identify scholarship opportunities and call for proposals. You can learn more about the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance, about how to access the public library system's collection of Reggio Children publications, how to apply to current Reggio-inspired job postings and how to donate to the Network when you shop at Amazon through links provided at the end of the newsletter.

As always, we are grateful for all the volunteer time and effort, seen and unseen, that goes into the work of the Network and to all of the contributors for their generosity, time and collaboration in making their thinking visible.

Professional Development Calendar 2022-2023

The Outreach and Growth Committee established a robust and diverse set of opportunities to learn together during the 2022 - 2023 school year. These include: Monthly Gatherings, Book Study, Let's Talk, Documentation Lab and Loose Parts Lab.

Monthly Gatherings

With such positive feedback on the Zoom format for Monthly Gatherings, we will continue to offer this as an option for participation. Zoom enriches our gatherings by allowing us to include new people and build the Network beyond Minnesota, even internationally! Using this platform, we will broadcast live, offer interactions through chat and include everyone during the Q & A.

Additionally, Zoom opened the door to our first international keynote speaker, Roberta Pucci, from Reggio Emilia. Roberta will be joining us for **Enter Encounter Engage**, live from Italy, on October 8, 2022, leading a discussion around the Grammar of Matter and facilitating a hands-on experience with materials. This will be a hybrid event, allowing people the option to join in-person or from the comfort of home, and still participate and engage together.

September 17, 2022 | 9:00am-11:30am Central Time

KidsPark Tour and Presentation: A Journey in the Context of a Drop-in Reggio-Inspired Program

Certificate of Attendance available

KidsPark staff will discuss the history and context of an urban, multi-age, Reggio-inspired, drop-in program and share how they work with nature, explore the neighborhood and build community relationships.

Presenters: Erica Krugerud Smith and KidsPark Team

Location: Zoom and In-Person Hybrid

KidsPark, 525 Pelham Blvd N, St. Paul, MN 55104

[Registration](#)

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after September 1, 2022

Limit: 20 in-person participants. No limit for Zoom participants

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

October 8, 2022 | 9:00am-11:30am Central Time

Enter Encounter Engage: The Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota 11th Annual Conference, "The Atelier and the Grammar of Matter"

Develop Approved CEUs / Certificate of Attendance available

What is an atelier? How is its space best organized? Which materials does it offer and what is the role of the atelierista?

Starting from these questions, we will see how the atelier is the result of a certain idea of the child and in general, of the human being, as owners of a hundred languages. According to this idea and to our goal as educators, the layout of the atelier could evolve in many consistent variations, suitable to each different context.

Of course, we will also discuss the essential reference points that can support us in the creation of our own atelier, including one of the most important, experiencing firsthand the materials that will be presented to children.

Thus, part of the session is dedicated to a practical workshop and the exploration of the “grammar” of materials, provoking the question: how will this short experience definitively change your approach? Looking forward to discovering it together!

Featuring Roberta Pucci, speaking live from Reggio Emilia, Italy via Zoom
Roberta Pucci is an atelierista, educational consultant and art therapist from Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Location: Zoom and In-Person Hybrid
Benilde St. Margaret's, 2501 Hwy 100 S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Time: 8:30 am, in-person check in | 9:00am-11:30am: Conference
Light continental breakfast will be served. Bring your own lunch if you want to network and unpack the conference (11:30-12:30).

Cost: \$40 Early Bird | \$50 after September 15, 2022 includes Develop Approved CEUs certificate

Registration

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and

registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

November 12, 2022 | 9:00am-Noon Central Time
Participation and Place

Certificate of Attendance available

Join the educators of Westwood Early Childhood Center and Boulder Journey School as they reflect on the principles of the Reggio Approach and share how the value and strategy of participation helps define and nurture community, foster a sense of place and encourage exploration and innovation. Attendees are invited to visit classroom environments before and after the morning presentation.

This session will kick-off a series of “maker-trainings” hosted by Westwood Early Childhood Center where educators will be invited to explore materials and reflect on how elements found within the natural world can promote wonder, investigation and inquiry. Registration will be limited and individuals participating in the November training will have early access to these events.

