

Greetings

Spring has finally sprung in Ohio! Like you, I'm looking forward to the fresh air, fresh ideas, and fresh inspiration that always seem to come with the season.

Among other exciting upcoming programs, events, and services, VSAO will begin using our new name, **VSA Ohio**, and new logo (above). This change is part of our affiliation with the international organization, VSA, and is a relationship that strengthens VSAO in all our activities. We are still the same organization working to empower individuals with disabilities, creatively and inclusively, through the arts.

Before summer arrives VSA Ohio will be busy preparing for National Arts Advocacy Day, Ohio Arts Day, accessible performances of *Nobody's Perfect* at the Stocker Arts Center in Elyria and the Franciscan Center in Sylvania, A Celebration of the Young Soloists (May 1 - tickets still available!), and Careers in the Arts professional development workshops in Cincinnati and Cleveland in May (more information coming soon).

A number of other new projects and services will be announced in the coming months, so stay tuned! In the mean time, if VSA Ohio has inspired you, we want to know. If you have new ideas for how VSA Ohio can be involved in your community, we want to know.

As our new tag line states, we are The State Organization on Arts and Disability. Every day we strive to connect Ohioans in the arts, disability, and education communities in order to increase access to high quality arts and arts education experiences. We look forward to continuing these efforts (with the help of our partners) with a little extra spring in our step!

Sincerely,
Erin Hoppe, executive director

From VSA Ohio

Accessible Theater - Funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Supports local theater performances

Funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Fast Track grant program will support three accessible theater performances in Ohio.

April 12, *Nobody's Perfect*, Stocker Arts Center at Lorain County Community College, Elyria

VSA Ohio is working with The Stocker to provide FREE tickets and bus transportation subsidies to the 11:45 am showing. If you would like to attend, please contact Erin asap at 614-241-5325. For more information about this performance visit the Stocker Arts Center's website (<http://www.lorainccc.edu/Stocker+Arts+Center/stmat.htm>).

April 13, *Nobody's Perfect* and Theatre Vision Day, the Franciscan Center at Lourdes College, Sylvania. For more information or to order tickets call 419-824-3986 or visit the Franciscan Center's website (<http://www.lourdes.edu/CommunityOutreach/TheaterVision/SeasonDetails.aspx#perfect>).

April 24, Pierce to the Soul and Ohio Alliance for Arts Education 2010 Virtuoso Awards at the Vern Riffe Center, Columbus. To order tickets call 614-224-1060.

You are invited! 8th annual Celebration of the Young Soloists

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts - Columbus

Join VSA Ohio and arts, education, and disability sponsors in recognizing three outstanding musicians at the 8th annual *Celebration of the Young Soloists!* This ticketed performance includes food, drinks, and a silent auction that supports VSAO programming and services. The Young Soloist program recognizes outstanding musicians under the age of 25 with a disability in the instrumental or vocal arts. Call or email Liz Celeste at 614-241-5325 or lceleste@vsao.org to purchase tickets or make a donation today! To see a silent auction preview, visit

http://www.vsao.org/homepage/Silent%20Auction%20Preview_YS%202010.pdf;

This year's winners are:

1st Place - Brittany Goble (vocal, Waverly)



(head shot photograph of Brittany)

2nd Place - Steven Yee (piano, Cincinnati)



(head shot photograph of Steven)

3rd Place - Macy McCalin (flute, Bellfontaine)



(head shot photograph of Macy)

Read the press release to learn more about Ohio's 2010 Young Soloists (http://www.vsao.org/homepage/Press%20release%20update_ys10.pdf).

We are also excited to announce the CW Star, Annie Porembski, will emcee the Celebration! Each year, The CW on WWHO-TV begins a quest to find the face of our local television station. This "face" is known as The CW Star and works with the station for one year to gain unparalleled experience both in front of and behind the camera, event marketing, e-marketing, internet, radio, cable and much more. Annie Porembski, this year's winner, is a native of Dublin, Ohio. She received her degree in 2009 from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University. Before joining the CW as their celebrity Star, she worked for Jeni's Ice Creams, Mills James Productions as a Production Assistant and as a Temporary Legal Assistant for OhioHealth.



