

**VSA arts of Ohio
e-Voice
September 2009**

Greetings from VSAO Board President, Allison Dickey

Welcome to the e-Voice electronic newsletter from VSA arts of Ohio! This newsletter will provide you the most up-to-date information about current and future offerings in Ohio. From Ohio to the nation's capitol we have so much happening for, with, and on behalf of the disability community. This is an exciting year for VSA Arts International as we celebrate its 35th anniversary! We'll keep you informed of special events and celebrations as the year unfolds.

From VSAO

Please forward and share the new e-Voice. Anyone can subscribe by sending contact information to info@vsao.org.

Arts & Disability in Ohio Calendar

VSA arts of Ohio is developing a calendar of events for the arts and disability community that will allow all Ohioans to find happenings across the state. We invite you to send us information about gallery openings, festivals, workshops, and other events in your area. We will share your events with our constituents statewide. Please send the event title, location, date and time, and a one sentence description to info@vsao.org.

Artist Circle, Monday September 21, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Riffe Gallery, Columbus

VSA arts of Ohio will partner with Fresh A.I.R. Gallery and the Ohio Art Council's Riffe Gallery to host an Artist Circle Meeting. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with other artists, discuss upcoming programs and services offered by VSA arts of Ohio and the Ohio Arts Council, hear from Mary Gray, Riffe Gallery Director, and view the current exhibit, "Here and Beyond." To RSVP or get more information contact Derek Mortland at 614-241-5325 or dmortland@vsao.org.

VSA Institute: The Arts & Inclusive Learning

On Friday, October 16, VSA arts of Ohio will host the VSA arts Institute, *The Arts and Inclusive Learning*, in Columbus. This one-day, interactive institute focuses on designing and delivering arts learning experiences that reach students of all abilities. Throughout the day you will gain an understanding of the foundations of inclusive education and arts-based learning, discuss theories and methods for teaching in inclusive environments, and engage in hands-on techniques that ensure progress for all students. This event is sponsored by VSA arts with support from the Ohio Department of Education. Registration is required as space is limited; the deadline is Friday October 9. For more information contact Erin at ehoppe@vsao.org.

Accessible Expressions Ohio and Young Soloists - Call for Entries Deadline: December 1st

Watch your in-box for the Accessible Expressions Ohio and Young Soloists Call for Entries, which will be distributed soon.

VSA arts International Festival 2010

From June 6-12, 2010, VSA arts and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will bring together artists, educators, researchers, and policy makers with disabilities from around the world for a multicultural celebration of the arts and arts education. The VSA arts International Festival will include an international arts education conference and take place in Washington, DC at The Kennedy Center and other sites around the city. For more information visit: <http://www.vsarts.org/x5992.xml>

In the News

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan Issues Letter of Support for the Arts!

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan released a letter to school officials and community leaders reminding them of the important role of arts education in a student's life. The letter may be accessed here. <http://www.artslearning.org/files/Arts%20Education%20Letter_Secretary%20Duncan.pdf >

This letter offers strong encouragement to education decision makers to find time and funds in the school day to offer a comprehensive, sequential, and standards-based arts education. Please distribute the letter broadly to anyone in your community who might benefit from reading it, including community leaders, school officials, school boards, arts and cultural organizations, and political leaders. This letter presents a powerful argument for the inclusion and maintenance of strong, sequential arts programs in schools.

