

Welcome! *Buona Estate!*

The 20th NAREA Summer Conference

Welcome to The 20th NAREA Summer Conference, “Advocating for the 100 Languages as an Educational Right for Children, Families, and Educators” in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This is our second conference held in Albuquerque. The first in 2014, “Promoting the Rights of Children: Community Participation and Dialogue” was possible because of the dedication and collaborative spirit of the host community. This year is no different. This community, known for its beauty, art, diversity, and strong cultural identities, once again brings our attention to the rights of humanity. We thank them for their strong organizational support of the *Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material* exhibition and *atelier* and the 2024 NAREA Summer Conference.

This summer, we celebrate the 20th summer conference NAREA has organized for educators in North America. Over those 20 years, we collaborated with Reggio Children and local host communities to offer innovative professional development experiences, bringing together dedicated educators across North America to promote and defend the rights of children, families, and teachers of all cultures.

In that celebratory spirit (cue the confetti), we welcome Marina Castagnetti, Isabella Meninno, and interpreter Jane McCall from Reggio Emilia, Italy. It is through their sharing and exchange that we build our interpretations of the values, philosophies, and experiences of Reggio Emilia’s municipal infant-toddler centers and schools of childhood. For that, we are grateful.

Please enjoy this time of being together in relationship and connection as we craft a better future for our children, our communities, and ourselves.

With nostalgia for the future,

NAREA Board and Staff

