

Fall 2003



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# Avenue to the Arts

*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.*

## VSA arts International Festival Selects Six Ohio Artists

Results from the recent *Dare to Imagine... VSA arts International Festival* Call for Artists have arrived. Ohio is excited to have six artists, from our state, selected to exhibit/perform in various media. Those artists are:

-  Joanne Caputo, Yellow Springs - Visual Art
-  Dancing Wheels, Cleveland - Dance
-  Footsteps of the Elders, Columbus - Theatre
-  Derek Mortland, Columbus - Music
-  Jacquelyn Rampe, Mayfield Village - Jewelry
-  Ashley Youkilis, Glendale - Photography **and** Metalworks



More than 700 highly competitive entries were received from around the world in the literary, media, performing and visual arts categories. The International VSA arts Festival will be held June 9-12, 2004 in Washington DC. For more information on the International Festival visit [www.vsartsfestival.org](http://www.vsartsfestival.org).

## Greetings from the VSAO Office

VSA arts of Ohio has been hard at work preparing for the return and expansion of past programming as well as adding new programs to our agenda. The fall of 2003 will see the implementation of *Adaptation, Integration and the Arts (AIA)*, an educational program involving artists in schools.



Festivals will continue to be a popular event, sponsored by the newly named Service Divisions. The Young Soloists competition and Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio traveling visual arts exhibition will return bigger and better than ever.

Finally, VSAO has assumed administrative leadership for the statewide Audio Description Service, adding to the list of programming to be described at conferences and workshops throughout the state.

VSA arts of Ohio would also like to thank VECTRA, Inc., for their generous contribution in printing *Avenue to the Arts*. VECTRA, Inc. has been a strong promoter of the work of VSA arts of Ohio for several years and we appreciate their continuing support of the VSAO mission and outreach projects.

**Address Update:** As part of VSAO's efforts to streamline operations, only one copy of *Avenue to the Arts* is being sent to any one address. Please feel free to share this copy with your coworkers, facility staff, employees and friends or notify VSAO of any contact information updates.

## Hearing the Theatre: Audio Description

Audio description is the art of turning what is seen into what is heard. Audio description services are intended to enhance the understanding of and the access to visual information primarily for, but not limited to, people who are blind or have low vision. The visual picture is communicated through the use of human voice and descriptive language via an FM transmitter and microphone to individual wireless receivers equipped with earpieces. The patron listens to the performance through one ear and the description through the other ear.



Audio description was brought to Columbus, Ohio, by the Ohio Theater Alliance in 1987. In 1995, the program was transferred to the Ohio State University, under the direction of Dr. Alan Woods. With Dr. Woods' direction over the last several years, more regions in the state have offered this service and incorporated the expertise of trained describers from their local areas.

On August 20, 2003, Alan Woods transferred the mission, responsibility, and equipment of audio description over to VSA arts of Ohio, an organization whose purpose can readily adopt the audio description service in a manner benefiting to all. Michael Brennan, an 8-year veteran of the audio description program, will act as the volunteer Coordinator for the Audio Description Service.

Currently, there are close to 100 described performances per year at locations throughout Ohio. Once scheduling for the 2003-2004 season has been completed, VSAO will begin to plan for the future including the recruitment and training of new describers and expansion into underserved areas of the state.

For more information on this program please contact Michael Brennan at [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org), 614/241-5325 or 614/309-8616.

### WEBNews

The National Arts and Disability Center [NADC] has posted every state's resource directory for ADA Compliance and Technical Assistance on their Website.

Contact: <http://nadc.ucla.edu/states.htm>.

Online guides for ADA Accessible recreation facilities are now available.

Contact: <http://www.access-board.gov/recreation/guides/index.htm>.



The Ticket to Work program helps find jobs for persons currently receiving Social Security Disability payments.

Contact: [www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com).

The Nisonger Center and The Ohio State University have established a book club for persons with developmental disabilities.

Contact: [fish.1@osu.edu](mailto:fish.1@osu.edu).

The Greater Columbus Arts Council's (GCAC) online directory, ARTS CLASSifieds, is now online.  
Contact: [www.gcac.org](http://www.gcac.org).

