

Fall 2004

# Avenue to the Arts

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*The newsletter of VSA arts of Ohio, an affiliate of VSA arts, an international organization  
affiliated by the John F. Kennedy Center for the performing arts.*

## **An Evening with the Young Soloists 2005: Not a Dry Eye in the House**

The 31st floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts was filled with emotion as the winners of the 2005 young soloist competition gave an inspiring performance on May 11th, 2005. Local NBC news anchor Cabot Rea was the emcee, gaining news coverage for the event. The performances were the result of a statewide competition featuring entries by talented vocal and instrumental artists. Needless to say, the judge's selections were difficult to make, and each competitor deserves our admiration and applause. Selected for their outstanding talent and ability were:

First Place: **Tyler Drew Williams** - Marysville, Bluegrass Vocalist

Second Place: **Annie Donnelon** - Cincinnati, Classical Vocalist

Third Place: **Zachari Wilks** - Columbus, Pianist

Special thanks go to Bob Allen of the Jazz arts group for providing accompaniment and to Vito's catering for providing the food and drink. Prizes for the event were donated by the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, The Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.



*Photo: Tyler Drew Williams  
and his parents.*

*For more pictures see page 7*

## **Special Olympics: Tent City**

On June 24-25, art, athletics, and most importantly fun, were combined at Special Olympics 2005. VSA arts of Ohio joined in on the festivities



in the 2005 Tent City on The Ohio State University campus. Between competitions, athletes were able to relax and create artwork with their families. Special thanks go out to the many hands who volunteered to help out and to the Dick Blick Company for their generous donation of art supplies.

## Welcome New Board Members

During the annual meeting of the VSA arts of Ohio Board of Directors on June 21st, four new members were elected. Additionally, one Ex-Officio member was appointed as a non-voting member.

The new Board Directors include:

Allison Dickey  
*Ashland University*

Colleen Finegan  
*Wright State University*

Denise L. Skingle  
*Jones Day*

Jennifer Monahan  
*Prentke Romich Co.*

New Appointed Representative:

Frank New  
*Franklin County Board MR/DD*

### New Location

As of August 1, 2005, the  
VSA arts national office is in its  
new location at:

818 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600,  
Washington D.C. 20006

## Accessibility

### Audio Description

Audio Description is the art of turning what is seen into what is heard. Through the use of technology, persons who are blind or visually impaired can hear descriptions of the physical elements of a live performance as it is happening.

Beginning in August 2005 the Center for Independent Living Options, in Cincinnati, will be assuming responsibility for the administration of the program which was previously coordinated through VSA arts of Ohio. Under the expert leadership of Lin Laing, enhancements to the program are anticipated to support the strong base which has been established. For more info about this program, contact Lin Laing at 513-241-2600 or [llaing@cilo.net](mailto:llaing@cilo.net). You may also contact VSA arts of Ohio.



The Target Corporation has made a charitable donation to VSA arts of Ohio to coordinate a program in partnership with the Phoenix Theatre for Children. Thanks to Target's generosity, students from the Ohio State School for the Blind will be able to attend each of Phoenix's 2005-2006 productions and enjoy them through the application of audio description.

### Call for Flash Fiction and Poetry

Vsa arts is currently accepting flash fiction and poetry for an online literary journal and writing gallery on the theme "Another Point of View." Write a story or poem from the point of view of someone or something you may not have considered before. Students ages 11-18 years of age living with disability are eligible. The deadline is Friday, December 16, 2005.

Please send you entries to:

*VSA Arts - Writing Project*  
*818 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600*  
*Washington D.C. 20006 USA*

**For more info please call: 800-933-8721**

## AIA Update

Since its initiation during the 2003-2004 school year, the *Adaptation, Integration and the Arts (AIA)* program has enhanced the learning experience in schools throughout the state. The implementation of this program was made possible by support from the Ohio Department of Education, Office for exceptional Children. *AIA* works to encourage the artistic abilities in students by the addition of art activities into the classroom. With artists with disabilities and teachers working side by side, the program was a great success in 2004-2005 at these sites:



The AIA program has been a successful complement to the classroom throughout Ohio, and several of the schools will be continuing the program during the 2005-2006 school year. We would be pleased to enrich the education experience in your school with AIA as well. If you are interested in the program and would like more information, please contact Dennis Cannon at: [dcannon@vsao.org](mailto:dcannon@vsao.org) or call 614-241-5325.

