

Thursday, September 27

9:00am

Welcome

Morning Keynote: Andy Willmore

“Art, Disability, and Accessibility: How our creativity transforms our societies”

As people, we all engage in art through a variety of different, diverse means. For those of us who experience disability, as with many others, creating art often serves myriad more purposes than just self-expression. In light of this conference's focus on accessibility, creativity, and transformation, Autistic music composer, writer, and advocate Andy Willmore seeks to answer an important question: “How does the art of disabled people transform our world into one that is more accessible, diversity-welcoming, and creative-process-friendly?” This presentation will combine speech, text, visuals, and audio to share personal experiences and observations of the presenter, Andy Willmore, that provide an answer to this question.

10:15am – 11:30am

“Stars on Stage: Targeting Social Skills Through Musical Theater and Performance with Kristin Kummer + Alexa Reck

A music therapist and a speech language pathologist will introduce the concept of a “theater group” targeting social and communication skills through drama-based interventions, appropriate for ages 12 through adulthood and for people with a wide range of diagnoses. These interventions target social skills such as joint attention, eye contact and eye gaze, taking turns, imitation, call and response, (might add something about emotional reciprocity or showing dramatic emotions?) and improvisation. This presentation will address the collaboration between therapists, including planning, goal-writing, adapting interventions for a variety of needs, and working together during a session. Participants will receive hands-on experience of acting and improvisation exercises, along with discussing the process of creating, rehearsing, and performing a musical with a group. Learner Objectives: 1) Participants will learn about the collaboration between music therapists and speech language pathologists in a “theater group.” 2) Participants will learn how drama-based interventions can address communication and social skills with people of varying ages with special needs. 3) Participants will experience drama-based interventions that can be used and adapted for use with clients.

“Music Therapy: How something we experience daily literally changes the brain” with Tonya Corso

Music provides the soundtrack to our sporting and social events, it enhances our emotional connections to movies, and it can trigger vivid memories from our past. But it goes much deeper. As research and brain imaging continue to develop, the impact of music on the brain is becoming more clearly defined. This session will include a brief overview of Music Therapy, supporting research, video examples and demonstrations. Participants will gain an understanding of Music Therapy as an evidence-based practice for a wide variety of populations. Participants will see and experience how music and rhythm can facilitate communication, cognition and social interaction. Finally, participants will be provided with information on how to use music personally and how music therapist may put a different spin on music experiences.

“Arts and Accessibility for All” with Derek Mortland

Learn how to assess your facilities and programs for compliance with the ADA. Find workable cost-effective solutions to removing architectural and programmatic barriers that limit participation of people with disabilities in your current events and offerings. Become welcoming and inclusive of all guests and patrons, especially those with disabilities.

“Museums that are accessible to all!” with COSI team members

Modifications are being made every day in many of our local museums to allow all guests to be able to have a positive experience. During this session, you’ll hear from four local museum administrators. They’ll share their stories and top three tips for making your exhibits, programming and special events accessible to all!

11:45am – 1:00pm

Lunch Keynote: Katie Anderson

“I’m Just Fine, Thank You!... and other lies I tell.”

Being raised by a legally blind Father, Katie Anderson was born already knowing that life isn’t fair but nothing prepared her for treating her daughter’s autism. Katie uses pragmatic observations covered in the sometimes dark truths that only caregivers can truly appreciate. Her presentation makes space to talk about the failures as well as the moments of grace that come with helping people who experience the world in different ways.

1:15pm – 2:30pm

“Improvisation for Social Development: Listics as Scene Starters for Transitioning Youth and Adults” with Center for Applied Drama and Autism’s Wendy S. Duke and Samir Hammoud.

Listics are short articles usually found in digital media and are formatted as lists on topics widely diverse, from food choices to business behaviors. Using lists that deal with social interactions and best business practices, acting coaches can develop improvised situations that lead to better understanding of body language, vocal intonation and appropriate responses in school/work/social interactions.

