

Greetings

August greetings,

Temperatures rise, time flies, and accessible art abounds this summer.

First, I was honored and humbled to work with 11 artists and 30-40 community members on the construction of a mural celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (<http://adamuralvsaohio.wordpress.com/>). I don't think anyone realized how much of an impact the 32 hours of construction, unveiling celebration, and tour would have on us as individuals and as a group. The artists had an incredibly valuable professional development opportunity and showed what true advocates are. I got to step out from behind a computer and work side-by-side with people I usually only communicate with by phone or email. As the days went on, everyone involved realized they were part of something big, something that would make a powerful statement about the benefits of art and inclusion.

This greeting is one more opportunity for me to thank the artists, volunteers, and sponsors (Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Greater Columbus Arts Council, and Ohio Arts Council) who made this mural possible. I encourage you to view it on display at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts this month, or watch our website to find out when it will tour to your community. As we acknowledged how much was accomplished in one weekend and how far our communities have come in 20 years, we recognized how much work remains the next 20 years. Access and inclusion benefits *everyone*, and we can all find small or big ways to make a difference.

I am also proud to say VSA Ohio now has a new website! The address remains the same (www.vsao.org), but there are loads of new features, a regularly updated calendar, a soon to be launched artist registry, and you can download the AEO 2010 Catalog and newly updated Careers in the Arts Workbook.

Looking ahead, VSA Ohio is excited to begin another year of regular programming. The Accessible Expressions Ohio (<http://www.vsao.org/programs/prof-dev-AEO.html>) and Young Soloists (<http://www.vsao.org/programs/outreach-soloists.html>) call for entries will be released in September; another VSA Institute with professional development for educators (http://www.vsarts.org/documents/programs/institute/Institute_Session2.pdf) will be hosted in Columbus in October; and programming for Careers in the Arts (<http://www.vsao.org/programs/prof-dev-careers.html>) workshops is beginning.

VSA Ohio works to connect Ohioans. Share your story, event, or opportunity with us by emailing info@vsao.org and we will spread the word.

All the best,
Erin Hoppe, executive director

From VSA Ohio

VSA Ohio launches new, accessible website!

www.vsao.org was re-launched July 24th and is more accessible and useful than ever. Up-to-date program information, resources, opportunities, and easy to use Arts & Disability in Ohio event calendar are now available. Visit the new site often, share it with your friends, and get involved with VSA Ohio. The new website was designed by Cupps Creative Consulting (<http://www.cuppsconsulting.com/>).

VSAO also looks forward to hosting an online artist registry for artists of all abilities throughout Ohio. This will be a site for artists to network with one another, for artists to gain professional exposure, and for patrons to find arts of all kinds that they love. Registration policies and processes are in development and available soon. Stay tuned!

Mural Celebrating 20th Anniversary of ADA Unveiled

What does the ADA, access, and inclusion mean to you? 27 artists with disabilities from across Ohio answered that question in response to a call for art in June. 11 of these artists traveled to Columbus July 23 - 25 to create a mural celebrating the 20th anniversary of this milestone legislation. Designed by artist, Kong Ho (www.kongho.com), the mural incorporated an array of images and words and now stands 6 feet tall and 30 feet wide. In addition to the artists, approximately 40 community members volunteered their time to assist with its construction. Together these Ohioans created a piece of art and advocacy that celebrates ability, inclusion, and looks ahead to work that must be done in the next 20 years.

The mural was unveiled during a Celebration of 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Ohio Statehouse on July 26 to hundreds of advocates. Thirty four disability and arts service organizations hosted tables at this event, presented by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Dignitaries included First Lady Frances Strickland, Ohio Chief Justice Eric Brown, State Representative Denise Dreihaus (31st district), and several ORSC Commissioners. Their support for the arts and disability rights is commendable!

You can read the July 26 article about the mural project in the Columbus Dispatch at http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/07/26/mural-uses-art-to-create-awareness.html?sid=101.