## Careers in the Arts: Exploring Inclusive ways for Artists with and without Disabilities to Build and Enhance their Careers.

Careers in the arts was held on September 19 to help artists with disabilities to overcome the obstacles they face upon entering the workforce. Through a combination of large group discussions and small breakout sessions, those who attended identified barriers and discussed solutions. All who participated gained valuable information and learned strategies to overcome hurdles in the business world. Following the forum, information and strategies gathered are being compiled into a resource workbook to continue to assist the artists of today and tomorrow with career development.



Careers in the Arts was designed to help artists, social service agencies, and arts organizations empower people with and without disabilities to achieve advancement in artistic careers. Artists, arts administrators, museum professionals and rehabilitation specialists all benefited from participating in this one-day forum.

### Breakout Sessions

During the September 19 Career Forum, participants attended sessions on the following topics:

#### Session I

- *Polishing your professionalism as an artist*
- *Expanding your Box... Looking beyond obvious jobs*
- *Understanding SSDI as a working artist*

#### Session II

- *Rehabilitation Services Commission and the Business Plan*
- *Adapting to Space for Creating and Exhibiting Artwork*
- *Mentoring How-to 101*

Thank you to the following sponsors for making the career forum possible: National Center for Arts and Disability, National Endowment for the Arts, VSA arts, and the Ohio Arts Council



Traci Parks, artist, motivational speaker, and person with a disability, was featured as the Keynote Speaker to the delight of the audience. For more info about Traci, go to her website [www.miracleimages.com](http://www.miracleimages.com)

## **Puffin Foundation: 2006 Artist Grant Awards**

The Puffin foundation in Teaneck, New Jersey, seeks to open the doors of artistic expression by providing grants to artists and art organizations often excluded from mainstream opportunities. The deadline for all grant proposals is December 30, 2005. For more information visit the foundation's website:

<http://www.puffinfoundation.org>

## **Joanne Caputo's documentary wins award!**

Congratulations to Joanne Caputo, Greg Smith and the Smith family. Joanne's PBS documentary ON A ROLL, about Greg and his family, just won the national Audience Award for fave/best documentary on this award winning series.

Check it out:

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/>

## **Cinda Motter's artwork featured**

The Ohio Plein Air Society is featuring Cinda's artwork on their website. To take a look at her fabulous artwork, go to:

<http://www.ohiopleinairsociety.com>

## **Indiana Arts Community**

The Indiana Arts Community works to help artists by promoting artwork, organization, events, and classifieds. Did we mention that it's free? For more information, go to:

[www.IndianaArtsCommunity.org](http://www.IndianaArtsCommunity.org)

## **Classical Affair**

If you missed the Young Soloists performance in May, you have a second chance to see them perform live at Tuttle Crossing Mall (Columbus) on Sunday, November 20, 2005 at 8:00 P.M. The performances are part of an evening-long event to honor the arts and support the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. In addition to a variety of musical performances and a wine testing, special sales will be available in all the mall stores. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$5 by contacting the VSA arts of Ohio office at 614-241-5325.

## **Keys to Housing Options**

The DD Council Annual Conference on October 19-20 provides information, resources and support for people with disabilities, their families and communities. The conference will feature nationally recognized keynote speakers, workshops, evening reception/ networking session, displays, and much more.

For more information or  
registration materials:

AXIS Center

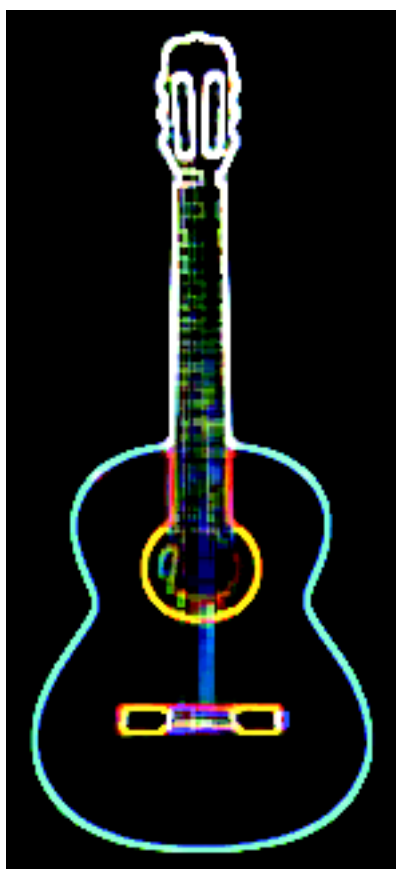
(800) 231-2947

(614) 262-8124

[axiscenter@aol.com](mailto:axiscenter@aol.com)

