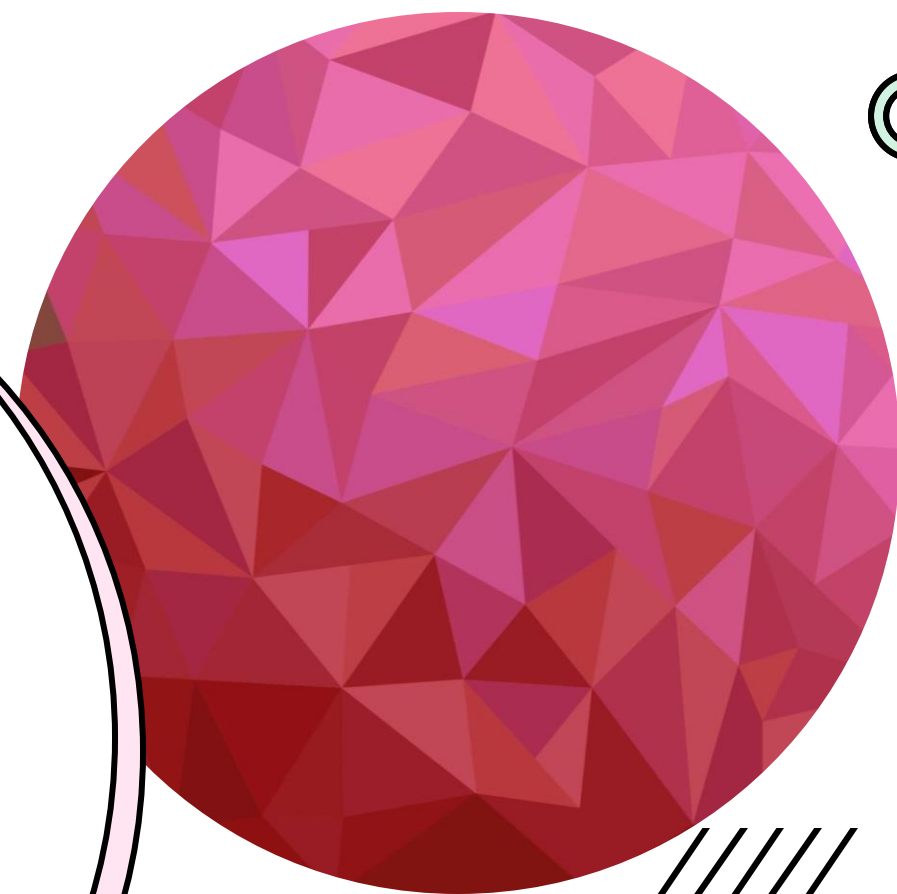




**POLITICAL
ADVOCACY
FOR
SOCIAL
JUSTICE**

**MAGGI COLWELL, ATR-BC
(THEY/THEM)**

**CHERYL PETE, ATR-BC
(SHE/HER)**



AGENDA

- How a bill becomes a law
- How art therapists can take action to support and advocate for legislative change
- Ethical concerns related to social justice advocacy
- Art & Discussion





How a bill becomes a law

- Idea is written into bill and sponsor(s) are identified
- Bill is assigned to committee and waits to be introduced
- Bill is introduced, proponent and opponent testimony is heard
- If bill is voted out of committee, it goes to the floor of the House or Senate to be reviewed again.
- Bill is introduced, proponent and opponent testimony is heard





How a bill becomes a law

- If bill is passed, then it goes to the opposite assembly for testimony and voting
- If it passes, the House and Senate versions are reconciled
- Once this is complete, it goes to the President or Governor to be signed or vetoed.
- If it's vetoed, the General Assembly/Congress can override the veto and it still passes
- All this must be completed during the 2 year period between elections. If not, the bill "dies" and the process begins again!
- Many bills get passed during the "lame duck" session, which is the period at the end of each 2 year term after the elections.

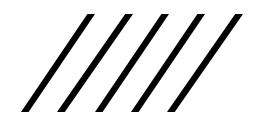





What about
lobbyists?

The Batchelder Company

...experience in Ohio's state government process, and the knowledge of how to navigate the multifaceted systems of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Our ability to understand and simplify these complexities make it easier for clients to reach their goals and objectives.





How art
therapists
can take
action



How to make real change?



Social justice decision
making



Jargon, statistics, research
vs stories, common ground



Create a bridge

○ **Federal and State Issues Affecting Art Therapists**

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Art Therapy Licensing
- Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE)
- Addressing the Opioid Misuse and Overdose Epidemic
- Re-Unifying Children Separated at the Border
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Funding for the Arts
- Including Art Therapy in Schools

<https://arttherapy.org/blog-aata-2018-election-day-guide/>





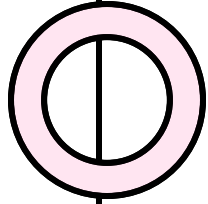
Ethics

"Art therapists risk viewing our clinical work as operating separately from political discourse. By upholding standards of professional neutrality, practitioners passively collude with the dominant forces at play in American culture; including, but not limited to, poverty, ableism, racism, misogyny, ageism, xenophobia, heterosexism, settler colonialism, etc. In turn, these discriminatory forces marginalize the most vulnerable communities; the people mental health practitioners often espouse to support. **We must consider civic engagement as clinical intervention.**"

-Alison Dowd

<https://headhearttherapy.com/art-therapy-is-a-political-practice/>





Ethics, Advocacy and Clients

Balancing

Balancing advocacy and role as therapist

Discussing

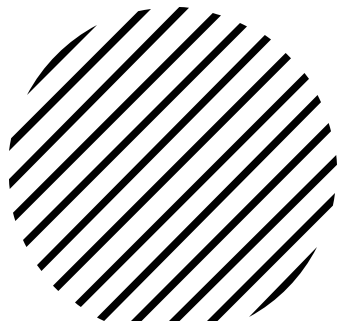
Discussing social justice topics in session

Asking

Asking clients to give testimony



Art & Discussion



What is your ideal role in advocacy versus where you are now?

What gaps do you need to close to get to where you want to be?

○ Contact Us

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