Presenters: Kellee Nelson and Westwood Early Childhood Staff
Andrea Sisbarro, Boulder Journey School

Location: Zoom and In-Person Hybrid
Westwood Early Childhood Center, 9001 Cedar Lake Rd, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Registration

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after November 1, 2022

Limit 50 in-person participants/no limit for Zoom participants

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

December 11, 2022 SUNDAY | 1:00pm-3:00pm Central Time
Studio Experiences with Children – Reflections and Discussion

Certificate of Attendance available

Monica Malley will share her studio experiences with children ages 1-5, reflect on the principles of the Reggio Approach and facilitate a discussion.

Presenter: Monica Malley, Studio Teacher

Location: Zoom and In-Person TBD

Registration

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after December 1, 2022

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

January 14, 2023 | 9:00am-11:30am Central Time
Playing with Music

Certificate of Attendance available

Description: Music & Movement as Expressive Languages: Embracing & Engaging Teachers as Co-Learners

Presenters: Mark Sorvari

Location: Zoom and In-Person Hybrid
South Metro Montessori, 10970 185th St. W, Lakeville, MN 55044

Registration

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after January 1, 2023

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

February 12, 2023 SUNDAY | 2:00pm-4:00pm Central Time
Reggio Inspiration Journey in a K-8 Charter School and Tour of the Environment

Certificate of Attendance available

Reflect on the evolution of St. Paul School of Northern Lights with the school's pedagogista and atelierista, focusing on the implementation of a collaborative atelier-type studio within a K - 8 public school setting. Take a tour of the school to see how teachers are working to create inspired environments. Discuss ways you can bring small Reggio-inspired changes to your own classroom.

Presenters: Hannah Longley and Carole Hendricks, St. Paul School of Northern Lights

Location: Zoom and In-Person Hybrid
St. Paul School of Northern Lights, 426 Osceola Ave S, St. Paul, MN 55102

Registration

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after February 1, 2023

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

March 11, 2023 | 9:00am-11:30am Central Time
Loose Parts through the Years

Certificate of Attendance available

At St. Paul's Childhood Center we utilize loose parts in all of our classrooms. After participating in the Loose Parts Summit in November 2021, we have made an even bigger push to utilize more loose parts and fewer traditional toys. For our presentation we will be sharing with you how this transition is going, what changes we have seen and if we feel it is sustainable. We also created a specific "loose parts room" that classroom groups, infants to age five (and for summer K-2) are able use for a week, allowing them to build and expand on ideas over time. We will also consider how the use of these materials changes as children grow. For example, cardboard tubes in the infant/toddler rooms are going to look different than in our preschool rooms.

Presenter: Rachel Dunn, St. Paul Childhood Center

Location: St. Paul's Childhood Center, 900 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105

Registration

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after March 1, 2023

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

April 15, 2023 | 9:00am-11:30am Central Time
Infant and Toddler Care in Pistoia and Reggio Emilia

Certificate of Attendance available

Description: We will look at infant and toddler centers in Pistoia and Reggio Emilia and consider research about the impact of environment and materials.

Presenter: Ann Edgerton

Ann Edgerton recently retired from the University of Minnesota Child Development Center as Director. Her career in the field of Early Childhood was broad and deep. Ann worked on political issues, candidate campaigns and taught at Monterey Peninsula & Hartnell Colleges in California, teaching Administration of Early Childhood Programs and Infant/Toddler principles. Previously, she was director of the Child Development program at California State University, Monterey Bay and also worked with Head Start programs.

Location: Zoom and In-person hybrid, location TBD

Registration

Cost: \$25 Early Bird | \$30 after April 1, 2023

Students: Limited spots available at no cost for students - email Heidi Wolf for details and

registration hwolf@bsmschool.org

May 12, 2023 | TBD

End-Of-Year Celebration/Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Additional Opportunities

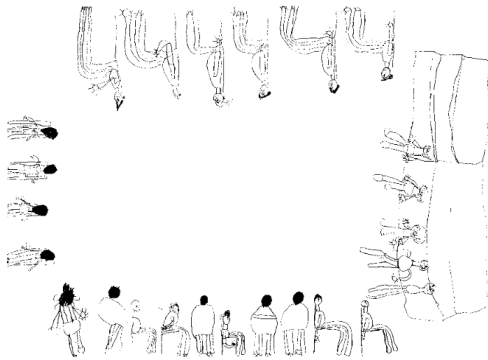
In recent years, and despite the pandemic, the Network expanded its initiatives beyond Monthly Gatherings and Book Studies to include Documentation Labs, “Let’s Talk” and the Loose Parts Laboratory. These opportunities emerged from folks who had an idea and were willing to recruit others and dig into the organizational work needed to make inspired ideas realities. We invite you to check out the following events, many of which are free and available through Zoom. We’re looking forward to meeting you.

