

## Greetings

Some people ask, "What's VSA arts of Ohio?" As my daughter did as I started to draft this greeting to all of you. VSA is:

- an enrichment to our daily lives,
- a beauty to pull us away from our stressful jobs
- an eye opening experience like no other
- something that, when I share with others - it makes me glow
- An event that my daughter can't stop talking about - "That was so awesome - Mom" when she and I attended the Accessible Expressions "A Day of the Arts for All."

*Unfortunately*, it is also

- Too much of a secret
- Something that far too many people are missing!

It was not long ago that I was one of those missing out. Lucky for me - I was introduced to VSA through my job at The Huntington. The arts, the special gifts from so many - that we get to enjoy and the camaraderie of those around us. As you can see, that unfortunately - was a short list that we can reduce or eliminate by one simple gesture. **SHARE TODAY.** Forward this email to a friend or colleague, attend the Young Soloists performance on May 1st and enjoy the music of three incredibly talented Ohioans, pop a check in the mail, or call 614-241-5325 to see how you can work with VSAO in your community. In doing so, you will make someone as thankful as I am that it was shared with me.

This month's issue of *eVoice* is filled with ways VSA arts of Ohio is working to connect Ohioans and make the arts and arts education accessible.

Sincerely,  
Karis Spence  
Vice President, Board of Directors, VSA arts of Ohio

## From VSA arts of Ohio

### **8th annual Celebration of Young Soloists, Saturday, May 1, 2010, 2:00 - 4:30, Columbus**

You are invited to join VSA arts of Ohio and arts, education, and disability sponsors in recognizing three outstanding musicians at the 8th annual *Celebration of Young Soloists!* The Young Soloist program recognizes outstanding musicians under the age of 25 with a disability in the instrumental or vocal arts. You can read more about Ohio's 2010 Young Soloists, Brittany Goble (vocal, Waverly), Steven Yee (piano, Cincinnati), and Macy McCalin (flute, Bellfontaine) in the [press release](#). This ticketed performance includes food, drinks, and a silent auction that supports VSAO programming and services. Call Liz Celeste at 614-241-5325 to purchase tickets or make a donation today.

## A Day of Arts for All a Special Success!

On a rare and enjoyable sunny February day in Westerville, Ohio people from across the state came together to celebrate *A Day of the Arts for All*.

The Opening Ceremony to the Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010 Exhibit recognized all 96 participating artists and awards were presented in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. This year's Best in Show went to Frances Heath for *My Life Part Two: Losing My Mind*. Malcolm J's *Hair Raiser* was the People's Choice. You can see images of all the winning art at <http://www.vsao.org/artwork.php>. You can also purchase a limited edition photo book with all the winners for \$10 thanks to the generosity of CVS. The art work is on display at the Westerville Community Center through March 26 before it tours the state.

The 3rd annual CVS Caremark Sights & Sounds of the Arts Festival got into full swing after the ceremony. Folks, young & old of all ability levels, could visit 14 different art-making stations, including pop-up books, shrinky dink sculptures, poetry, and duct tape wallets. Thank you to the wonderful teaching artists for leading the hands-on projects! In addition to the art-making, performers entertained visitors throughout the day: InnerVision sang the Star Spangled banner, Steven Yee, a multi-year award winner of the Young Soloists competition, performed on the piano; vocalist Lacy Hughes graced the crowd with her beautiful voice; the MUCAI dance group brought beautiful dance interpretations to the stage; and the day concluded with the funky beats of Eustace Bobb's Steel Drum Soundz.

Over 30 artists and service providers attended *Telling Your Story*, a Careers in the Arts professional development workshop. Presentations by Patty Mitchell, Chris Moehler, Donna Collins, Nate Thomson, and Derek Mortland were followed by round table discussions about how to advocate for a creative career through an artist statement. Participants networked, shared stories, and left with new ideas for how to advance their careers.

VSA arts of Ohio wishes to thank ALL of our partners, sponsors, artists, and participants for making A Day of Arts for All a success!



clockwise from top left:

Ohio State Representative Ted Celeste presents a proclamation to emerging artist Shari Veleba;  
participants in the Careers in the Arts professional development workshop;

sights and sounds of the arts;  
children making spring flowers

Photographs by Paul Wilbur

## From VSA arts

### **Emerging Filmmakers with Disabilities Sought by VSA & AFI/Silverdocs, deadline March 12**

The VSA apprenticeship in collaboration with AFI-Discovery Channel and SILVERDOCS is a golden opportunity for an emerging filmmaker to get in on the ground floor with an established festival, network with those working in the field, get first class training in documentary film-making and be first in line to move on to the next level. Applications are now being accepted at <http://www.vsarts.org/x6042.xml>.

### **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>.

### **2010 VSA arts International Festival**

From **June 6-12, 2010**, VSA arts-the premier arts and disability organization-will bring together artists, educators, researchers, and policymakers with disabilities from around the world for a multicultural celebration of the arts and arts education. Held in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Festival will be held in Washington, DC and feature a dazzling array of visual, performing, literary, and media artists. The guest list includes more than 2,000 people, including VSA arts' 54 international affiliates, its U.S. network, and audience members from all corners of the globe. Read more about the Festival by visiting <http://www.vsarts.org/x5992.xml>.