“Dance for Children with Autism: BalletMet’s Brain-Based Developmental Movement Residency” with BalletMet

In this lecture demonstration, three BalletMet teaching artists and one accompanist will discuss their approach to adapting a creative movement residency for a population of students with autism. BalletMet Columbus, the professional ballet company of Columbus, OH, has a unique set of education and community engagement programs, including *The Wiggle Jig (WJ)* (pre-K) and *Moving Into Literacy (MIL)* (K-5). In both programs, teams of teaching artists and accompanists go into elementary schools and community preschool programs to teach creative, brain-based movement classes with the goals of improving motor, cognitive, and social-emotional development and encouraging literacy. Last year, teaching artists from BalletMet taught a hybrid movement program at Bridgeway Academy, a school for students with autism and other developmental disabilities. Teaching artists worked with several classrooms (grades 2-3) to deliver a creative, brain-based movement program focusing on the theme of the life cycle of a butterfly. This presentation will give some background about BalletMet’s programming, discuss how the teaching artists have modified the programming to include students with autism, and finally give a demonstration about what a class might look like (audience participation is highly encouraged!). The teaching artists will also address some of the benefits of dance for students with autism based on research literature and personal anecdotes from the teachers at Bridgeway. During the session, attendees will learn: (1) how dance can be integrated in a classroom setting for students with autism, (2) how to modify a movement curriculum for students with autism, (3) specific techniques for non-dance educators to incorporate dance in an inclusion/special education classroom, (4) the benefits of dance for students with autism, and (5) how professional teaching artists can deliver the movement aspect and why it is an important and enhanced step.

“Visual Art Therapy” with Trisha Clifford Sprouse and Pathways

Description coming soon!

“Autism and Architecture” with Rick Stein

Description coming soon!

2:45pm – 4:00pm

“Trends in Studios serving Artists with Disabilities” with Sharon Dorsey, Keith Banner, Cary Johnston, Melody Linscott

Description coming soon!

“So much to discover: Research on accessibility” with Mary Ann Wojton and Erin J. Hoppe

Description coming soon!

“Adapted music composition, notation and performance for students with severe and multiple disabilities” with Kimberly Kesner

During this session, Kimberly Kesner will provide an introduction to music composition and notation for students with severe/multiple disabilities. Kesner will go through adapted music composition activities, adaptive instruments, adaptive music notation/performance, and finish with a Q+A with instrument viewing. Participants will leave with an understanding of the what and how of adaptive music, with tips for using these strategies in their own spaces.

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Social Hour on the Lincoln Theatre Stage!

Friday, September 28

9:00am

Welcome with Ohio State School for the Blind

10:15am – 11:30am

“Blue Spectrum”

Description coming soon!

“Mindfulness and Movement” with Laura McAllister

In this breakout session we will learn mindful eating, movement and breathing techniques to bring to everyday life. Mindfulness can help reduce anxiety, encourage a healthy mindset, and relieve stress of the mind and body. We will learn the importance of self-awareness and positive thinking through affirmations and kindness. Plan to walk away from this session with a better sense of what mindfulness can offer.

“Those Who Spring of Me” with Matt Swift, Nicolette Swift, and Audrey Todd

Description coming soon!

11:45am – 1:00pm

Lunch Keynote: Jason Tharp, Wonderville Studios

Description coming soon!

1:15pm – 2:30pm

“The Lincoln Legacy” with Shopworks Theatre Company + “Cabaret” with Center for Applied Drama and Autism

- Shopworks Theatre Company presents a tale of the historic Lincoln fighting back from a developer’s plans to tear it down. The Blackberry patch neighborhood made famous by Artist Aminah Robinson will rally together and come alive before your eyes. Singers dancers and comedians who have graced the Lincoln Stage will show up and see if they can change the course of history!
- “There’s No Business Like Show Business” is Theatre on the Spectrum’s first production and we use it as a way to get to know each other and our audiences. Each performer has found material that expresses individual interests to share with the company. Out of our work together, we have found ways to partner with and support each other as a backing chorus. Company members have been inspired to write their own original scripts and comedy material. We will continue to work on the cabaret show as our main touring piece. It will evolve and change as we add new members and new material!

“Writing and Wonder” with Jason Tharp

Description coming soon!

“Doing vs. Being: Creating Identity and Purpose Through the Arts” with Mehri Davis + Krystle Trimmer

Description coming soon!