Ohio Government Television visited the construction site and will create a short video about the process, including interviews by the artists and their stories. The video will be available on the VSAO website soon. Until then, please visit the ADA Mural Blog at <http://adamuralvsao.ohio.wordpress.com/> to share your story, read more, and spread the word.

Bring the ADA Mural to your community!

The ADA Mural will tour the state of Ohio to raise awareness and advocate for arts and disability issues. The mural is made up of 6 (six) panels, each 6' tall x 5' wide, and will bring an important message to your constituents, employees, and guests. The length of display can be negotiated; sites are asked to support transportation costs. Contact Erin at 614-241-5325 today to reserve the mural.

Congratulations to....!

_Paul Wilbur & Malcolm J (Columbus) - their work will be on display at Camelot Cellars (958 North High Street, Columbus 43201) from August 7 - September 30. The show is sponsored by Ohio Art League (<http://www.oal.org/>).

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Have a success story about your art or your community? Share it with us by emailing info@vsao.org or calling 614-241-5325.

From VSA

Call for Writing! The Theme: *Capture* (deadline December 1)

The theme for the 2011 VSA Call for Writing is capture, which invites you to create a short work of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry that captures a moment in time. Your writing will create the most complete description possible of the moment, providing the reader with a written snapshot. Consider describing a significant time or event in your life by focusing on what you could see, hear, smell, or touch. Provide details so that the reader can better understand the moment. You may also approach the theme by capturing a scene from your imagination. Through vivid descriptions, your written snapshot should draw the reader into the world you have created.

Submissions will be judged on creativity, technical proficiency, adherence to the theme, and presence of personal style and vision. The selected pieces will become part of the VSA online writing journal, Infinite Difference Visit <http://www.vsarts.org/x889.xml> for guidelines, teacher resources, and more.

Adaptive Resources

Visit <http://www.vsarts.org/x1022.xml> to search this listing of adaptive tools and resources in categories for art, music, for performers, magazines, and advocacy organizations. The list is intended to provide information, not service as a recommendation or endorsement.

Opportunities

National Video Contest about the ADA, deadline August 13

The National Disability Institute (NDI) has launched a nationwide video contest encouraging persons with disabilities and their families to capture their American Dream and how they are working to achieve it on video. One grand prize winner of the Defining the New American Dream video contest will receive \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, DC. Entries must be received by August 13, 2010. <http://dream.realeconomicimpact.org/>.

Freedom to Create Prize, deadline August 15

"Established in 2008, the Freedom to Create Prize is a celebration of the courage and creativity of artists around the world who use their talents to promote social justice, build the foundations for open societies and inspire the human spirit. It is open to artists in all creative fields. Each year, \$125,000 in prize money is awarded across three categories: Main, Youth and Imprisoned Artists." <http://www.freedomtcreate.com/prize.asp>.

Call for Art: *Time Sensitive*, deadline August 28

Roy G Biv (<http://www.roygbivgallery.org/>) Nonprofit Gallery for Emerging Artists is currently looking for entries for Time-Sensitive, an exhibition to be held at the OSU Urban Arts Space (<http://uas.osu.edu/>). Time-Sensitive will feature work exploring the idea of the ephemeral. Ola Ståhl will select the work. Ephemeral artworks fade, disappear, or simply "end" due to the materials or time that they inhabit. The exhibition will be on view October 2010 - January 2011. Application materials must be submitted by Saturday, August 28. For more information about the entry procedure visit <http://uas.osu.edu/time-sensitive>.

Call for Art: COTA Paratransit Facility Mural, deadline August 30

Central Ohio Transportation Authority (COTA) is currently in Phase III of the construction of a new Paratransit Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility with construction planned for completion by December 2010. A new Mobility Assessment Facility will be part of its new Paratransit Facility slated for completion in late 2010. The goal of the Mobility Assessment Facility is to simulate environmental conditions that an individual would encounter while utilizing public transportation. COTA envisions a floor to ceiling mural on two walls of the Mobility Assessment Facility that portrays a downtown Columbus scene. This mural will aid in creating an environment in this facility that closely simulates what an applicant will experience in a real world environment. Project budget is \$30,000. Read the RFP and apply to this call using the Cafe system by visiting http://www.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=582&sortby=fair_deadline&apply.

Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation Grants, deadline August 31

[Edutopia, 7/14/10] The Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation makes grants to organizations dedicated to serving developing innovative programs, disseminating ideas, or providing direct care or services for children with special needs, acute illnesses or chronic disabilities. Details about the grant can be found at <http://www.iwpcf.org/application/index.html>.

Research on Adults with Autism - Participants needed, deadline September 31

"Assessing the Validity of the Social Communication Questionnaire in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual disability." Would you like to learn more about the diagnosis of adults with autism? Looking for participants aged 18-40 with intellectual disability with or without a diagnosis of autism. Parents and/or caregivers will complete several questionnaires assessing symptoms of autism and behavioral profiles of participants. Compensation provided.

Contact: Whitney Brooks, Ohio State University - Nisonger Center, 614-247-6237, whitney.brooks@osumc.edu.

Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program, November 12

This program is a national initiative to support the artistic revitalization of outstanding arts teachers. Eligible teachers can apply for grants of up to \$5,500. Complete program information can be found at <http://www.surdna.org/what-we-fund/thriving-cultures/thriving-cultures-whats-new/239-surdna-arts-teachers-fellowship-2011-applications-now-available.html>.

Resources

Subject Map Provides Ways to Fuse Arts Subjects, 21st Century Workforce Skills

[ExpertClick.com, 7/16/10]

"The 21st Century Skills Map for the Arts demonstrates how the three Rs and four Cs (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation) can be fused within arts curriculum. The map was released at a Capitol Hill briefing by representatives from P21 (<http://www.p21.org/>), the American Alliance for Theatre & Education, the Educational Theatre Association, the National Art Education Association, MENC: The National Association for Music Education, the National Dance Association, and the National Dance Education Organization. The map provides educator-created examples of how art subjects (dance, music, theatre, and visual and media arts) can be fused with skills to create engaging learning experiences that promote 21st century knowledge and skill acquisition." Read the rest of the article at <http://bit.ly/c3p8tz>.

Open Studio: A Collection of Art-Making Ideas by Artists [Getty Teacher Update, July 2010]

"Artist Mark Bradford conceived this project especially for K-12 teachers. He asked 11 international artists to create art-making activities that present the perspectives of practicing artists. Each activity is presented as a free, downloadable PDF that includes an art-making prompt, an artist biography, and images of the artist and works of art by the artist." Read more about Open Studio at <http://blogs.getty.edu/openstudio/>.

Book: Artful Teaching - Integrating the Arts for Understanding across the Curriculum K-8

The authors of this book share exemplary arts-integration practices across the K-8 curriculum. You can find more information, including how to order this book, by visiting <http://store.tcpres.com/0807750808.shtml>.

Book: Quality Literacy Instruction for Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders

Recognizing the high human cost of poor literacy skills, Autism Asperger Publishing Company and authors/editors Christina Carnahan, Ed.D., and Pamela Williamson, Ph.D. have teamed up with experts in literacy and autism to produce Quality Literacy Instruction for Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders. Carnahan and Williamson's text is based on the premise that all individuals, including those with ASD, have the ability to participate in meaningful literacy experiences.

The authors and editors address the needs of individuals with ASD across levels of functioning and from diverse backgrounds. With the complexities of these children in mind, they provide strategies and techniques, including technology, that facilitate language and literacy skills so that all children can achieve their highest potential. For more information on this and other AAPC textbooks, please visit www.aapctextbooks.net or call toll free 877-277-8254.