(head shot photograph of Annie)

From VSA

Last call - 2010 VSA arts Playwright Discovery Call for Scripts, deadline April 15

Middle and high school students with and without disabilities are invited to take a closer look at the world around them, examine how disability affects their lives and the lives of others, and express their views through the art of play writing. The winning play will be professionally produced or staged at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the author receives \$2,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C., to see his or her play performed. For more information visit <http://www.vsarts.org/x244.xml>.

VSA developed the *Playwright Discovery Resource Guide for Teachers* that is available for download (<http://www.vsarts.org/documents/programs/pwd/pwdtchrguide.pdf>). This practical guide shares teaching strategies and exercises that have proven successful in developing students' playwriting skills. Resources on the topic of disability are also provided.

The Writing Spotlight - Free Literary Resource

The Writing Spotlight features short literary works by prominent writers with disabilities. Designed to engage middle and high school students and encourage dialogue about disability and diversity, each Writing Spotlight is accompanied by discussion questions and writing activities to promote language arts skills, including reading comprehension and creative writing. Download and photocopy the spotlights (available in different languages) to use in your classroom (<http://www.vsarts.org/x2274.xml>).

Call for Teaching Artists with Disabilities Fellowship Program - deadline April 23

The VSA Teaching Artist Fellowship program seeks to identify, engage and support teaching artists with disabilities in the visual and performing arts. You can view the full application and find out more information by visiting

<http://www.vsarts.org/PreBuilt/showcase/gallery/exhibits/TeachingArtists/FellowshipProgram.html>.

Registration NOW OPEN for 2010 VSA International Festival!

From June 6-12, 2010, VSA-the international organization on arts and disability-will bring together artists, educators, researchers, and policymakers with and without disabilities from around the world for a multicultural celebration of the arts and education. The Festival will feature a dazzling array of visual, performing, literary, and media artists. Performances and exhibitions will be showcased at various venues throughout Washington, D.C. To register visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/festivals/09-10/vsa/>.

Scholarships available for Ohioans to attend VSA International Festival, deadline May 7

VSAO will award a limited number of small professional development stipends to support your attendance at the festival and/or Arts Education Conference. Application materials include:

1. Letter of intent - Why are you going to the festival/conference? What do you want to achieve by attending? How will you benefit from this professional development opportunity? Statement of need.
2. Resume
3. Budget - include estimated cost of attendance, how VSAO funds will be used, and how you will pay for the rest.

Stipends will be announced on May 21. If selected, you will be required to submit a report on your experience within 2 weeks of the festival in order to receive funds. Send all applications materials, attention Erin Hoppe, to the VSA Ohio office (77 South High Street, 2nd Floor Columbus OH 43215).

Opportunities & Resources

National Industries for the Blind Fellowship, deadline April 15

Applications are now being accepted for the Fellowship for Leadership Development, sponsored by National Industries for the Blind. This is a salaried, two-year program that combines business-focused, on-the-job experience with formal management training. Legally blind individuals who have an undergraduate degree, work experience, and passion for business are invited to apply. For more information visit

<http://www.nib.org/index.php?p=s&s=fellowship-&sm=t&mid=business-leaders-program>.

Disability Awareness Essay Contest, deadline April 16

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cincinnati is hosting their 2nd annual "ATTITUDE" - A Disability Awareness Essay Contest for all 3rd - 8th graders in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. The purpose of the "Attitude" Essay contest is to encourage an awareness among students about how the attitudes of others toward people with disabilities can serve as barriers to achievement and well-being. For information on how to apply call UCP Cincinnati at 513-221-4606 or visit <http://www.ucp-cincinnati.org/pages.php?cur=215>.