## VSA arts of Ohio Starts School: School Collaboration

In the fall of 2001, VSA arts of Ohio piloted a new program through a three-year grant from VSA arts. The *School Collaboration* program sponsored artists working with teachers and schools to promote opportunities of artistic expression for all. Artists with disabilities, working with students with and without disabilities, share their talents and allow the children to see that a disability is not an impediment to creativity.

For the past two years, VSAO has supported Cheryle Albert's work at Danville Elementary School in Danville and Robin Edgar Adelman's efforts at Malabar Middle School in Mansfield to integrate the arts in the classroom to enhance the learning experience.

Cheryle, a visual artist with a disability, took her expertise into a classroom of first graders at Danville and used visual art to help teach students different subjects. The students looked forward to their weekly visit with "Miss Cherry" and by the end of the year had grown in their self-confidence, artistic expression, and exploration of their creative talents through visual art.

Robin, a mime artist, presented lessons at Malabar Middle School for 50 sixth-grade students facilitating student experiences in the use of mime to express different actions and emotions. Classes of students, with and without disabilities, were brought together over a period of five weeks with a culminating performance (pictured at right) for students, parents and teachers. The non-participating students were seen asking their performing friends to show them the secrets of the mime movements and the teachers replied that the performers were eager to teach what they had learned to their classmates.



Thanks to the Ohio Department of Education, VSA arts of Ohio will be expanding this program into several other schools around the state with new artists, new projects, new mediums and a new name: *Adaptation, Integration and the Arts (AIA)*. Teachers, principals, and artists interested in participating in this program should contact Kimberly Murray via email [kmurray@vsao.org](mailto:kmurray@vsao.org) or call 614/241-5325.

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### **\*\*\*Attention Ohio Artisans\*\*\***

VSA arts of Ohio is accepting entries for the 2004 VSAO Artist Directory, a listing of artisans in Ohio who have disabilities or have experience and interest in teaching or mentoring children and adults with disabilities, in all arts disciplines. As a key resource for VSAO Service Division Representatives, parents, schools, community members and others, the directory can benefit artists, especially those with disabilities by:

- ⇒ increasing community exposure;
- ⇒ inclusion in all VSA arts of Ohio and VSA arts International calls for art and exhibition/performance announcements;
- ⇒ being used as a recruiting tool for VSAO for residencies, artists in school projects, cultural accessibility surveyors, and other professional development opportunities;
- ⇒ increasing the likelihood of artists' work being recognized, displayed, sold, performed, heard, or commissioned.

Interested Ohio Artisans should contact 614/241-5325 or [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org) for an application.

## Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio

Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio is Ohio's premier traveling visual art exhibition for artists with disabilities. Begun in Dayton in 1995, AEO is now in its eighth year. Something new to be added in 2004 is a theme for the exhibition. All artists are asked to create/submit works which represent their *Visions of Awareness*.

The Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio "Call for Art" will be mailed out in October 2003. Entries are due in December 15, 2003 so it is never too soon to start creating!



If you want to be sure you are on the mailing list for the entry form, contact VSAO at [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org) or 614/241-5325.

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## Tips for Framing, Hanging and Shipping Artwork

1. Make sure all artwork is appropriately matted/framed.
  2. Use glass, or preferably Plexiglas, to cover artwork on paper.
  3. Frame artwork with strong, sturdy frames that fit the artwork and that can be hung safely for long periods of time.
  4. If artwork is required to be ready for hanging, it should be fastened with wire and screws into the frame, not the artwork.
  5. If shipping two pieces of artwork, make sure the glass panes are facing each other rather than facing the outside of the box.
  6. For safest shipping wrap artwork in bubble wrap or use shipping peanuts.
  7. Avoid using crates and wood boxes to ship artwork because of the increased costs associated with this method.
  8. Allowing a shipping company pack and ship the artwork is often the best choice. They are trained in packing and sending fragile items and can insure the piece against damage.
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## Professional Development Assistance Awards

The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) helps emerging artists with disabilities move to a higher level of artistic development. Funds may be used for matting and framing works for an exhibition, making slides, photos or video documentation of artwork, interpreters, assistance devices or supplies. Before applying, contact the Building Diverse Audiences Coordinator, to discuss your project. Program funds are limited to artists with hearing, mobility or visual impairments.