“But First Do No Harm - The Nitty Gritty of Inclusion” with Joanie Calem

Joanie Calem leads “concert-conversations” about sensory processing disorder (SPD), disability awareness and inclusion. Using original songs and handouts about SPD, this interactive workshop addresses the invisible factors that impact both individuals with SPD/ASD and those around them who aim to support them. The session addresses the important role advocates play: educated advocates help encourage community members to be more accepting and understanding. Joanie is the parent of a son with autism, an inclusive music teacher, and a singer-songwriter. Through her concerts, Joanie hopes that disability awareness will translate into a more tolerant society for all those who are currently marginalized. Attendees will “take away” the following: 1) An in-depth understanding of how SPD can be triggered in public spaces, such as classrooms, museums, restaurants, etc. 2) A consideration of how to structure activities and spaces to minimize SPD overload. 3) An understanding of the emotional challenges of SPD/ASD for both individuals with SPD/ASD and their families. 4) A supportive, facilitated conversation of “best practices” between parents and educators involved with SPD/ASD.

2:45pm – 4:00pm

Dancing Wheels Company & School

Description coming soon!

“Screenwriting Basics” with Eric Hanson

A crash course in screenwriting basics for newcomers to the medium. This presentation will focus on a number of topics including proper script formatting and prose, dialogue, character development, first act set-up and so forth. The presentation will employ use of Powerpoint, as well as clips from films like Back to the Future, Halloween, Raiders of the Lost Ark and others to show these techniques in action on the screen. The aim of the presentation is to help newcomers understand the rules of the screenwriting medium, and the role of a writer in the film medium as a whole. Tips from these presentations are primarily focused on screenwriting, but can also be employed in a number of other storytelling areas such as novels, short stories, and story development for video games. The session will help those interested in screenwriting to better study their favorite films, help them spot storytelling devices they wouldn’t otherwise notice, and employ those techniques in their own work.

“Creative Careers” with AJ Vanderelli + Henry Hess

Description coming soon!

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Friday Finale!

Current Participating Organizations/Artists:

- Art and Clay on Main
- Art Outside the Lines
- Autism Works
- Columbus Children's Theatre
- Creative Foundations
- Everyone is Somewhere on the Spectrum
- Food for Good Thought
- Henry Hess
- Liam's Bees
- Open Arms
- Open Door Studio
- The Vanderelli Room

Presenter Biographies

Katie Anderson



Katie Anderson is a writer and blogger who works full time in the mental health field. Katie's work has been featured in Rabble Lit and the Huffington Post. She writes essays and prose about disability, politics and the working poor in America on her blog <https://lowermiddleclassy.com>. She also likes to interview comedians to talk about the work and business of comedy. Some of her interviews can be found here <http://altdaily.com/author/kanderson/>. Anderson lives in Norfolk, VA with her husband Tim and three cats and no, she will not get a fourth.

Joanie Calem



Joanie Calem, B.A., is a songwriter, teacher, and disability awareness advocate. She is both the parent of a son with autism and a teacher of diverse learners. Joanie leads workshops on strategies to support individuals with SPD, autism, and other learning differences for parents, teachers, community building, disability awareness, and inclusion. Articles include "Creating Safe Musical Spaces," "SPD: The Invisible Mystery Monster," and "The ABCs of SPD." Joanie has presented for Aspirations, SIBS, Head Start, AAUW, the JCC, Friendship Circle, churches, synagogues, preschools, and parent groups. Through her "concert-conversations" Joanie shares in-depth information about sensory processing disorder (SPD), and how SPD impacts people's function in the world, from learning in classrooms, to holding down jobs as young adults, to braving the world in general. Using original songs, Joanie's music serves to spark conversation about what life is like for both individuals with SPD/ASD and those around them who aim to support them. More information about Joanie's work is available at her website: www.joaniecalem.com, and on her YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjJu1jDSTsM&t=37s>

Center for Applied Drama and Autism + Wendy Duke



The Center for Applied Drama and Autism and Ardmore, Inc. have partnered to develop an adult theatre program for people of all abilities with an interest in learning and creating theatre. Our company opened in July of 2017. We are located in West Akron in a small studio where we can rehearse and invite the community in for performances. The focus of the program is to produce work by people with autism and other disabilities while creating opportunities to learn and practice the real life skills that theatre can teach. We are proud to acknowledge that our program was and continues to be inspired by Shopworks Theatre Company in Columbus. Theatre provides a safe space for practicing the ability to self-advocate, follow directions, collaborate, and to create and meet deadlines. Through role play, theatre games, mask work and character study, participants strengthen their social and emotional awareness. The program provides training in skills that are essential in creating theatre on stage and backstage. For more information, visit: www.centerforada.org. Wendy Duke is a lifelong theatre practitioner and educator. She co-founded The Center for Applied Drama and Autism and its performance wing, Theatre on the Spectrum with Laura Valenzza.