Webinar on Creating Inclusive Outdoor Events, April 16

The National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) will hold a webinar on Friday, April 16th at 3:00pm EDT called Creating an Accessible Outdoor Service Site from the Utah Conservation Corps. NSIP is pleased to be joined by Kevin Webb, Director of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, Kate Stephens, Assistant Director of the AmeriCorps Utah Conservation Corps, and Jeff Sheen, Training Development Specialist for the Center for Persons with Disabilities. This web conference will provide an overview of the AmeriCorps Utah Conservation Corps, strategies for making outdoor sites accessible to individuals with disabilities, and reasonable accommodations you can implement within your own site to ensure equal access and participation. To register for this event, please email nsip@umb.edu by noon EDT on Thursday, April 15th with the following information: name, organization, email, phone, and if you require CART to participate.

VSA Kentucky Seeks Executive Director, deadline April 20

VSA Kentucky provides programs in every Congressional district in Kentucky. The Executive Director is hired by and answers directly to the Board of Directors. Bachelor's Degree required. Desired qualifications in personnel management, supervising staff and grant writing. Familiarity with the ADA is necessary. Good fiscal management and budgeting experience and the ability to keep all aspects of the organization on track with the mission are essential. Position requires excellent leadership and communication skills, including public speaking and promoting the mission of VSA Kentucky statewide. Background or experience in the arts a plus but not necessary. Salary based on qualifications and experience. Send resume and letter of interest by April 20, 2010 to: Wanda Scott, 890 Fairview Avenue, Apt. D103, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

2010-2011 Kennedy Center Fellowship Applications, deadline April 21

Founded by President Michael M. Kaiser, the Kennedy Center Arts Management Institute Fellowship provides 10 mid-career arts managers with academic training and practical work experience at the nation's cultural center, one of the world's largest and most dynamic performing arts institutions. Fellows study with senior staff in weekly seminars, and compliment that study with practical work rotations in three departments and working relationships with senior staff. The nine-month, full-time program begins September 2010 and includes a \$20,000 stipend, coursework materials, and health insurance reimbursement. For more information, visit the Kennedy Center's website at <http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/artsmanagement/fellowships/home.html>.

20th anniversary of the ADA ceremony and Proclamation, Columbus, April 27

Join The Ohio State University's President E. Gordon Gee, Ohio's Attorney General Richard Cordray and the City of Columbus as they reaffirm their commitment to equality, inclusion and social justice by commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act on April 27th in the new Ohio Union (1739 N High St Columbus, OH 43210). To celebrate ADA Ohio is joining the National ADA Symposium (<http://www.2010anniversary.org/>) by encouraging cities, businesses, agencies and educational institutions to sign a proclamation of recommitment to the Spirit of the ADA. Your organization is invited to join the celebration by submitting a signed proclamation and your commitment to over 1,727,000 Ohioans with disabilities, social justice and the spirit of the ADA recognized during the program. For more information contact L. Scott Lissner at 614-292-6207 (v) or 614-688-8605 (tty) or ADA-OSU@osu.edu.

Target Stores Grant Program to Support Arts Programs for Kids

Through its 2010 Store Grant program, Target will provide direct support to K-12 schools and other nonprofit organizations that foster a love of reading and provide art experiences. Target will fund programs in Early Childhood Reading and Art and Culture in Schools. Grants in the amount of \$2,000 each will be made for programs taking place between September 1, 2010, and August 1, 2011. For complete program guidelines and application instructions visit the company's website (<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031767>).

Grant Opportunity for Organizations & Individuals: Technical Assistance, Conference fees, Greater Columbus Arts Council, 1st Monday of each month

The GCAC Technical Assistance grant program offers assistance for small arts organizations (Budget under \$500,000) and individual artists in the category of "Professional Development Assistance". The application process is simple and rotates monthly with quick determinations. In response to the current economic climate, GCAC will accept a limited number of applications from arts organizations with budgets larger than \$500,000. The grants will be restricted to conference registration only (up to \$500), 1 attendee/event per organization. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, pending verification of eligibility and board approval. Call 614-221-8406 or email Ruby Classen (rclassen@gcac.org) if you have any questions.