Open Book Study via Zoom

Third Sunday of the month from 3:00pm-4:30pm Central Time

We are studying the **DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL TOOLBOX: The myriad forms of research in children and adults**, which is a series of videos and readings published by Reggio Children. We watch the videos together and discuss their implications.

The Many Faces of the Assembly is an investigation on the human figure and portraits through the languages of clay, drawing and photography.



The Many Faces of the Assembly, Reggio Children

Come join us on Zoom, all are welcome! Participate when you can, there is no charge. We meet every **third Sunday of the month** from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. Central Time.

August 21, 2022

September 18, 2022

October 16, 2022

November 20, 2022
December 18, 2022
January 15, 2023
February 19, 2023
March 19, 2023
April 16, 2023
May 21, 2023
June 18, 2023
July 21, 2023
August 18, 2023

Register for a zoom link: [Zoom link](#)

Questions? Contact reggioinspiredmn@gmail.com for more information.

Documentation Lab

Documentation Lab is an opportunity for Network folks to collaborate on the process of documentation in the tradition of Reggio Emilia, a process that many find challenging. Doc Lab is designed to meet the needs of the participants (timing, locations). This year we will have four meetings at four different locations, yet to be determined. The host will offer traces of work in process which we will study using a protocol adapted from Harvard's Project Zero. In addition to studying children's work, the dialogue may reveal different documentation strategies unique to that particular context. These sessions are free.

Dates, time and location to be determined.

For more information, contact: smburwell@gmail.com

Let's Talk

Third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm Central Time

"Let's Talk" is an opportunity for conversation, provocations and questions about working with young children, and the intersection of inspirations from the schools of Reggio Emilia. The goal is to create a space for networking the Network. A facilitator will review a set of guidelines for open discussion at "Let's Talk," invite those who attend to introduce themselves and then encourage topics from the group for discussion. This platform allows for the emergence and sharing of ideas and perspective taking.

There will be an opportunity to break into small groups for focused discussions on suggested topics if the group would like to move in that direction. "Let's Talk" is offered on the **third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm** and is free. Check the events section of the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota website <https://www.mnreggio.org> to register and receive a Zoom link.

September 15, 2022
October 20, 2022

November 17, 2022,
December 15, 2022
January 19, 2023
February 16, 2023
March 16, 2023,
April 20, 2023

No Let's Talk from May - August

Contact Marty Watson for more information: martywatson549@gmail.com

Loose Parts Laboratory

The Loose Parts Laboratory (LPL) opened in 2022 and is a space, inspired by the Remida Center in Reggio Emilia, where engaging, recycled, re-purposable materials are available at little to no cost. The Loose Parts Lab is located in Belle's ToolBox in Minneapolis, itself a creative neighborhood space.

With all the excitement surrounding our partnership with Belle's ToolBox, we are thrilled to announce upcoming Open Shop Days and Workshops being offered at the Loose Parts Lab.

Open Shop Days for the remainder of 2022 will be:

August 28, 2022	1 - 4 pm (also a workshop day, see below)
September 14, 2022	2 - 4 pm
September 17, 2022	10 am - 4 pm (LPL is open during the Longfellow Neighborhood Art Crawl)
September 18, 2022	10 am - 4 pm (LPL is open during the Longfellow Neighborhood Art Crawl)
September 24, 2022	10 am - 2 pm
October 1, 2022	10 am - 2 pm (also a workshop day, see below)
October 19, 2022	2 - 4 pm
October 23, 2022	1 - 4 pm (also a workshop day, see below)
November 5, 2022	10 am - 2 pm
November 9, 2022	1 - 4 pm
November 20, 2022	2 - 4 pm
December 3, 2022	10 am - 3 pm

The intention of our Workshops is to explore the materials together, in order to deepen the ways that we might offer the materials to children. Workshop fees include materials. These are in-person events.