Advocacy Resource: UNESCO E-Journal 'Making the Case for the Arts' Released

This refereed journal promotes the focus of the UNESCO Observatory for Multi-Disciplinary Research in the Arts. Papers from this e-journal include:

_Artist Meets Audience: Understanding the Social Meaning of Art on the Internet

_Finding 'The Power to Believe' - Creating Multi-Model Texts in the Intermediate Classroom

_Advancing Inclusive Education and 21st Century Learning Skills Through the Arts

_Creativity and Arts-Based Knowledge Creation in Diverse Education Partnership

Practices: Lessons from Two Case Studies in Rethinking Traditional Spaces for Learning

_Teachers' Experiences of Professional Programs in the Arts: Generalist Teachers as Arts Advocates

You can read the full journal at <http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/unesco/ejournal/vol-one-issue-five.html>.

Professional Development: "A Resume's Key Components"

[examiner.com; August 2, 2010]

"Unfortunately, there is not a one-size-fits-all résumé template for every professional job seeker. But Karen Hughes, SUCCESS Coordinator at Jewish Family Services in Columbus, Ohio, says most professional résumés contain the following components..."

Read the rest of the article at <http://www.examiner.com/career-transition-in-columbus/a-resume-s-key-components>.

News

Ohio: Study Predicts \$73.5 Million Impact from World Choir Games [Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/8/10]

"The 2012 World Choir Games, to be held in Cincinnati, will have an estimated economic impact of \$73.5 million, according to a University of Cincinnati report released. The impact includes direct spending of \$36 million by the operators and organizers of the event, participants who will stay at hotels downtown and elsewhere, and by spectators. Indirect spending accounts for the rest of the estimated impact. More than \$1.8 million in new tax revenue is expected to be collected by Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and other local governments as a result of the direct and indirect spending for the event, the study found...The Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau, which recruited the event, says up to 20,000 participants from more than 70 countries, and 90,000 spectators, are expected to attend what is billed as the largest choral festival in the world." Read more at <http://bit.ly/9joeqd>.

Lott Industries retools from loss of auto work, explores art niche [Toledo Blade, 8/9/10]

"Like any budding artist, 30-year-old Craig Toczynski spends hours honing his unique people paintings, or perfectly placing shards of colored glass on a clear heart as he works in a room crowded with fellow artisans and their volunteer assistants...Mr. Toczynski's artwork - and that done by dozens of others with developmental disabilities - is just one part of the rebirth of a Toledo company that, like the region itself, paid a heavy price in recent years for relying too much on the auto industry." Read the rest of the article at <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100809/NEWS16/8080351>.

2010 Great Lakes Region ADA Report Cards: Ohio Scores a "C"

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the ADA the DBTAC - Great Lakes ADA Center conducted a poll to learn more about the perception of people with disabilities, their family members and individuals who work with people with disabilities regarding the implementation of the ADA in their communities.

Over 3,500 individuals took poll across six states - IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI. Overall respondents indicated that while they saw progress over the past 20 years there is still a long way to go. Barriers to community participation and employment continue to persist across our region and while we celebrate the accomplishments to date we are reminded of where we still need to go. The results of the Poll provide a blueprint for our communities and the work that they have ahead of them to ensure that people with disabilities realize the full promise of the ADA.

View Ohio's report card by visiting <http://www.adareportcard.org/ReportCard/index.php>. If you want more information regarding the Community Poll and results contact the DBTAC-Great Lakes ADA Center at 800-949-4232 or by email at adata@adagreatlakes.org.

Ohio RSC Announces More Than \$2 Million in ARRA Stimulus Projects

COLUMBUS (July 28, 2010) "ARRA funds are being invested in projects that will create self-employment opportunities, deliver technology training and support transportation projects," said Administrator Michael Rench. "These investments will build wealth and increase community access for Ohioans with the most significant disabilities." Four projects were selected from competitive proposals that were reviewed by a panel of state vocational rehabilitation experts and RSC's state agency partners. View the projects at <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100809/NEWS16/8080351>.

Federal Arts Education Funding Approved by House

On July 15, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies passed initial legislation to fund the FY 2011 U.S. Department of Education's Arts in Education programs at \$40 million, which is level funding from last year. The subcommittee bill also maintains the current structure of federal arts education support, grants to model projects, and professional development. This is good news for VSA and arts educators - thank you to the many advocates who raised their voices!