Grants for Individuals - Artists with Disabilities Access Program, Ohio Arts Council, rolling deadline

Developing an artistic career is a long-term process that requires various types of assistance at different times. The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) recognizes that artists with disabilities often face unique challenges to advancing their artistic practice. The Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) provides funding that enables artists with disabilities the resources to further their artistic development. Applications for awards up to \$500 are due the second Friday of each month. Artists interested in applying to the ADAP are strongly encouraged to contact the OAC accessibility coordinator via telephone at 614-995-5440 or through the Ohio Relay Service at 1-800-750-0750 to initiate the application process. Accommodations in the application process are available if necessary. For more information visit <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/grantsprogs/guidelines/ADAP.asp>.

Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative

This program designed to provide planning assistance and consulting to struggling arts organizations throughout the United States. Open to non-profit 501(c)(3) presenting and producing performing arts organizations, the program will provide counsel from Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser, Kennedy Center executive staff, and approved mentors in the areas of fundraising, building more effective Boards of Trustees, budgeting, marketing, technology, and other areas pertinent to maintaining a vital performing arts organization during a troubled economy. Visit www.artsincrisis.org for more information.

News

New Address - Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Office moved their offices on March 24 to: 899 E. Broad St., Suite 203
Columbus, OH 43205
Telephone numbers will remain the same.

New website - Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities -

www.ocecd.org

OCECD is proud of their new look and the variety of information offered on the new website. It's very user-friendly, with easy access to conference information, disability resources, regional trainings (<http://www.ocecdonline.org/regional/>), library resources, and much more. Stop in and browse the site!

New Music Technology Program Draws Students to the Arts, Canton

"McKinley High School could become home to the music industry's next great producer. That, or students will leave school with a greater appreciation for music, thanks to a new program. The program, music technology, has expanded from 50 students in the fall to 80 this semester. It is so new that there are no textbooks for it. Most of the instruction comes from online resources. In this course, students-freshmen to seniors-learn how to make music without an instrument. Teacher Brian Laakso said music technology engages today's students to create, share, and appreciate music made via technology. And it's relevant..." Read the CantonRep.com article [03/15/10] (<http://www.cantonrep.com/stark/canton/x1526463841/Music-education-goes-high-tech-at-McKinley-High>).

Research Findings, Speak Up: Arts & Disability Priorities for NSW Australia

The 'Speak Up: Arts & Disability Priorities for NSW' report is the result of a three year consultation project with arts and disability stakeholders across. It identifies key findings, issues and solutions to promote full inclusion, access and cultural opportunities in the arts for people with disability. This report ensures the work of Accessible Arts is guided by priorities identified by stakeholders in the arts and disability sectors. Although this report comes from Australia a number of findings apply to the arts in the U.S. and provide thoughtful insight. Read the report <http://www.aarts.net.au/resources/policy-research/speak-up-arts-and-disability-priorities-nsw/>.

Education Department To Step Up Enforcement Of Disability Rights

"The federal government is redoubling its efforts to crack down on civil rights violations against students with disabilities and other minority groups, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said... The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights will be issuing a series of letters offering guidance to school districts across the country and ramping up efforts to reach out to parents and advocacy groups, Duncan said in a speech in Selma, Ala..."

Read the DisabilityScoop article from 03/05/10 here:

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2010/03/08/doe-civil-rights/7251/>.

Paralyzed Graffiti Artist Draws With His Eyes

A group of artists and hackers have crafted a gadget that lets a paralyzed graffiti artist continue making art using only his eyes. And it costs about as much as an iPod shuffle. Zach Lieberman of the Graffiti Research Lab started working on the EyeWriter with one man in mind: Los Angeles-based graffiti artist Tony Quan. In 2003, Quan was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, leaving virtually every muscle in his body paralyzed except for his eyes. Lieberman and developers from Free Art and Technology, OpenFrameworks and the Ebeling Group were inspired to create low-cost, open-source hardware and software for eye-tracking to help Quan draw again. Read/listen the rest of the March 21, 2010 NPR article (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124980282&ft=1&f=1049>).

Arts & Disability in Ohio Calendar

April 2 - 30, Accessible Expressions Ohio Exhibit, Inner I Gallery, Xenia

View selections from the AEO 2010 tour at the Inner I Gallery, part of Towards Independence, Inc. 4360 Pine Castle Ct., Xenia, OH 45424. For gallery information call 937-376-3996.