August 28, 2022 2 - 4 pm

Working with Children and Loose Parts Found in Nature

This hands-on workshop will allow adults to learn the affordances of the materials and bring back items to the children in their lives. To support a rich conversation, this workshop is for adults only. Cost: \$10. Workshop led by Deb Schein. [Register](#)

October 1, 2022 12 - 2 pm

Materials Exploration to Support Using Loose Parts with Children

This hands-on workshop will allow adults to learn the affordances of the materials, and bring back items to the children in their lives. To support a rich conversation, this workshop is for adults only. Cost: \$10, includes materials. Registration required. Workshop led by Sandy Burwell. [Register](#)

October 23, 2022 2 - 4 pm

Wonders of Cardboard, More Than Just a Box

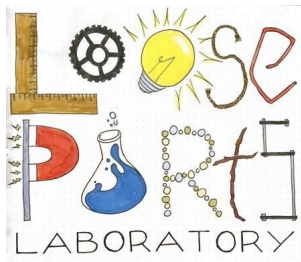
This hands-on workshop will allow adults to learn the affordances of cardboard and new ways to offer this easy-to-find, versatile material to children. To support a rich conversation, this workshop is for adults only. Cost: \$10, includes materials. Registration required. Workshop led by Peter Hoh, Tool Lending Library. [Register](#)

Live Facebook link for Loose Parts Lab: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/863030824612542/>

Live link to Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/loose_parts_laboratory/

Address: 3400 42nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Website for our host Lucy Elliott: <http://www.belles-toolbox.org>



The Loose Parts Laboratory, housed in Belle's ToolBox, 3400 42nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406, is a space curated with a variety of donated materials to distribute for low or no cost. It aims to provide a growing initiative of increasing materials, patronage and volunteers.

Loose Parts Lab Update

Heidi Wolf

Heidi has been a member of the Reggio-Inspired Network of MN for 20 years. She currently serves on the board, the Outreach and Growth Committee and was the driving force in the creation of the Loose Parts Laboratory Materials Center, where she continues to focus much energy. She has worked in early childhood for over 20 years and has a passion for creating meaningful opportunities for children to grow and learn together.

The Loose Parts Laboratory team busied itself during the spring with a number of soft opening events. At each event we welcomed a slow trickle of people coming to explore the range of materials available. The pace of the visitors was just what was needed, allowing us to chat with folks, hear their project ideas and the ideas they had for the materials or ways they might use what they found.



We continue to be delighted to work in collaboration with Lucy Elliot, founder of Belle's ToolBox. As she tends the ToolBox garden, she cultivates conversations and relationships with people that pass by. These encounters are a perfect example of community and collaboration. Recently, Lucy met Ophie, a kind neighbor who offered to help by bringing her cordless weed whip over to trim the tall boulevard grass that was a remnant of the "No Mow May" pledge. She quickly trimmed the tall grass and highlighted the beautiful milkweed patch. With the milkweed standing tall and visible, a neighbor passing by on a bike ride was compelled to stop and check it out. Rob introduced himself and shared that he lived in the neighborhood and was an avid Monarch butterfly admirer. He asked Lucy if he could check the plants for monarch caterpillars. Having an expert eye, Rob found two tiny caterpillars and asked Lucy if he could take them to share with his young four-year old neighbor. He wanted to share the monarch's life cycle with her. This inspired Lucy to make a few garden signs with her grandchildren to label the milkweed patch. Her granddaughter drew the illustrations for the life cycle of the caterpillar.



A few days later, Lucy saw a mom and a little girl at the same milkweed patch and greeted them with the wondering question, "Do you know Rob?" Sure enough, this was Rob's young neighbor,

coming to seek out more caterpillars! Just like the waves of a pebble dropped in the water, the ripple effect of one kind action has an ongoing impact. We are thrilled to continue this partnership with Belle's ToolBox and witness the ripple effect.

End-of-Year Celebration/Annual Meeting

On May 20th, the Network held its end-of-year celebration at Belle's ToolBox. It was a wonderful night to connect with old and new friends and host a grand opening for the Loose Parts Lab (LPL), housed in Belle's ToolBox.



