We will gather at Atelier 133, a community art gallery, where we will have the opportunity to view and study the art of eight local artists. These artists will be present to share their processes and the language of their materials and will have prepared materials for us to explore related to their creative approaches. Conversations with the artists will lead to deeper understanding of the relationships between ideas and materials, the ways curiosity leads to exploration, expressive communication, and learning.

These experiences will provide the foundation for a facilitated discussion of the relationship between schools and the city, children and art, and pedagogy and the atelier.

NAREA collaborates with local early childhood organizations, groups, schools, and higher education institutions to offer low cost, relevant, and meaningful professional development. Brick by Brick initiatives feature topics and presenters that contribute to strengthening understanding of Reggio-inspired values, principles, and experiences. As Rinaldi suggests, “the hundred languages of the children have to become the hundred languages of the teacher” (2006, p. 195).

“My feelings of wonder, and the sense of the extraordinary, were stronger than my happiness. I was an elementary school teacher. I had been teaching for 5 years, and had done 3 years of university. Maybe it was my profession that hampered me. All of my little models were laughingly overturned: that building a school would ever occur to the people, women, farm laborers, factory workers, farmers, was in itself traumatic. But that these same people, without a penny to their names, with no technical offices, building permits, site directors, inspectors from the Ministry of Education or the Party, could actually build a school with their own strength, brick by brick, was the second paradox” (2000, p.14).

— LORIS MALAGUZZI