Building Diverse Audiences Coordinator - Phyllis Hairston  
[phyllish@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:phyllish@oac.state.oh.us)  
614/466-2613

Ohio Relay Service at 1-800-750-0750

*Professional Development Assistance Awards are a program of the Ohio Arts Council. VSAO is providing this information as a courtesy only and has no influence on the grant distribution process.*

## Special Olympics “Tent Town”

VSA arts of Ohio’s latest outreach project created arts experiences for the Special Olympics 2003 summer games. Athletes and their families were invited to participate in arts enrichment activities while visiting “Tent Town” on the Ohio State University campus June 20-21, 2003. Visitors, young and old, seemed to enjoy the arts experiences which included wire sculptures, Navajo sand art, copper engraving, and face painting. Diane Medve, Columbus Public Schools art teacher and VSAO board member, led a team of volunteers from the Pickerington High School Key Club, the Ohio Department of Education, the Girl Scouts, VSAO Board Members and friends, in assisting the tent’s visitors with the different arts activities.

### Did you know.....

- VSA arts of Ohio supported 13 festivals around the state of Ohio this year?
- these festivals served over 5,500 children and adults?
- over half of those served were persons with disabilities?



VSA arts of Ohio Twinsburg Arts for All Festival  
“The Great Artdoors” April 5, 2003

- there were over 700 volunteers at the festivals?
- there were over 300 artists involved?
- almost 25% of the counties in Ohio were served with these festivals?
- there was over \$44,000 worth of in-kind donations received?



VSA arts of Ohio Medina County Festival  
“The Middle Ages-Days and Knights” May 9, 2003

## Early Childhood Education Conference

VSA arts of Ohio will be a vendor at the Ohio Department of Education, Center for Students, Families and Communities, Office of Early Childhood Education’s Annual Conference November 13-15, 2003. The conference will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. For more information regarding the conference visit [www.ode.state.oh.us/ece/](http://www.ode.state.oh.us/ece/) or contact Kathy Reedy at 614/262-4545 or Lisa Usselman 614/466-0224.



## What do you think?

The Spring 2003 edition of *Avenue to the Arts* featured a survey asking consumers what they thought of the newsletter, specifically, and VSA arts of Ohio, in general. The responses were few, but impressive!

Everyone agreed that the name, *Avenue to the Arts* should be kept. Most responders had known about VSA arts of Ohio for more than three years and were involved in visual arts.

VSA arts of Ohio activities which increased public awareness of the organization were seen as being valuable as were other programs, workshops and the newsletter. Also mentioned as being beneficial was the support and advocacy given to artists with disabilities to help increase the visibility of their artwork.

Information that readers like to see in the *Avenue to the Arts* includes: dates of upcoming events, articles, details about VSAO programs, information about other organizations, letters to the editor, informational websites, stories about artists, VSAO products for sale, opportunities for artists to exhibit or sell their work, samples of artwork and stories about artists, festival stories and announcements of dates for student competitions.

Readers had many suggestions for VSA arts of Ohio to help artists, clients, students and children succeed in their work. These suggestions included transportation for students and artists to receptions, openings or exhibits out of town, information for artists on how to find and apply for sponsorship for their work, educating the public about the arts and disability, inspirational and success stories about artists, research updates and the connection of creativity to learning styles, awareness of multi-exceptionalities, programming in all sectors of the state, and workshops for teacher professional development.

VSAO is listening! Your comments and feedback are appreciated and welcome at any time. Simply send your suggestions to [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org) or call the office (614/241-5325). And **thank you** to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey.

## New VSAO Staff

VSA arts of Ohio would like to welcome our newest staff member Molly Morris as the new part-time Outreach/Education Assistant Coordinator. Her primary functions will be to assist in managing operations and donations, compiling and disseminating the 2004 Artist Directory and developing the Resource Library. Welcome Molly!

