

VSA arts of Ohio

e-Voice

October 2009

Greetings

October is an exciting month for the arts and disability communities, marking both National Arts and Humanities Month and National Disability Employment Awareness Month! Be one of the thousands of people across Ohio and the country who celebrate each year.

National Arts & Humanities Month has been celebrated since 1993 and provides a great opportunity for people to participate in the arts offered in their communities. A comprehensive listing of events near you can be found at ArtsInOhio.com.

The annual celebration of Disability Employment Awareness Month heightens awareness while recognizing the contributions of Americans with disabilities to both our workforce and our society. An article by Thomas Weiss discusses the history of this recognition and can be found on DisabilityWorld.com.

This month is a wonderful opportunity to get involved: attend an arts performance or festival, learn something new at a professional development session, or market your work as an artist and register with an artist registry such as the VSA arts Online Artist Registry or the Ohio Online Visual Artist Registry. It's always a good time to share the role the arts play in your life with stakeholders and the rest of your community. How will you celebrate?

From VSA arts of Ohio

VSA Institute: The Arts & Inclusive Learning - space still available!

Friday, October 16, 9am - 5pm, Columbus

This interactive institute focuses on designing and delivering arts learning experiences that reach students of all abilities. Throughout the day participants 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. The workshop will be led by VSA arts teaching artists, Russell Granite and Jayne Claire and is sponsored by VSA arts and the Ohio Department of Education. To register please send contact information to Erin at info@vsao.org.

VSA arts of Ohio Cleveland Area Service Division

Just announced! The theme for next year's festival is *Arts Along the Midway*, and will be held on Thursday May 13, 2010. The theme pays tribute to the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds and the staff that have hosted the festival for the past 7 years. There are many ways to get involved, including volunteers, performers, and a logo contest. For more information call 216-344-1761.

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

EsSence: Playwriting

This Call for Writing invites students, ages 11-18 years, to interpret their world through the use of creative writing in the form of short works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Writers may use their own experience for inspiration or base their writings on fictional events. Students submitting writing must have a disability or a connection to people with disabilities. Read more about the contest [here](#). **Deadline November 20.**

Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010

Accessible Expressions Ohio is a visual arts exhibition and statewide tour adding to the richness of cultural diversity in Ohio. Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to submit photographs for adjudication; winners are announced in January. Artwork will be exhibited at an opening ceremony on February 20 and a second adjudication is conducted to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in youth, emerging and professional artist categories, as well as Best in Show; winners receive a ribbon and cash prize. Following the opening ceremony, the artwork is divided into tours and travels to sites and special events throughout Ohio. Sales of artwork are encouraged throughout the tour. **Deadline December 1.**

Young Soloists 2010

Outstanding vocal and/or instrumental music students with disabilities under the age of 25 are invited to participate in the Young Soloists 2010 event. Participants must submit a CD recording and demonstrate outstanding talent through an adjudicated review process by professionals in the field of music. All entries will be forwarded to the National Young Soloists Contest sponsored by VSA arts in Washington, DC. The three selected Ohio Young Soloists will be featured in a live audience performance in the Spring of 2010. **Deadline December 1.**

For more information about these call for entries or to request an Entry Form call VSA arts of Ohio, 614-241-5325.

Opportunities

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission needs some new pictures of central Ohio for its new Regional Plan website. You'll get worldwide exposure on the MORPC website and credit. Email Amy Lowe at alowe@morpc.org if you have photos you would like to share.

State Leaders in Arts Education Webinar

Americans for the Arts is conducting a FREE webinar for State Leaders in Arts Education on October 13, 2009, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm EST. State and national experts will discuss Race to the Top guidelines, Investing in Innovation guidelines, and the imminent debate about reauthorization NCLB (aka Elementary and Secondary Education Act). Contact Natalie Shoop, nshoop@artsusa.org.

National Council on Disability, National Summit on Disability Policy 2010: Delegate Application Form Due by October 15, 2009

The deadline for submitting an application form for consideration as a National Summit delegate is rapidly approaching. The NCD Selection Committee will invite delegates that include the full range of expertise and diversity. Space is limited so not all registrants can be accepted. Delegate invitations will be distributed starting in January 2010. There are limited Scholarship Funds available. The application can be found [here](#).

Seeking 10 Ohio High Schools to Represent Ohio's 1.8 million Students!

Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation, in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council, offers a unique community service opportunity for high school students in conjunction with Ohio's annual Arts Day and Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. Ten high schools from around the state will be chosen to send a team of six students to Columbus to serve as student advocates. Students will participate in a range of activities highlighting the value and importance of the arts and arts education as a part of a complete curriculum. This is a valuable opportunity for your students to participate in the democratic process in a way that is personally meaningful to them. You are invited to express your interest in having your students participate by **November 3**. For more information contact Ohio Citizens for the Arts at 614-221-4064.