## Young Soloist 2006

The call for artists to participate in Ohio's Young Soloists 2006 competition have been mailed out to schools, artists and service providers. The Young Soloist event is a great opportunity for musicians with a disability to showcase their talents and have their voices heard. Both vocal and instrumental musicians are invited to participate in this event. Watch your mailboxes and the website ([www.vsao.org](http://www.vsao.org)) or contact VSA arts of Ohio for more information.



## Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio

### 2005 Tour Schedule

#### October 2005

Avon Lake Public Library  
32649 Electric Blvd., Avon Lake  
Contact: Jill Ralston (440-933-8128x244)

#### November-December 2005

Beck Center for the Arts  
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood  
Contact: Ed Gallagher or Patricia Hughes  
(216-521-2540)

#### December 10, 2005

Closing Ceremony  
hosted by  
Kate Mulgrew and Tim Hagan  
Beck Center for the Arts  
4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Tickets \$50 each  
Contact: Kimberly Murray (614-241-5325)

The call for artists to participate in the 2006 Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio Visual Arts exhibition and tour were mailed out in early September. This is the perfect chance for all visual artists to showcase their artwork. The tour will give your artwork the exposure that it truly deserves. Watch your mailboxes and the website ([www.vsao.org](http://www.vsao.org)) or contact VSA arts of Ohio for more information.

The AEO site schedule for 2006 is already full, but sites are being booked for the 2007 Keys Accessible Expressions Tour. For more information please contact us at: [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org)

**Young Soloist 2005**

**Special thanks to our sponsors and donors**

Vito's Catering  
 Deloitte  
 The Jazz Arts Group  
 Cabot Rea  
 Swan Cleaners  
 Graeter's Ice Cream  
 Metro Cuisine  
 Columbus Museum of Art  
 The Piano Gallery of Dublin  
 The Andersons  
 Saturday's



**Tyler Williams**

CATCO  
 CAPA  
 German Village Society  
 Shadowbox Cabaret  
 Keybank  
 Debbie Hurlbert  
 Quaker Steak and Lube  
 Columbus Crew  
 Ohio Citizens for the Arts  
 Columbus Symphony Orchestra  
 Pheonix Theatre for Children



**Zachari Wilks**

BalletMet  
 Opera Columbus  
 Shmidt's Fudge House  
 Mira Bella Salon  
 Roush Hardware  
 Metro Cuisine  
 Leo Yassenoff Community Center  
 Red Herring Theatre Company  
 Anthony Thomas Candy Company  
 Cameron Mitchell Restaurants  
 Monco Enterprises



**Annie Donellon**

**OSDA Conference**

The University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio will be the site of an event on October 25 and 26, 2005 entitled: **The Power of People Conference**. The conference is held by the Ohio Self Determination Association and is an excellent opportunity for those who take an active role in self determination. The event aims to renew and strengthen all efforts to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Offering a terrific combination of speakers and activities, all who attend will leave with valuable knowledge that can be used every single day.

Free art vendor space is available for up to fifteen art programs or individual artists. This is a wonderful opportunity!  
 For more info please contact  
 Kyla Eversman: (937) 492-3596 or  
[keversman@sandhproducts.com](mailto:keversman@sandhproducts.com)

If you have any questions, or would like additional information please contact the OSDA by calling (740) 965-9822 or by email at [ohiosda@earthlink.net](mailto:ohiosda@earthlink.net)  
 Also visit the organizations website at [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org)

*Promoting the creative power in  
people with disabilities.*

77 South High Street, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614/241-5325  
Fax: 614/241-5329  
E-mail: [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org)

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## THANK YOU

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BASA  
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Jane Wiechel  
Marvin Williams  
Karen Wood  
Sue Zake

*and all the volunteers  
that commit their time  
year round to presenting  
VSA arts of Ohio events.*

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