Tanya Corso



Tanya Corso, MM, MT-BC, is the Music Therapy Department Supervisor and the Music Therapy Internship Director at Bridgeway Academy where he has been employed since 2003. Tanya has attended Language Acquisition through Motor Planning trainings and enjoys working with early communicators. She has presented at a variety of music therapy and autism conferences and workshops around Ohio, the Great Lakes Region and nationally, and previously served as the Government Relations Chair and President of the Association of Ohio Music Therapists. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton where she trained in voice, piano, guitar and bassoon. Tanya completed her Neurologic Music Therapist training in October 2014, and finished her master's degree in music therapy through Colorado State University in December 2016.

Sharon Dorsey



I have been with Open Door Art Studio & Gallery (a division of Columbus Center for Human Services, Inc.) for over eight years. During that time, I have seen so many changes in our field, and I am so excited to see what the future holds for our artists as they are offered more options for community exploration and exhibition. Art brings a community together and unites us all as a creative collective.

Samir Hammoud



Samir Hammoud is a graduate of Akron Garfield High School and Steel Academy and is currently attending Echoing University and is in Theatre on the Spectrum's adult day theatre program. He has studied theater at Weathervane, Center for Applied Drama and Autism, Cleveland Playhouse, and Broadway Buddies. He has studied dance with Denise Bryant's School of Dance and MacConmara Academy of Irish Dance and Music at the Cleveland Music Settlement. He has attended the Joey Travolta Short Film Camp and has performed with the Steel Angels and was an extra in the film "25 Hill". Samir is interested in screenwriting, acting and music.

Eric Hanson



I took an interest in film and storytelling at an early age, and majored in Film Studies with a focus area in studio and video art at Ohio State University. After Graduating in 2014 with honors, I moved to Los Angeles to find work in studios. While there I became connected with International Screenwriter's Association, and became one of their script readers which I've been doing for over a year. Around this time, I also became a writer for the now defunct MoviePilot magazine, where I met several writing partners. We collaborated to found ScreenHub Entertainment, a pop culture website where we produce our own content on current film and game related news. After moving back to Ohio to pursue other opportunities, I've continued to work for International Screenwriters while also working on several personal projects, including a book and several screenplays.

<https://screenhub.blog/>

Gerlinde Higginbotham



I joined COSI in 2005 working with a partnership between COSI and the Scotts Miracle-Gro Scholarship Program. I served as a Counselor, and Mentor, to 40 students ensuring their academic growth and success. The students graduated from college in 2016 allowing me to help the Volunteer Community Resource Department with development of a structure to deepen engagement with Adult Volunteers, Corporate Volunteers and Special Event Volunteers. I also work with COSI's Community Access Program which exists to serve the needs of underserved communities around informal science education. Through my direct engagement with community-based organizations and schools I have developed key relationships with community leaders and school administrators to generate sustainable partnerships to help make COSI a welcoming and inviting space for under-represented communities; including individuals and families with children with cognitive, developmental and physical disabilities.

Erin J. Hoppe



Erin J. Hoppe has 15+ years of experience as a cultural administrator, researcher, and advocate. Erin is the Executive Director of VSA Ohio, the state organization on arts and disability, where she has worked to make the arts and arts education more accessible since 2008. Erin holds a Masters in Cultural Policy & Arts Administration from The Ohio State University and Bachelor of Arts in Economics from University of California, San Diego. Past professional experiences include The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Smithsonian Institution, and American Institutes for Research. Erin was a Fellow in the Next Generation of Nonprofit Leaders program and the Greater Columbus Arts Council's 2013 Emerging Arts Leader. Erin currently serves on advisory boards for Ohio Citizens for the Arts, Columbus Arts Marketing Association, Barnett Center at The Ohio State University, and VSA Affiliate Council. Erin is passionate about the power of art to facilitate understanding and connections, creating an inclusive society, exploring Ohio's metro parks, and birding.