The event was primarily a social occasion and each Network committee reported briefly on its current work. The LPL planning team and Lucy Elliot were honored for their work in transforming the idea of a Twin Cities area recycle/repurpose center into a beautiful reality. The optimism, energy and commitment of the people drawn to the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota was evident and inspiring.

Reflection of an Experience

Rie Gilsdorf

Rie Algeo Gilsdorf, MS, MA, has broad experience as a principal, arts administrator, instructional coach, teacher of science and dance, and parent in many settings, including the Reggio-inspired programs of Portland's Opal School and The Blake School in Minneapolis. Rie is a past Board Co-Chair and Civic Engagement Committee Chair of the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota and current member of its

Resource Development Committee. She now provides racial equity seminars, coaching and consulting through Embody Equity, www.EmbodyEquity.com.

During the Network's End-of-Year Celebration/Annual Meeting, I led a social arts activity called 3-D Mapping. This is a methodology for adults that is deeply aligned with Reggio-inspired practice in its collaborative, emergent practice, its inclusion of the community as researchers and its use of multiple languages of thought and learning. Over the course of the evening, a dozen people stopped by to consider how to represent the current state of Early Childhood Education in Minnesota as seen from their unique perspective. We are interested not only in perceptions of the system as a whole, but also in how the Reggio-Inspired Network specifically fits into it.



3-D Mapping comes out of the systems thinking lineage of Peter Senge, Otto Scharmer and others at the MIT Center for Organizational Change, now a separate organization called the [Presencing Institute](#). Senge's work, in turn, comes out of Kurt Lewin's writings on Action Research. Interestingly, our consciousness of a system and our ability to change it are interrelated. Here's the [evolution of the ideas](#):

- You cannot understand a system unless you try to change it - Kurt Lewin
- You cannot change a system unless you transform consciousness - Peter Senge
- You cannot transform consciousness unless you make a system see and sense itself - Otto Scharmer
- You cannot make a system see and sense itself until you see and sense yourself as part of the system - Ubiraci Pataxó

3-D Mapping is a process for increasing our awareness of our system, part of an "Awareness-Based Systems Change" approach.. Notice that in addition to thinking about a system, 3-D Mapping invites members of the system to sense into it by using the aesthetic language of found objects placed into a collage. The meeting venue of [Belle's ToolBox](#), which houses the Network's Loose Parts Laboratory Materials Center, provided a rich source of small objects to use. I collected a basket of items and placed them around the edges of a card table, then invited people to place them on a sheet of paper representing our system. As they placed their objects, I jotted down their words on post-its and placed them in a corresponding spot on a sign that invited people to participate... [Read more](#)

Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota Scholarships

RINM Education Scholarship

The Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota's Education Scholarship is available to those interested in learning more about the Reggio Approach. Everyone is invited to apply at any time of the year (a minimum of 6 weeks before an event you plan to attend). This scholarship may be used for registration costs to local, national or international Reggio-inspired workshops and conferences. Preference will be given to professional development opportunities where educators from the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy are presenting. Funds are limited and awards are made at the discretion of the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota Board.

[RINM Education Scholarship Application](#)

Monthly Gatherings Scholarship

This scholarship, established by the Network's Board, is in honor of Sandy Burwell, a founding member of the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota. Sandy has been particularly devoted to the Saturday Gatherings. The dates for the Monthly Gatherings Scholarship cover a full calendar year, from January to December each year. The application deadline is November 15, 2022.

[Monthly Gathering Scholarship Application](#)

Calls for Participation

“Participation, in fact, is based on the idea that reality is not objective, that culture is a constantly evolving product of society, that individual knowledge is only partial; and that in order to construct a project, especially an educational project, everyone’s point of view is relevant in dialogue with those of others, within a framework of shared values. The idea of participation is founded on these concepts: and in our opinion, so, too, is democracy itself.”

Paola Cagliari, Angela Barozzi and Claudia Giudici

Join Us

The Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota is an all-volunteer non-profit 501c(3) organization. Most of our work occurs in committees, where issues are studied, proposals developed and activities implemented. We are looking for a wide range of people with varied skill sets to join our work. Critically, we need people who are willing to collaborate, to do some planning up front, jump in and learn as they go. We would like to hear from you. There are no fees or dues involved, just an interest in learning and growing together. Help us grow our active and vibrant collaborative.