## Calling all Musicians



A call for entries for the VSA arts of Ohio Young Soloist Competition will be mailed in November. Instrumental and vocal musicians 25 and under, with a disability, are encouraged to apply. To be sure you receive an entry form, send your name and address to [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org) or call 614/241-5325.

## Local News

Do have local arts or disability news in your area you would like added to our newsletter? Please feel free to send it to VSAO via email at [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org) or regular mail at:

VSAO c/o Avenue to the Arts  
77 South High Street, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

## **October**

1-31 - Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio Exhibit Office of Disability Services, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio  
*Contact:* Jeff Vernooy at 937/775-5680

17-19-Cleveland Opera presents *Carmen*  
*Contact:* [www.clevelandopera.org](http://www.clevelandopera.org) or 216/575-0903.

21-November 21 - Abilities Festival Inaugural Visual Art Event  
Carrier Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*Contact:* [abilitiesfestival@enablelink.org](mailto:abilitiesfestival@enablelink.org) or  
<http://www.enablelink.org/abilitiesfestival>.

31 - Deadline for application and logo designs The International Wheelchair Basketball Federation's logo design contest.  
*Contact:* <http://www.iwbf.org/home.htm>.

31 - Nominees due for "Accessible America 2003" showcasing how citizens with disabilities are participating in and contributing to local community life.  
*Contact:* [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org) or Nancy Starnes at 202/293-5960.

## **November**

3 - Begin returning Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio 2003 artwork.  
*Contact:* Julie Bagley at 614/241-5325 or [jbagley@vsao.org](mailto:jbagley@vsao.org).

13-15-Office of Early Childhood Education's Annual Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio.  
*Contact:* Kathy Reedy at 614/262-4545 or Lisa Usselman 614/466-0224 or visit [www.ode.state.oh.us/ece/](http://www.ode.state.oh.us/ece/).

22-23 -Acting for Beginners Weekend Workshop  
Camp Campbell Gard, Hamilton, Ohio  
*Contact:* Renegade Garage Players at 513/328-6300.

## **December**

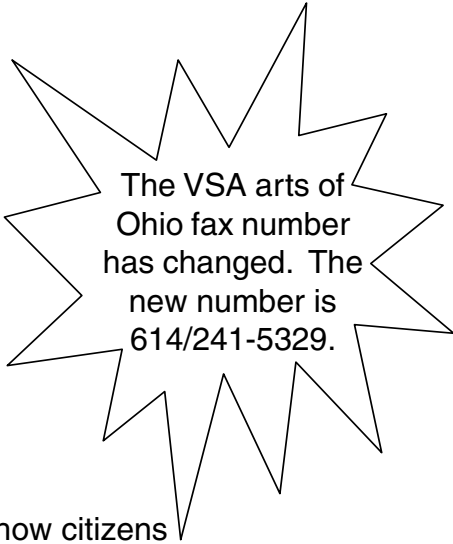
5-7 - Cleveland Opera presents *Iolanthe*.  
*Contact:* [www.clevelandopera.org](http://www.clevelandopera.org) or 216/575-0903

15- Entries due for Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio 2004.  
*Contact:* VSA arts of Ohio at 614/241-5325 or [info@vsao.org](mailto:info@vsao.org).

31 - Nominations due for the Ohioana Library Association awards  
*Contact:* 614/466-3831 or  
<http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us/OHIOANA/>




**Vision**



The VSA arts of Ohio fax number has changed. The new number is 614/241-5329.



**Strength**



For more info on becoming an AEO touring site contact VSAO.



**Artistic Expression**



Non-profit Org.  
**US Postage Paid**  
Columbus, OH  
**Permit No. 5532**

*Promoting the creative power in  
people with disabilities.*

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

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## THANK YOU

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Carmen Bagley  
Trace Baxter  
Joan Beifus  
Richie Brinley  
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Kathleen Diedrich  
Stacey Dorsey  
Nancy DuBoise  
Austin Everett  
Danny Everhart  
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Ellen Frasca

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Jana Perry  
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Shannon Proehl  
Mark Rohm  
Karen Sarmir  
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Len & Amanda Sheets  
*and all the festival volunteers  
and board and committee  
members that commit their  
time year round to planning  
VSA arts of Ohio events.*

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