

Greetings

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It's already shaping up to be quite an exciting one for VSA Ohio.

A Day of Arts for All will be March 3 at the [Westerville Community Center](#). Always inspiring, never boring, only sometimes snowing... Please join us and see all 88 pieces from the Accessible Expressions Ohio 2012 tour on display - the only time the exhibit is on display in full before the statewide tour. We'll enjoy the musical talents of the 2012 Young Soloists and there will be a *free* professional development session for artists. You asked and we answered, it's earlier in the day so attendees will be able to see the AEO award presentations. Stay tuned for an announcement about content and registration.

A new www.vsao.org is scheduled to be released on March 3rd, in conjunction with Day of Arts for All. Thanks to funding from the Greater Columbus Arts Council (City of Columbus), VSAO is working with treetree branding (<http://treetreebranding.com/>) to update our site to meet your needs, improve use, and highlight those who matter most - you!

ReelAbilities - Columbus is coming in November. A screening committee is currently delving through the ReelAbilities NYC winners to see which ones will be on the marquee this fall.

Arts Education residencies are growing across the state. The Adaptation, Integration, and the Arts program is making education more accessible and inclusive for 19 schools/79 classrooms/1,300+ students thanks to engaged educators and the talents of 15 incredible teaching artists in dance, drama, visual arts, and poetry. Applications for school year 2012-13 will be available in the spring.



An AIA residency class, pre-performance

Keep creating,
Erin Hoppe
executive director
ehoppe@vsao.org

From VSA Ohio

A Day of Arts for All 2012!

Saturday, March 3, 2012, 11am - 2pm at the Westerville Community Center

(<http://www.westerville.org>)

- 17th annual Accessible Expressions Ohio Opening Ceremony and Awards
- Accessible art-making experiences for all ages
- Performances by the 2012 VSAO Young Soloist winners and award presentations
- Professional Development session for artists - to be announced

Accessible Expressions Ohio 2012 Artists Selected!

Thanks to everyone who entered the AEO 2012 competition - there were some really amazing pieces. Adjudication is always a difficult job, but Jim Arter, Helma Groot, and Mindi Rhoades selected 88 wonderful works of art by 77 artists of all ages from all corners of Ohio. This year the exhibit will again feature Gallery Guides, pARTicipate postcards, and a catalog. Stay tuned for images and more from this exciting exhibit.

AEO 2012 Site Applications

Inclusive and accessible sites of all types are invited to host the exhibit between April 2012 and December 2012. The exhibit will typically be on display for 1 - 2 months at each site, and the number of pieces of art at each site is flexible. To bring the AEO 2012 tour to your community next year visit www.vsaohio.org to download the Word version. Email Noelle, nchun@vsaohio.org, with any questions.

Has your vehicle turned into a clunker? Don't sell it---donate it to VSA

Ohio through Volunteers of America's Charity Connections program and get a tax write-off. Your working - or not - vehicle will be picked up within 24 hours and auctioned within 2 weeks. Tax donation documents will be prepared for you. This is an easy way to support VSA Ohio and make the arts more accessible across the state. Click the following link to donate today – <http://www.voago.org/Give-a-Gift/Car-Donation/Charity-Connections-2>. Make sure to select VSA Ohio as your charity of choice. Or call Erin Hoppe for more details at 614-241-5325.

Artists in the News

Andrew Reach from Cleveland is an architect turned digital artist. He has a new website, <http://www.andrewreach.com/>

blog, The Reachesfar Blog, http://www.andrewreach.com/?page_id=419

and 2012 Circles calendar for sale, http://www.andrewreach.com/?page_id=140

Athens Photographic Project

has a new [online shop](#) with hand-crafted photographic prints and gifts/note cards, as well as a featured [Artist Blog](#).

What's going on in your community and with your art? Email ehoppe@vsaohio.org.

Opportunities

Employment Opportunities

Prevent Blindness Ohio, **Vice President of Development & Field Services**, Columbus
<http://ohio.preventblindness.org/employment-opportunities>

Antioch College, **Media Arts Faculty**, Yellow Springs
http://antiochcollege.org/employment/media_arts_faculty.html

Art & Clay on Main, **Art Studio Coordinator**, Lancaster, deadline January 31
<http://www.artandclayonmain.com/>

Call for Resources for Anti-Bullying Initiative, deadline January 31

Theatre for Young Audiences USA and the American Alliance for Theatre in Education are seeking resources for Dramatic Change; this will feature best practices of how theater arts can provide young people with the skills and strength they need to eliminate bullying from their lives. Click here: <http://bit.ly/wlzNho>.