Irina Keller



Irina Keller is an accomplished musician born in the Ukraine. Her father was a well-known accordionist and a composer in the Ukraine. From very early childhood she learned to play piano and accordion. At the age of 14 Ms. Keller performed in Kiev in a young talent show with the music composition created by her father. She completed music school at the age of 15, and completed college 4 years later. Ms. Keller finished a Master's program in a Moldovan Conservatory at age 27. She is married with one daughter who lives in Boston with her family and children. Recently she became a grandmother second time; her granddaughter Vivien is one-year-old and her grandson

Slava is a first grader. Ms. Keller immigrated to the United States 20 years ago and lives with her husband Dmitriy; they have been married for 37 years now. She has worked at BalletMet since 2006. She works with different groups and ages of children. Ms. Keller enjoys what she does and feels blessed that she can work by playing music. She loves being a part of such mysterious and amazing art as a ballet.

Kimberly Kesner



Kimberly Kesner received her B.A. in Music Education, certified preK-12 from Wright State University. She has been teaching at West Central School for Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the last 4 years. Her students, all of which have severe and multiple disabilities range in age from 10-22 years old. Kim also teaches private music lessons from an in-home studio and has performed for different organizations around central Ohio. She will also be a presenter at the NAFME (National Association for Music Education) National Conference this November in Dallas Texas.

Brian Krosnick



Brian designs, oversees, and manages COSI's locally oriented, hour-long "workshop" style programs both at COSI and in the community (in classrooms, community centers, adult communities, after school programs, libraries, and more). A graduate of the University of Akron, Brian is a licensed Intervention Specialist for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Prior to his current role, Brian taught seventh grade students with special needs in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and traveled throughout the Midwest with COSI on Wheels presenting full-day, hands-on science experiences for whole-school audiences.

Kristin Kummer

Kristin Kummer has been a music therapist at Bridgeway Academy since January 2008. She works with a wide age range in a variety of settings, including in individual, small group and large group music therapy settings. She originated the theater group at Bridgeway Academy and is one of the co-leaders of the school choir. She has facilitated 2 theater-based grants, collaborating with Catco for Kids and the Shakespeare and Autism Project at the Ohio State University. She is trained in the Kelly Hunter Heartbeat Method. In 2018, she partnered with Kevin McClatchy at the Ohio State University's theater department to offer an internship for OSU students focusing on the use of drama interventions with individuals on the autism spectrum. She has been trained in LAMP (Language Acquisition through Motor Planning) and has worked in co-treated sessions with speech language pathologists to facilitate communication with dedicated communication devices.

Laura McAllister



Laura McAllister developed The Meadow Health and Wellness Center in Canton, Ohio, an Adult Day program with a focus in Yoga, meditation, and living a holistic and healthy lifestyle. Laura is a certified Yoga teacher and is in the process of receiving her second certification at Yoga Central in Canton, Ohio.

Derek Mortland



Derek Mortland is President of Advanced Access, LLC. Advanced Access provides training, consultation and on-site access survey services. Derek has over 20 years of experience in the accessibility field, a background in construction, and a life-long passion for arts and music.

Elle Pierman



Elle Pierman is currently pursuing a PhD in Arts Administration, Education and Policy at The Ohio State University, with a research focus on the effects of dance education on socio-emotional development and executive function, particularly in children with autism. She received her Master's Degree in Arts Policy and Administration in August 2016. Though she has explored several career options, she always manages to find her way back to her one true passion: dance. Currently, Ms. Pierman works as a Graduate Teaching Associate at Ohio State, teaching two writing courses related to visual culture/media and diversity. She is in her seventh year as a teaching artist at BalletMet Columbus, and has also been an administrative assistant for OhioDance since 2013. She hopes to continue her career in the dance field following graduation, working in either program evaluation or program development for children with disabilities.

Alexa Reck

Alexa Reck, MA, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist who has been at Bridgeway Academy since August 2013. She has been part of Bridgeway Academy's therapeutic theater program for five years, and also enjoys taking occasional theater courses with a local acting company. She has attended training in the Hunter Heartbeat Method for integrating Shakespeare based theater-games into work with children with autism. Alexa graduated with her Master's in Speech-Language Pathology from The Ohio State University in 2013. Prior to becoming an SLP, Alexa earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in English, and she spent 17 years managing bookstores for Barnes and Noble. She continues to enjoy incorporating books, plays, and literacy topics into her work.

Linzey Rice



Linzey Rice is a graduate student at The Ohio State University pursuing her M.A. in Arts Policy and Administration. Linzey graduated from Wittenberg University in 2016 with a dual B.A. in Communication and Dance. In addition to her work as a teaching artist at BalletMet, she works as a dance instructor in Dublin, OH. Linzey also serves as a Graduate Teaching Associate at OSU where she instructs an undergraduate course on writing contemporary art criticism. Her research interests include youth arts programming, community outreach, and non-profit leadership.

