Celebrating 29 years of service in May 2015!

VSAO works to change perceptions about ability and disability by helping connect people to creative opportunities that inspire us all. Ever-evolving programs provide an inclusive environment in which people with disabilities are given the opportunity to celebrate life through the arts, education, and creative expression. A network of local, regional, and state-level partners, grass roots efforts, and 21st century outreach strategies allow VSAO to serve many of Ohio’s counties.

VSAO is also an advocate, with services impacting more than 20,000 lives in classrooms, galleries, and other community spaces. Public awareness efforts through traditional print, online, radio, and television outlets ensure thousands more indirectly benefit and learn about VSAO’s mission and services.

Our Strategic Plan for Growth
Strategic Action

EDUCATION
Provide stakeholders with the tools, resources, and opportunities to enhance teaching and learning through:
- Inclusive arts education residencies
- Training and resources for educators
- Creative career consultations for artists
- Information and resources for the public

ACCESS
Increase access to the arts and cultural participation through:
- Communication efforts
- Inclusive arts and arts education experiences
- Local, state and national partnerships

DEVELOPMENT
Invest in infrastructure and financial stability to meet evolving constituent needs, including:
- Staff
- Board
- Organization

Board of Directors
President: Thomas Kromer, Deloitte Tax
Vice President: Elizabeth Sammons, artist
Treasurer: Michelle Moskowitz-Brown, Local Matters
Secretary: Greta Robertson, Columbus City Schools
Past-President: Connie Page, community advocate
Mary Kay (MK) Barno, community advocate
Jody Beall, Ohio Department of Education *Appointed
Laura Lazor, Kelloggs
Steve Pleasnick, community advocate
Joseph Supina, Sandusky Artisans
Nate Thomson, Athens Photographic Project

13.5%
Prevalence of disability in Ohio

1 in 5
Number of Americans 65+ by 2030

25,000+
Numbers served annually by VSA Ohio
Accessibility Matters

**Arts & Autism in Ohio Initiative**
In the fall of 2012, the Ohio Arts Council engaged VSA Ohio to help answer the question, “How can the Ohio Arts Council better support access to the arts for students and young people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder?” This is a *groundbreaking initiative*. To date, no similar statewide efforts have been identified. Research findings over two years and stakeholder input shaped this Initiative. This year VSA Ohio and the Ohio Arts Council will:
- Convene an Advisory Group to promote partnerships, raise awareness, and develop resources for the state.
- Design training programs and materials which increase statewide capacity of cultural institutions, teaching artists, and families to access the arts.
- Launch an on-line database of accessible arts opportunities around the state which is housed by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence.
- Raise awareness through traditional and 21st century outreach.

**A Day of Arts for All**
VSA Ohio celebrates the creativity, expression, and ability of artists of all ages from across Ohio. The 7th annual event will take place on March 28, 2015 at the Westerville Community Center; it is free, fun, and fully accessible. Day of Arts increases public awareness through a series of creative activities: the Accessible Expressions Ohio opening ceremony and awards, performances by musicians with disabilities, art-making, professional development workshop for artists, and film. Over 200 people attended this celebratory event.

*I just want to thank you so very much for the great Day of Arts for All/AEO event. I had such a great time. The workshop was fantastic, and the flow of the entire day was great.* – Parent

*I in my family we don’t say the words “disability” or “handicapped.” They are sort of a mark of shame. But today, and once a year at this event, I get to feel like everyone else.* – Artist

**Outreach & Advocacy**
VSA Ohio advocates changing perceptions about dis/ability while making the arts and arts education more accessible and inclusive. We share pertinent information, resources, opportunities, and news with our constituents and the community through our website and social media efforts. Presentations on cultural access and disability culture are made to diverse audiences across Ohio.
Lifelong Learning

Adaptation, Integration & the Arts (AIA) Residencies
AIA was developed in 2002 to enhance teaching and learning in inclusive classrooms through arts integration. In this program, teaching artists and classroom educators work together to develop curricula that incorporates art into the existing subject matter. Students with disabilities demonstrate increased participation and learning when arts activities are integrated into the curriculum. Students, educators, and teaching artists all benefit from an increased understanding of integration and classroom inclusion.

Last year AIA was in 25 schools in 14 districts. AIA served over 3,000 students, pre-K through 12, and 460 educators. The program will emphasize results driven accountability and focus on reading and math in the 2014-2015 school year.