Senate Confirms NEA Chairman

On Friday August 7, 2009 Rocco Landesman was confirmed by the US Senate to be the next chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. Upon his nomination, Mr. Landesman said, "I am honored to receive the Senate's vote of confirmation. I look forward to serving the nation as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. I believe this is an auspicious time for the NEA and the country. Art is essential to the civic, economic, and cultural vitality of our nation. It reflects who we are and what we stand for -- freedom of expression, imagination, and vision. I am eager to work with our many partners to bring quality arts programs to neighborhoods and communities across the country." New NEA Chair Rocco Landesman has recorded a web video greeting discussing the arts and arts education: <http://www.arts.gov/news/news09/landesman-video-greeting.html>

Opportunities

Art\$Work - Ohio Arts Council Job Listing Resource

Art\$Work is an online, searchable database of arts and cultural employment opportunities in Ohio. It is a free and efficient way for job seekers to connect with a wide range of Ohio's arts and cultural employers. <http://www.artsworkohio.org/>

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities Trainings and Webinars

OCECD has announced more FREE training opportunities. "Planning for the Transition from School to Adult Life" will be presented in seven Ohio cities and a variety of other topics will be covered in a series of webinars. For a list of opportunities and to register visit: <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/159064/7bee336828/54001999/22fc18adef/>

New Mobility Magazine Profiles Young Disabled People's Experiences

Interested in reading about what it's like for other young people with disabilities? Check out this article in New Mobility Magazine: "Fresh Faces, Fresh Voices: What are Young People Thinking?" Find it at: <http://newmobility.com/articleView.cfm?id=11471>

American Association on Health and Disability Scholarship Program

The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) is proud to announce the creation of the 2009 AAHD Scholarship Program. The AAHD Scholarship Program will support students with disabilities who are pursuing higher education. Preference will be given to students who plan to pursue undergraduate/graduate studies in the field of public health, health promotion, or disability studies, to include disability policy and disability research.

Please visit www.aahd.us to read more about the Scholarship Program or contact Executive Director Roberta Carlin at rcarlin@aaahd.us or 301-545-6140 ext. 206.

Going to College: A Resource for Teens with Disabilities

Going to College is a Web resource focused on college life for students with a disability. It was made for high school students and can help with a head start in planning for college. There are three main modules: My Place, Campus Life, and Planning for College. Each module contains useful information, videos and podcasts of students and professors, planning tips, activities, and a list of e-resources. There is also a Teacher's Toolbox for each section. <http://www.going-to-college.org/>

Poster Contest

The DBTAC Great Lakes ADA Center is holding a poster contest in order to raise awareness about the Americans' with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th anniversary (July 26th, 2010). The Great Lakes ADA Center is part of a national network of regional ADA centers that were established to help foster voluntary compliance of the law. The center works with architectural firms, businesses, employers, disability organizations, and individuals with disabilities in order to provide technical assistance and information on the ADA. For the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, we are holding a poster contest. The Center will judge the entries followed by awarding first prize, second prize, and third prize, which will receive cash prizes. The first prize poster will be printed and distributed on a small scale. Contact: Allison Stoner, aestoner@uic.edu.

Advocacy Corner

This summer advocates from across the state and country sought to engage and influence policy by telling legislators how the arts and other government services impact their lives, communities, education, and careers. The drastic cuts to the state of Ohio's budget, which included a 47% cut to the Ohio Arts Council, mean Ohioans need to work together and seek innovative strategies for making the arts accessible. These actions and partnerships will come from *your* creative minds and the leadership of dedicated individuals and institutions. VSA arts of Ohio will redouble our efforts to be a voice for the arts and disability at the local, state, and national levels and communicate the good work happening across the state. Share your stories with us, participate in community events, write or call your legislators, join the call to service and volunteer!

Ohio Arts Day, Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Columbus

Now is the time to submit a nomination for the 2010 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. Deadline for submitting a nomination is September 23rd. More information about how to submit a nomination visit the Ohio Arts Council's website, www.oac.state.oh.us, or call Jaclyn Reynolds 614-995-4125.

In addition to the annual Governor's Awards celebration and luncheon, Arts Day includes an arts advocacy briefing, arts tradeshow, legislative visits, statehouse tours, student exhibitions. For more information visit Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation, www.OhioCitizensfortheArts.org, or call 614-221-4064.

Feedback

We invite comments on the new VSAO e-VOICE newsletter. Share your experiences of participating in events around the state or offers suggestions for future stories. Email your feedback to: info@vsao.org.