2012 Jefferson Awards, deadline February 10

Ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Central Ohio is home to some special people. These are the people who care about their neighbors and about people they may never meet. They're the people who go above and beyond to make their communities better. The Jefferson Awards recognize those super-volunteers who improve the quality of life in Central Ohio. If you know someone who provides outstanding volunteer service that makes Central Ohio a better place to live, nominate him or her for a 2012 Jefferson Award. Follow this link, <http://www.10tv.com/content/sections/community/index.html>, then click the Jefferson Awards icon for more information.

Walmart Foundation Grants, applications accepted Feb. 1 - Dec 31

Giving to K-12 Public Schools/Districts, Charter Schools, Community/Junior Colleges, State Colleges and Universities; Private schools and other organizations with current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; for projects that address and benefit the needs of the community at large. The Community Involvement Coordinator or manager at the facility nearest you will be able to advise you as to the grant maximum for their location. Available in all states. The grant maximum depends on the facility to which you are applying. A grant average of \$250.00 varies depending on local store. Visit <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/9628.aspx> for more information.

2012 Our Town Grant Guidelines Available, deadline March 1

The National Endowment for the Arts has posted guidelines for the 2012 Our Town grants. Our Town supports creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Projects may include planning, design, and arts engagement activities that reflect a systemic approach to civic development and a persuasive vision for enhanced community vibrancy. For more information click here: <http://1.usa.gov/wstv9b>.

Target Arts and Culture in Schools Grants, deadline April 30

Target is offering Arts and Culture in Schools Grants to help schools bring more arts and culture into the classroom, enabling them to expand their creativity and horizons. The grant awards are \$2,000 each. For more information click here: <http://bit.ly/aZCVj>.

ING Teacher Award Program, deadline April 30

The ING Unsung Heroes award program recognizes K-12 educators in the United States for their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to positively influence the children they teach. Educators are invited to submit grant applications describing class projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. Each year, one hundred educators are selected to receive \$2,000 or more each to help fund their innovative class projects. For more information click here: <http://bit.ly/dwP9kB>.

Partners in Performance Accepting Applications, deadline May 15

Partners in Performance (PiP) is a not-for-profit organization that co-presents chamber music concerts with the goal of stimulating interest in classical music in smaller communities without the financial resources of major urban centers. Their programs have served to elevate local interest in chamber music across the nation, while attracting new audiences and donors. Applications to become a local presenter for the 2013/2014 season are due May 15 and can be access here <http://pipmusic.org/app/>.

Resources

Access Together - Accessible Places in Your Community

Contribute to this searchable database (<http://www.accesstogether.org/>) where you can find out if restaurants, grocery stores, movies, gyms and other places in the community are accessible. Answer questions on places in your neighborhood that will be saved and become a part of the dataset. You can download an APP for iPhone, Android or Blackberry phones. The mission of Access Together is to provide tools for citizens to collect, share and act on accessibility information in their community.

The accessibility of our communities directly impacts who we will pass on the street, who is included in local conversations and who we consider to be our neighbors. Inclusive access to community information and access to buildings, events, and transportation ensures equal rights for all, and diversity in thoughts and actions as we interact in times of need and celebration. Access Together will enable people with disabilities, their family, friends, and neighbors to crowd-source a community's accessibility information. Similar to a Foursquare check-in, a user will open Access Together on their mobile phone's web browser, find their location, and supply answers to accessibility questions. For example "Is the entrance wheelchair accessible?"

VSA's Newest Writing Spotlight - "Stone Strong"

VSA's newest Writing Spotlight is an interactive, digital short story called "Stone Strong," written by Stephen Kuusisto in Book Builder. Book Builder, a Universal Design for Learning project, allows readers to engage with a story in various ways, providing support to a variety of learners. The Writing Spotlight is a classroom resource featuring short literary works by prominent writers with disabilities. Designed to engage middle and high school students and encourage dialogue about disability and diversity, each Writing Spotlight is accompanied by discussion questions and writing activities to promote language arts skills, including reading comprehension and creative writing. Spotlights are published three times per year.

To download and read all available Spotlights, click here: http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/resources/writing_spotlights.cfm.

**The site includes 7 other Writing Spotlights, with many available in Arabic, Spanish, and French!

RealVisions Releases New Publication on Arts Integration

The ARTS Book: Designing Quality Arts Integration with Alignment, Rigor, Teamwork and Sustainability (<http://www.realvisions.net/theartsbook.html>) was written by Linda Whitesitt and Elda Franklin. The content of this book is based on their evaluations of eight arts integration projects over the past seven years in which they conducted over 1,000 structured classroom observations of arts-integrated lessons. The book explains how to ensure rigorous professional development and embed the sustainability of transformed teacher practice in the overall project design.

