

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VSA arts of Ohio announces three great events, one creative day.

VSA arts of Ohio will be hosting A Day of Arts for All on Saturday, February 20th that will include three arts-related events - the Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010 art exhibition opening and awards presentation, the CVS All Kids Can Create: Sights & Sounds of the Arts Festival, and a Careers in the Arts Professional Development workshop entitled "Telling Your Story."

Columbus, Ohio – VSA arts of Ohio announces *A Day of Arts for All* to be held on Saturday, February 20th, 2010 from 11:00am to 3:30pm at the Westerville Community Center located at 350 N. Cleveland Avenue in Westerville, Ohio. The day includes three wonderful arts-related events to be kicked off by the *Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010 (AEO)* art exhibition opening. In its 15th year, *Accessible Expressions Ohio* is a statewide, juried, visual arts exhibition and tour adding to the richness and cultural diversity throughout Ohio. *AEO 2010* continues to celebrate the artwork of individuals with disabilities - with awards to be given in youth, emerging and professional categories. 113 pieces of art by 97 artists from across the state were accepted into this traveling exhibition, which will be divided and toured around sites throughout Ohio in 2010. Sales of artwork are encouraged at the opening and throughout the tour.

Following the *AEO 2010* opening ceremony, the 3rd annual CVS All Kids Can Create: Sights & Sounds of the Arts Festival will commence with a variety of art-making activities and live performances. Kids will have the opportunity to create pop-up books and cards, make duct tape wallets, write unique poetry, and construct hats from various materials. Steven Yee, the VSA arts of Ohio *Young Soloist of the Year 2009*, will perform on the piano for guests to enjoy. In addition, vocalist Lacey Hughes, the Westerville Dance Group, a steel drum band and the Urban Strings ensemble will be playing throughout the day.

The *Day of Arts for All* will also include a Careers in the Arts professional development workshop entitled "Telling Your Story." This workshop will include a panel discussion in which artists share personal stories about what it means to be an artist and the paths they have taken. Artists will learn methods for writing personal narratives and artist biographies to strengthen entries for exhibitions and build confidence when talking about their work at exhibitions or in public.

This day of events is sponsored by VSA arts, Ohio Arts Council, Westerville Community Center, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, CVS Caremark, and the generosity of individuals throughout Ohio. This day of arts is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

About VSA arts of Ohio

Since 1986, VSA arts of Ohio (VSAO) has provided an inclusive environment in which children and adults with disabilities are given the opportunity to celebrate life through the arts, education and creative expression. VSA arts of Ohio programs are implemented through a statewide network of local arts, community and educational organizations. Programming includes festivals for inclusive audiences, special outreach programs to children, training to educators, artists and volunteers, arts residencies and workshops, performances, audio-description services and visual arts competitions and exhibitions. VSAO also serves as an advocate for artists with disabilities, people with disabilities, and accessibility issues. VSAO is an affiliate of VSA arts, an international organization founded by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in 1974. Formerly known as Very Special Arts, VSA arts is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with primary funding under an award from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about VSA Arts of Ohio or this event, please call (614) 241-5325.

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