April 8, Wrightslaw advocacy training, 9am - 4:30pm, Powell

Advocacy training for parents, professionals and advocates. Pete Wright will conduct a 6 hour Special Education Law and Advocacy Training focusing on : special education law, rights and responsibilities; tests and measurements to measure progress and regression; SMART IEPs; and introduction to tactics and strategies for effective advocacy. Hosted by Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio and co-sponsored by OCECD, Autism Association of Central Ohio, and Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. For more information visit <http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/10.04.oh.htm> or contact Down Syndrome of Central Ohio at 614-263-6020.

April 8 - 11, DanceWorks 2010 at Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland

Don't miss Inlet Dance Theater at Cleveland Public Theatre for another sure to sell out DanceWorks engagement. Inlet's powerful choreography is acclaimed for being both accessible and inspirational. Highlights include a world premier by Billy Wade entitled *Beauty in Tension*, the new work *Create*, the remounting of an Inlet favorite *B'roke*, and more. Buy tickets online at www.cptonline.org or call 216-631-2727, x 501.

April 9, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Art & Soul Exhibit, Kettering

A celebration of the creative talents of artists with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Food, fun, and 40 pieces of fantastic artwork on display and for sale to the public. Sponsored by the Inner I Gallery, Partners for Community Living, and the Greene, Hamilton, and Montgomery County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The exhibit will be on display at the Town and Country Fine Art Gallery at 300 East Stroop Road, Kettering OH 45429. For more information call 937-376-3996.

April 15 & 22, 7:30pm, accessible theater: Bury the Dead, Covington, KY

The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center and the University of Cincinnati Drama Program will present BURY THE DEAD, a dramatic play set in World War I that explores the story of 6 slain soldiers who refuse to be buried. Performances on April 15 & 22 will include closed-caption and ASL interpretation. In addition, there will be post-performance discussions with local veterans, military historians, and other experts involved with the project. Group discount tickets available. For information and tickets contact Aubrey at 513-376-7627 or aubreyshermock@gmail.com.

April 17, Blue Shoe Arts at Earth Gathering, Chillicothe

This is the first year Blue Shoe Arts will participate at Earth Gathering, which features hand-made art, live music, food, and activities. Blue Shoe artists will feature some of their recycled-art products along with paintings and some sculptures. The event will be held from 11am - 7pm at the Pump House lawn in Yoctangee Park. For event details visit www.earthgathering.com.

April 21, 2010 Governor's Awards for the Arts and Arts Day Luncheon, Columbus

Six winners chosen for the 2010 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. Awards presentation at the luncheon ceremony honoring winners and members of the Ohio Legislature hosted by the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Tickets are almost gone! Call Ohio Citizens for the Arts at 614-221-4064 or visit <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/events/ViewPublicEvent.asp?ID=218> today!

April 27th & 28th, Multiple Perspectives Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus Campus

10th annual Multiple Perspectives conference marks a decade of community exploration of disability as an individual experience and social reality that cuts across typical divisions of education & employment; scholarship & service; business & government; race, gender & ethnicity. Registration, updates, program information can be found at <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>.

May 13, The ARTS Along the Midway, Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

A day of performances and hands-on art activities that provide an opportunity to integrate the arts into the education of children and adults with and without disabilities. Registration packets available for pickup after March 6 at Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 1275 Lakeside Ave. East, Cleveland. Presented by the VSAO/Cleveland Area Service Division and numerous local partners. Call 216-344-1761 for more information and volunteer sign up.

May 23, 8:45am, 5K Walk & Roll, Columbus

Join an accessible 5K (3.1 mile) and fun Walk (1 mile) "Walk & Roll" on The Ohio State University Campus. Come with friends, families, strollers, and wheelchairs to enjoy the music, food, and fun. Sponsored by The Ohio State University Medical Center Service Board; all proceeds will benefit the Therapy Garden at Dodd Hall Rehabilitation Services at OSU Medical Center. Pre-register online at www.premierraces.com. Registration tri-folds will be available at Front Runner, 1144 W. Lane Avenue on March 25, 2010. For more information contact Pat Iams, publicity chair, 614-486-1532 or email pati51@aol.com.

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

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