Shopworks Theatre Company



Shopworks Theatre Company is an adult day support program operated through the art of the theater. Started in 2011 the program has grown from 5 people to 25 and counting. We write, produce, direct and perform our original shows. Shopworks members offer their unique perspective of dis/ability to better inform an original point of view. Shopworks perform 3 in-house productions a year in our own black box theater. We also tour in our "Shopworks gives back" program that serves underserved communities. Our Community Outreach goes into other day programs to teach them how to write and perform an original play in a months' time. Our motto is our deed "Building Lives one act at a time"

Matthew Swift



Matt Swift is an academic advisor, program coordinator, and internship supervisor for The Ohio State University Film Studies Program. He serves as the production lead for The Journal of Short Film (Columbus); a freelance multimedia, digital media, and film consultant through Nicolettecinemagraphics; co-founder of the Columbus Moving Image Art Review; and is a practicing media exhibition artist, filmmaker, and presenter.

Nicolette Swift



Since her teens, Columbus video artist, Nicolette Swift has been capturing life in her videos. In 2005 she graduated from The Ohio State University with a double major in Art History and Film and Media Studies. While in her undergrad she discovered a love for working with archival materials. She obtained a Masters of Library and Information Science with a focus in multi-media access from Kent State University in 2007. Since then she has worked with many individuals as well as The Ohio State University, Columbus International Film + Video Festival, Independents' Day Festival, PPG, and Hammond Harkins Galleries to create multi-media content. With the help of her husband and the support of OSU's Film Studies Program she co-founded The Columbus Moving Image Art Review, which has been holding quarterly hour-long screenings since 2009. Currently, her personal projects include avant-garde video essays that incorporate found, archival, and cultural materials.

Dr. Audrey Todd



Dr. Audrey Todd obtained her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Stony Brook University in 2003. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Rutgers University in 1997, and obtained her bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1994. In addition to maintaining a private psychology practice in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Todd is the founder and Executive Director of Food for Good Thought, an organization offering a highly customized suite of job services, often finding its clients positions in the community. Food for Good Thought is internationally accredited as a Community Employment Services provider through CARF (the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities). Dr. Todd is particularly interested in galvanizing persons on the autism spectrum to create innovative employment opportunities for themselves. In 2016, Food for Good Thought was awarded Social Enterprise of the Year through the Center of Social Enterprise Development in Columbus, Ohio. She has obtained multiple grants in various fields to further the careers of persons across the autism spectrum in concert with generous organizations. She resides in Columbus with her husband and two children (one of whom is on the autism spectrum), and enjoys hiking, writing, film, and beekeeping.

Julia Wing



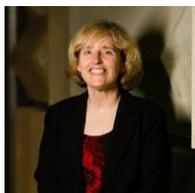
A native of Gahanna, Ohio, Julia Wing has been on faculty with BalletMet since 2005. She has an associate of arts degree and more than fifteen years teaching experience in the dance field. Wing is an ABT® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Primary through Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. Ms. Wing began dancing at age three and has a background in ballet, tap, lyrical and jazz. She was the Pro-Am Scholarship recipient at her local dance studio in 1994. In 2000, she toured the U.S. with Hctor's Dance Caravan in their dance training program.

Andy Willmore



Andy Willmore is a man on the autism spectrum with a love for composing orchestral music, especially in the style one might find on a film or video game soundtrack. He has a similarly strong passion for educating others about autism and his own autistic experiences, and also advocates for changes and expansions on how people beyond the autism spectrum perceive and understand those on the spectrum. Other interests of his include writing short fictional stories, poems, and, most commonly, non-fiction essays or pieces about important topics in our current world; and spending time outside to learn more about the wilderness of nature, and its many diverse, various residents. Andy recently graduated from Capital University, where he majored in music technology, with a minor in computer science.

Mary Ann Wojton



Mary Ann Wojton is a Research Associate with COSI/Lifelong Learning Group. Her work with accessible evaluation includes the VSA Ohio Accessibility Scan, COSI's Sensory Friendly Day modified museum education activities, the Cincinnati Zoo's Access and Inclusion Plan, and the National Federation of the Blind's STEM2U programs. She also uses photo-referent interview techniques to help museums understand if their facility is welcoming to those with disabilities.