Committees

Resource Development

To develop the diverse sources of finance and material support to sustain the Network

Business: budgeting, grant writing, fundraising

Contact Marty Watson martywatson549@gmail.com

Outreach & Growth

To plan events, promote the growth of Reggio-inspired knowledge and practice and expand the Network

Event planning, knowledge of the Reggio Emilia educational project, community organizing

Contact Heidi Wolf hwolf@bsmschool.org

Loose Parts Laboratory Materials Center

To develop and grow offerings of materials and workshops.

Curate, maintain and display materials

Contact the committee at loosepartslabmn@gmail.com

Communications

To make the work of the Network visible, coordinate communication, improve tools to highlight and elevate the work of the Network and build relationships

Writing, editing, research, graphic arts, social media, information/project management

Contact Lani Shapiro lani.shapiro@gmail.com

Civic Engagement (currently dormant, but could rise with interest and leader)

To provide information and resources to policy makers, educators and other citizens in order to influence education policy and promote learning through inquiry.

Knowledge of early childhood and/or K-12 education policy and evidence-based research to support the Reggio approach

Contact Patti Loftus pattiroseloftus@gmail.com

If you are interested in volunteering to support the Network, please email the chair of the relevant committee. If you have general questions, or would like to contribute to the Network in another way, please contact board members at reggioinspiredmn@gmail.com.

Share your knowledge or experience

The Outreach and Growth Committee has started to plan the Monthly Gatherings for the 2023 - 2024 school year. The Network broadened during the pandemic as we met via the Zoom platform, and we are excited to continue a virtual component for all our gatherings. This means that you can participate as a host/presenter even if you are not living in the Minneapolis/ St. Paul area! Presentations need to include and build on Reggio principles and may include past or current work or area of study. Presentations often include a variety of approaches, including discussion, hands-on experiences and video/or Powerpoint.

Please consider this as a personal challenge to lead or co-lead a Network event. We would like to

incorporate your experiences into upcoming events.

Some questions to get you thinking:

- What have you been exploring and learning with your children?
- What conversations have given you insight into their theories?
- How are the Hundred Languages expressed in your setting?
- What strategies, intentions and hypotheses have you discussed as a staff?
- What have you struggled with and created solutions around?
- What other learning stories could you tell?

A stipend of up to \$200 is given for a 2-3 hour Gathering, with additional funds if your presentation has Parent Aware/Develop MN approval.

Proposals for presentations will be accepted until June 1, 2023. We look forward to engaging with participants from all over the US and the world! Here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/pHMzedRfNoxd9NTJ6>

NAREA

Be sure to check out the events offered by NAREA, the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance. NAREA exists to connect early childhood educators and advocates together in discovering, interpreting and promoting Reggio Emilia inspired education. If you are a member, you will receive another discount. With ZOOM classes, there are many more opportunities to become involved with the Reggio Emilia educators in Italy. For more information, visit <https://www.reggioalliance.org/anarea/>.

Public Library Resources

The Debra S. Fish Early Childhood Resource Library is located at Think Small, 10 Yorkton Court, St. Paul, Minnesota. The collection is part of the Saint Paul Public Library system catalog <http://www.sppl.org/> and is available through the statewide virtual library, MnLINK at <https://www.mnlinkgateway.org>. The Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota partners with the Debra S. Fish Early Childhood Resource Library to provide access to literature about the Reggio approach. All the resources are translated into English (even if the title is listed in Italian). All you need is a library card. Resources can be delivered and returned to ANY Minnesota public library.

Even with COVID-19 restrictions, the Debra Fish Library resources continue to be available by request. [This link](#) lists the collection clustered under general topics related to Reggio thought. The links (SPPL or MnLink) will take you directly to that title in the collection. Additionally, you can search by keyword “Reggio” in the library catalogue.

Job Opportunities

There are a number of positions currently available. Click here for current job postings:
www.mnreggio.org/jobsforum

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Newsletter Editors

Lani Shapiro - Content

Emily Benz, Patti Loftus & Reba Batalden - Copy

Sarah Grundhoefer - Production