Anniversary of ADA Brings Presidential Order to Hire More Workers [with Disabilities]

[(Washington Post, Wednesday, July 28, 2010)]

"As the country marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act this week, the Obama administration and Congress are taking steps to give the [workers with disabilities] greater access to federal jobs and technology." To access the full article visit http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/27/AR2010072705699.html?wpisrc=nl_fed.

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You can also read Remarks by the President on 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act from the South Lawn on July 26, 2010 by visiting <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-20th-anniversary-americans-with-disabilities-act>.

Revised ADA Regulations Implementing Title II and Title III

The U.S. Dept. of Justice just released revised Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations on July 30. There are some very important changes that will impact the cultural community. For example the new regulations include: a new definition of "service animal;" changes in requirements for accessible ticketing and seating; and new definitions of "mobility device." Read the regulations at <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>.

Arts & Disability in Ohio Calendar

Several events are listed here - for a complete, up-to-date listing of events make a habit of visiting the VSAO calendar at <http://www.vsao.org/connect/events.html>.

August 7 - 28, Accessible Expressions Ohio on display at ROYGBIV gallery, Columbus

53 works from the AEO tour will be on display at ROYGBIV a gallery for emerging artists. An Opening Reception will be held from 7:00-10:00 pm on Saturday, August 7 during the Short North Gallery Hope. Located at 997 N. High St., Columbus, 43201, ROYGBIV's gallery hours are Wed-Fri 3:00 - 6:00pm and Saturday 1:00 - 5:00pm. For more information visit www.roygbivgallery.org/.

August 5 - mid September, Accessible Expressions Ohio on display at We Care Arts, Kettering

The AEO tour will be on display at We Care Arts - 3035 Wilmington Pike, Kettering OH 45429-4001. Gallery hours are Mon - Fri, 9a - 4p and Sat, 10a - 2p. Call 937-252-3937 or visit www.wecarearts.org/ for more information.

August 17, 2:00 - 3:00pm, Audio Session: ADA & After School and Daycare Programs for children with disabilities

Parents of children with disabilities are often faced with limited choices when it comes to locating appropriate after school and daycare programs to meet the needs of their children. Many daycare and after school providers are reticent about accepting children with disabilities into their programs... Join our speakers as they discuss best practices in day care and after school programs for serving children with disabilities and resources that are available to assist providers and parents. Speaker: Dr. Ruth A. Wolery, Director, Susan Gray School Assistant Professor of the Practice of Special Education Vanderbilt University. There is no cost for participants attending at The Ohio State University (Columbus), Ability Center (Toledo), Linking Employment, Ability & Potential (Cleveland); and Southeast Ohio Center for Independent Living (Lancaster). Otherwise session is \$25 for nonprofits and \$40 for other entities. Registration is required, email adaohio@aol.com or call 614-844-5410.

July 1 - Sept. 30, Accessible Expressions Ohio on display at Ohio Statehouse

The AEO tour will be on display at the Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215. Hours are Monday - Friday, 7:00am - 6:00pm and Saturday - Sunday, 11:00am - 5:00pm. For more information please call 614-728-2696.

September 14, 2010 Legislative Advocacy Day

Come and tell your legislators why living in the community is important to you!

10:30a - Opening Ceremony; 11:30a - Legislative Visits

To register for the event visit: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration/>

Contact: Carmen Shelton at 740-505-8337; Sponsored by the Nisonger Center at the Ohio State University and Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

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Empowering individuals with disabilities, creatively and inclusively, through the arts.

VSA Ohio is a member of the international network of VSA, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA is creating a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Funding for VSA Ohio is provided by VSA, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, individual, and corporate sponsorship.

Please forward and share the VSAO e-Voice. Anyone can subscribe by sending contact information to info@vsao.org.

We invite comments on the VSAO e-Voice newsletter. Share your experiences of participating in events around the state or offers suggestions for future stories. Email your feedback to info@vsao.org.