Resources Available from Arts Integration Forum

The Phillips Collection Education Department held an Educators Forum on Arts Integration in June 2011 entitled "Teaching Through the Prism." This two-day event featured keynote lectures, experiment stations, and was attended by over 170 educators and stakeholders representing 17 states. Resources from the forum are now available online - click here: <http://www.phillipscollection.org/programs/other/prism.aspx>.

Universal Design for Living and Learning

Visit the following links below to learn more about a national demonstration project using universal design in home building, right here in Gahanna, Ohio, the *Universal Design Living Laboratory* (<http://www.udll.com/>)... and *UDL Connect* (<http://community.udlcenter.org/>), a new site devoted to Universal Design for Learning, and originated by Don Glass.

News

U.S. Department of Education Announces New Student Privacy Measures

On December 1, the U.S. Department of Education announced new regulations to safeguard student privacy while giving states the flexibility to share school data that can be helpful in judging the effectiveness of government investments in education. The changes will help policymakers determine if state and federally funded education programs are adequately preparing children for success in the next stage of life, whether that is in kindergarten or the workforce. States will be able to enter into research agreements on behalf of their districts to determine how best to use limited education funding during tough economic times. To continue reading click here: <http://1.usa.gov/w4rMYo>.

New Federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development

The National Endowment for the Arts (www.arts.gov) is leading a new task force of 13 federal agencies and departments to encourage more research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. Most of the research on links between the arts and positive cognitive, behavioral, and social outcomes is small-scale and short-term; there are major gaps in federally sponsored arts research; and there is no nationally representative research on how the arts affect people with illness, injury, or disability. The members of the Interagency Task Force (<http://bit.ly/uXMt7i>) will work together to help fill research gaps and build a stronger evidence base to inform future policy and practices nationwide.

European Union Unveils Arts Funding Plan

The European Commission has proposed the world's largest-ever cultural funding program under the title Creative Europe. The initiative, which would disperse a projected €1.8 billion (\$2.4 billion) between 2014 and 2020, represents a 35 percent increase in European Union expenditures on culture, and is part of a larger Pan-European goal to stimulate the economy through cultural enterprise... This marks a stark ideological gap between the E.U.'s policymakers and the United States funding for the arts to balance the budget and improve the economy. While approximately half of the funds will be allocated to the film industry, €500 million (\$670 million) will be targeted directly toward promoting the visual and performing arts, with an estimated 300,000 artists to receive funding of some kind for cultural projects across the continent. To continue reading, click here: <http://bit.ly/sQakRK>.

New Report Released by University of Chicago about Teaching Artists

NORC at the University of Chicago has released a landmark report on a three-year study of teaching artists (TAs)-artists who make teaching a part of their professional practice. Teaching Artists and the Future of Education found that their work is critical to the future of arts education and to improving the quality of schools. TAs have been major providers of arts education in community settings for over a century. In the process they have made significant contributions to making schools better places for students to learn and grow. NORC's new study offers hope to schools struggling to preserve arts education programs and to policy-makers searching for effective education strategies to improve schools. For more on the Teaching Artists Research Project, click this link, <http://bit.ly/nqX4G0>, or contact Nick Rabkin of NORC at rabkin-nick@norc.org.

Arts & Disability in Ohio Calendar

For a complete listing of events bookmark the VSAO calendar (www.vsaohio.org/connect/events).

Art from the Other Side: Work from a Movement Without a Name

What: Exhibition of artwork from over forty local visionary artists who create at Open Door Art Studio (www.opendoorartstudio.org). The exhibit includes a truly remarkable body of work from artists who cannot easily be defined by a particular movement. We hope that viewers are moved emotionally by the raw and earnest offerings of this wonderful selection of artists.

When: Exhibition runs from January 12 - February 19; Opening Reception is January 12th from 5:30-7:30 pm

Where: Carnegie Gallery, Columbus Main Library, 96 South Grant Avenue Columbus, OH 43215-4781

2012 Ohio Dance Festival and Conference

<http://ohiodance.org/festival.php>

As a moving art, dance is constantly changing with the times while exploring the legacy contemporary dance is now creating. From April 27-29 2012, Co-sponsored by OhioDance and BalletMet Columbus will be filled with master classes in contemporary, ballet, jazz, historical, world, and social dance forms and panel discussions addressing current dance trends. The event will be conducted by dance professionals from universities and colleges plus a professional audition and a Wellness and Your Future in Dance Day, along with session presenters. Registration fees apply; for more information visit www.ohiodance.org, email jane@ohiodance.org, or call 614-224-2913.

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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.

Major funding from
VSA, the international organization on disability
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Arts Council

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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.

VSA Ohio uses *bitly* (<http://bit.ly/>) to shorten selected url addresses.