

FINAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material Exhibition + *Atelier*

Atlanta, Georgia & Greenville, South Carolina | 2019–2022





# Community Overview

HOSTED BY  
**Project Infinity**

## Project Infinity



Founded in 2001, Project Infinity (PI) is a research and action project continually pursuing the question of what could be accomplished if we systematically engage with one another. We put Reggio Emilia's principles to work to impact children, parents, teachers, schools, and communities. Project Infinity's schools for young children are living laboratories of Reggio Emilia philosophy in interpreted action; a collection of venues in Georgia and South Carolina designed to challenge the idea that schools are meant to compete. Instead, the Project educators believe that they are destined to collaborate.

PI schools actively share their practices and open their classrooms to the community, producing more than 70 exchange forums that have drawn participation from more than 3000 educators across 250 regional schools.

## Working Group



**Margie Cooper & Thresa Grove**  
Project Infinity



**Gabriela Garcia, Candace Dupree,  
& Belinda Parra**  
Grant Park Cooperative Preschool



**Kathy Stewart, Dewanda Martin,  
& Susan Redmond**  
First Baptist Day School



**Monica Murray & Kym Cook**  
Saint Anne's Day School



**Kristi Cameron & Mandy Palmer**  
The Nest Nursery School



**Jane Montgomery, Patty Randall, Cindy  
Bohntinsky, April MacLane, & Angie Pope**  
Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool

# Venue & Schedule

ATLANTA

## Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool

June 2019 – June 2020

**600+** visitors



GREENVILLE

## First Baptist Day School

June 2020 – June 2021

**70+** visitors



ATLANTA

## Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool

June 2021 – June 2022

**400+** visitors



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It was a very informative and refreshing exhibit. What really stuck with me was the telling of stories through drawing—using words and color to express thinking and ideas—and how 'mark-making' truly fosters a successful learning experience. The exhibit featured great examples and illustrations of mark-making in preschool.

Exhibit Report Excerpt

# 15th NAREA Summer Conference

*Defending Spaces of Creative Freedom:  
Spaces of Joy, Trust, and Solidarity*

**June 27–29, 2019**

Speakers



**Marina Mori**  
Teacher



**Claudia Giudici**  
*Pedagogista and president, Istituzione*

Participants

**344**

States

**31**

Province

**1**

Countries

**7**



Atlanta, Georgia



Atlanta, Georgia

# 18th NAREA Summer Conference

*Designing Spaces of Creative Freedom: Furthering Relationships, Knowledge, and Innovation*

**June 23–25, 2022**

### Speakers



**Alessandra Braglia**  
*Pedagogista*



**Simona Spaggiari**  
*Atelierista*



**Marco Spaggiari**  
*Atelierista*

Participants  
**266**

States  
**29**

Provinces  
**2**

Countries  
**4**

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Participation in the conference expanded my knowledge of the Reggio Emilia philosophy. Seeing it in action and having it explained by professionals was incredibly valuable. Being able to get my individual questions answered and discuss ideas with other attendees helped cement my understanding. I found myself reflecting on the process repeatedly, comparing it to the methods my teachers and I have used. It has helped me define professional development for staff to support their embrace of the Reggio Emilia philosophy. The conference reinforced my belief that this philosophy of learning best supports 21st-century learning.

2019 NAREA Summer Conference Participant

I was impressed by the energy and depth of the lectures. The level of information was so high, yet conveyed with clarity and profound insight into the processes of children's learning.

2022 NAREA Summer Conference Participant

# Professional Learning

**Exhibition and *Atelier* Creation,  
Conferences, Study Visits,  
Discussion Groups, Interactive  
*Ateliers*, New Teacher  
Experiences, Whole Project  
Days, & Workshops**



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We had wonderful interactions with materials and discussion in the *Mosaic of Marks, Words, Materials* exhibition and *atelier* in the session. The amount of time that was given to interact with materials and then have a dialogue with each other, gave the opportunity for rich discussion.

Exhibit Report Excerpt

# Support

# Supporters of the Project

Thanks for making this possible.

- Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool
- Peachtree Church
- First Baptist Day School
- First Baptist Church Greenville
- Project Infinity
- Reggio Children
- NAREA



Members of the Project Infinity working group discuss atelier setup with Marina Mori.

# Significance

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I have had the opportunity to experience this exhibition and *atelier* on several occasions, and each time, I am drawn to the words: Curiosity, Engagement, Invention, Fun. I wrote these words from the exhibit in a special place in my notes, and they continue to resonate with me every time I set up a provocation, choose materials, or engage in dialogue with children and other educators.

A quote from the *atelier* also stays with me: 'The limits of my language are the limits of my world.' If I do not actively engage in exploration, how can I participate in wonderings, reflections, and exchanges with children about their imaginings and interpretations? Without exposure to diverse materials, I risk limiting my own language, knowledge, and expression.

Exhibit Report Excerpt