AIA had a positive impact. Students developed a respect for one another that helped with developing motivation and resiliency towards learning goals. I believe by making more connections to real life with curriculum it will help our students learn and retain more knowledge they will be able to use for a lifetime. - Principal

ReelAbilities Columbus Disabilities Film Festival
ReelAbilities is the largest film and cultural festival in the country bringing communities together to explore, discuss, embrace and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience. Columbus was the ninth city selected to join the travelling program of this festival, which originated in New York; today we are part of a 15-city network. In 2012 and 2013, ReelAbilities Columbus took place at a combined 8 venues and included 18 films, 40+ artists and panelists, 3 workshops, and 30+ sponsors and partners. Nearly 1,000 people attended.

VSA Ohio will present promotional ReelAbilities Columbus screening events in 2014 at the Puffin Collaborative Film Festival and Columbus International Film+Video Festival. The next multiday festival is Sept. 25 – 29, 2015. Be there!

I was shocked at the variety of conflicting viewpoints on disability. I had never known so many existed! "Cure/Kill", "Oppression", "imposter's syndrome." While I possess little knowledge of these concepts, I do know films can allow us transcendence of disability theory; that is to become more than one was before through a viewing experience, regardless of preconceptions. That was what I ultimately take away from the ReelAbilities Film Fest. – Attendee

275,704
Total number of Ohio’s students with disabilities

16
Percentage of total student population with disabilities

52%
Achievement rate in Reading for students with disabilities

Compared to

89%
Achievement rate in Reading for students without disabilities

* 2013 Special Education Profile © Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities.
Creative Careers

Accessible Expressions Ohio (AEO)
AEO provides opportunities for artists of all ages with disabilities to create, exhibit, and sell their art in an inclusive environment. Over 150 entries were received in fall 2013 and then adjudicated to create a 75-piece exhibit. An opening ceremony in March 2014 marked the beginning of a statewide tour to approximately 15 sites. AEO will mark 19 years in 2015. The deadline for 2015 entries is December 5, 2014.

AEO engages communities as tour sites, art patrons, and pARTicipants who can send a postcard to inspirational artists.

Workshops and Technical Assistance
Professional development workshops are hosted across Ohio to meet help break down barriers for artists with disabilities seeking to earn income in the arts. Examples include lessons by a master artist, how to market work, and how to photograph and price art.

VSA Ohio’s staff provides technical assistance to artists seeking to develop creative career necessities such as portfolios. The Careers in the Arts Workbook is a free resource which provides a roadmap for success by challenging individuals to consider their strengths then enact practical tips for overcoming obstacles.

Pearl Market Merchant Program
One popular way for artists to sell their work and market themselves is to participate in farmer’s markets or other local craft fairs. However, the money, time, and physical demands frequently prevent people with disabilities from participating. In response, VSA Ohio rented a merchant booth at our local downtown farmer’s market, Pearl Alley, allowing artists and studios to use the space at no cost.

The program netted about $1,000 in sales for artists and allowed VSA Ohio to raise awareness about our mission and the talents of our constituents. Visit the artists in downtown Columbus every Friday, May through September 2014.

Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) Grant program
The ADAP program is funded by the Ohio Arts Council. The grant provides support to individual artists with disabilities (up to $1,000) as well as organizations helping artists with disabilities (up to $3,000). Funds are available for a variety of activities, materials, and services. VSA Ohio provides technical assistance with the grant program, serving approximately 100 artists each year.
Your Supporting Role

Make a Gift
Online * Traditional
Workplace Giving * Matching Gift
Tribute Gift * Planned * In-Kind

Become a Member
$30 Individual
$50 Household
$75 Organizations (budgets $200,000 or less)
$100 Organizations (budgets $200,000 or more)

All donations to VSA Ohio are 100% tax deductible.

VSA Ohio’s Plan for Growth

As VSA Ohio approaches our 30th anniversary in 2016, we are moving forward with our strategic plan to grow our impact, reaching more individuals with and without disabilities across Ohio.

In FY2013 VSA Ohio had an overall budget of over $213,000 and reached an estimated 25,000 individuals; this was a 22% increase from the year before. In FY14 we exceeded our goal for numbers served by 25%, reaching nearly 35,000 people. All of this was done with low than anticipated expenses. Our goal is to grow 10% each year as we reach our 30th anniversary. This means serving nearly 40,000 Ohioans in FY16.

<table>
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<th>FY12: 21,000</th>
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<th>FY15: 34,000</th>
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<td>FY13: $216,205</td>
<td>FY14: $211,000</td>
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