New Professional Development & Other Resources for Educators Disability.gov has recently been updated with several new resources for educators, including professional development opportunities and

instructional strategies using Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This information can be read by [clicking here](#).

Network with Accessible Twitter

Accessible Twitter is an alternative to the Twitter.com website. It is designed to be easier to use and is optimized for users with disabilities. <http://www.accessibletwitter.com/>

Arts & Disability in Ohio Calendar

Oct 8, First Lady Francis Strickland Leads Ohio's Disability Employment Awareness Celebration, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Ohio Statehouse West Lawn, Columbus (in case of rain, Statehouse Atrium).

The theme for this year's celebration is Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business. We will be recognizing our American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Stimulus Projects and local Pathways Partners that are strengthening Ohio's statewide network of disability employment services. The Event is sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. See other Statehouse October celebration events [here](#).

Oct 12 - 16, Disability Employment Virtual Job Fair, online

The AbilityLinks Virtual Job Fair is a free 24/7 online recruiting event for inclusive employers and job seekers with disabilities to be held Monday, October 12 through Friday, October 16. There are many ways for job seekers, employers, service providers, and employed persons with disabilities (networking & mentoring) to be involved. Click here for [more information](#).

Oct 15, EmployAbility Conference 2009: Demonstrating the Keys to Disability as Diversity, Wright State University, Dayton

WrightChoice, Inc. and Wright State University are proud to host this third annual conference which will present the benefits of including disability as diversity within the business environment, showcase best practices in the areas of recruiting and hiring people with disabilities, provide a platform to explore real-world applications of disability inclusion, and explain employers' rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Register [here](#) or contact Angela Bonza at bonza.2@wright.edu.

Oct 27, Creative Conversation, Cincinnati

Part of the Americans for the Arts' Emerging Leader program, this panel will discuss the ideas, topics and issues regarding advocating for the arts and arts education in Ohio and Kentucky. After the panel discussion, there will be a brainstorming session on actions the group and individuals can take to promote the arts and arts education in the region. The conversation is sponsored by the Cincinnati Arts Association, Arts Kentucky, and Ohio Citizens for the Arts and will be held at the Arnoff Center for the Arts 650 Walnut St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. Call 513-977-4119 for more information.

Oct 27, 2009 Annual Conference of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council: Health Reform for People with Disabilities, Columbus

Health care reform is the talk of the nation and people with disabilities have a big stake in the current debate. People with disabilities are uniquely qualified to speak about chronic conditions, and the inefficiencies and exclusions of the current health care system. Contribute to solutions to the table that strengthen health care efforts for all. For more information call 614-263-8076 or email axiscenter@aol.com.

VSAO Accessible Expressions Ohio 2009 Tour

Oct 1 - 30, Columbus State Community College, Columbus

Oct 5 - 30, *The Ohio Statehouse*, Columbus

Now - Dec 31, *The Beck Center*, Cleveland

Artist's Corner

Paul Reininga, Emerging Photographic Artist

Born in 1951 in Elkhart, Indiana, Paul Reininga now lives and works in Athens, Ohio. He attended Ohio University focusing on Stage Design and Theater Technology, while earning his BA in General Studies in 1976. Reininga has been a prominent member of the Athens Photographic Project since 2000, where he now serves as a Mentor. Reininga's work has been included in ten group exhibitions since 2000, most recently, "Personal Landscapes: Topography and Emotion", and "Accessible Expressions Ohio 2009", where he awarded Best of Show for a self-portrait (pictured below). In 2007, Reininga received an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Grant for the creation and display of his photo series, "On Linage and Metaphor." Paul Reininga's photographic process is inspired by elements of the scientific method: observing, experimenting, recording, and then analyzing the results. His major subjects include portraits and self-portraits, architecture, and musings on daily life. In addition to Reininga's work in the fine arts, he has also served as a regional advocate for mental health awareness through his media interviews, lectures, and mentoring. By speaking openly about his experiences with mental illness, Reininga hopes to strengthen the social understanding and acceptance of this medical condition while encouraging others with mental illness to find hope and value in their lives.

"To be touched by
seeing Photographs of images
That Make me Relate to Myself.
They all do; some more than others.
Those that Balance out and Some that are Opposite
and some
that are more Congruent with my own Mind"
-Paul Reininga

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

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.

VSA arts of Ohio Staff

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*Empowering individuals with disabilities,
creatively and inclusively, through the arts.*

VSA arts of Ohio is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA arts is creating a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Funding for VSA arts of Ohio is provided by VSA arts, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Arts Council, individual and corporate sponsorship.