## Advocacy Action Alert

I will celebrate my two year anniversary with VSA arts of Ohio next month. If I wasn't aware then of all the work we do, I am proud to say I am now. Every day I get to talk in person, on the phone, and via email to Ohioans with and without disabilities whose lives have been impacted positively by increased access to the arts and arts education. Our efforts are possible because of innumerable partners in Ohio and because we are an affiliate of VSA arts. VSA arts provides leadership, resources, and opportunities that we share with you. The funding our Ohio affiliate receives from VSA arts comes from an award from the U.S. Department of Education. As the President and Congress begin the difficult budget process for FY2011, that funding is in jeopardy.

While the President's FY 2011 budget proposal provides a generous overall increase in funding for the Department of Education, it combines funding for Arts in Education (where VSA receives its funding) with seven other small categorical programs into a state-based competitive block grant entitled "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well Rounded Education." Although support of "Arts in Education" is referenced, the direct grant to VSA arts would be eliminated if this proposal is adopted.

Students, families, teachers and teaching artists would be hurt by the loss of program funding for VSA that provides the only federal support for arts in education to students with disabilities. In addition, other community-based partners would be similarly affected by the loss of VSA's support and expertise. Valuable VSA arts of Ohio programming, resources, and services will be greatly diminished if funding from VSA arts to the affiliate network is reduced.

*You can help. The time to alert your legislators is now.* E-mail, faxes and phone calls are the best way to communicate with Capitol Hill about your opposition to the President's proposed plan. Visit [http://capwiz.com/artsusa/dbq/officials/?affiliate\\_lookup=1](http://capwiz.com/artsusa/dbq/officials/?affiliate_lookup=1) to connect to the American's for the Arts, Arts Action Center, and tell your legislators how important it is to support arts in education funding. Just enter your zip code and you will be prompted with legislator contact information and an easy online contact form for the " Federal: Tell Congress to Support Arts in Education" action alert. *Take action and let Congress know how VSA and arts in education makes a difference in your life and community!*

Erin Hoppe, executive director, [ehoppe@vsao.org](mailto:ehoppe@vsao.org)

## **Opportunities & Resources**

### **Lori Waxman - 60 wrd/min art critic, March 5 -7, ROY G BIV gallery, Columbus**

Installed in various venues through out the US critic Lori Waxman makes herself available to any artist who wants a review. Artists bringing in their work and the critic spends twenty minutes writing them a review of one to two hundred words. The text is then "published" by the receptionist and posted in the gallery for everyone to read. Reviews are free of charge and are guaranteed to be thoughtful though not necessarily positive responses to the work submitted. Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To schedule a review email [critic@60wradmin.org](mailto:critic@60wradmin.org). You can also visit [www.roygbivgallery.org](http://www.roygbivgallery.org).

### **Call for Student Posters - 10th Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, deadline March 31**

A celebration of the conference's 10th anniversary and looking forward to this summer's 20th anniversary of the ADA refreshed by recent amendments, this is an opportunity to consider where we are, how we got here and where we are going. One annual tradition is a poster reception following the Ken Campbell Memorial Lecture. We are seeking poster presentations from graduate and undergraduate students that represent the broad interdisciplinary approaches to disability. Student poster session will be Tuesday, April 27; for more info: <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2010Conf/callforstudentposters10.html>.

### **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>.

## **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 & Disability in Ohio Calendar**

### **Now - March 26, *Accessible Expressions Ohio Exhibit*, Westerville Community Center**

View all 2-dimensional pieces in this year's tour at the Westerville Community Center. Call 614-901-6500 for hours of operation.

### **March 1 - 31, *Join the Conversation with Ohio Rehabilitation Services*, multiple cities**

Rehabilitation Services Commission Administrator Michael Rench is coming to a city near you for collaborative dialogue during café-style conversations. Don't miss this chance to shape the future! Everyone's voice will be heard. View the invitation to the event and list of locations and times: [http://www.ocecd.org/h\\_docs/CafeConversationPostcardInvite.pdf](http://www.ocecd.org/h_docs/CafeConversationPostcardInvite.pdf).

### **March 2 - 31, *Ohio Statehouse Celebrates Women's History Month*, Columbus**

The Ohio Statehouse will celebrate and honor important women in the history of Ohio during Women's History Month, with tours of the Ladies' Gallery and a special exhibit in its Map Room. A new website (<http://www.ohioladiesgallery.org/>) will be launched March 2 as a resource about Ohio women in government and the Suffrage movement of the early 1900s.

### **Tomorrow - March 3, 6:00pm - 8:00, *Artist Circle*, Columbus**

Network with other central Ohio artists at the monthly artist circle hosted by Fresh AIR gallery. This month the group will meet at 13 E. Tulane Road in Clintonville, an art space right off High Street on the #2 bus line behind Cup O Joe. Artists will network and see a project preview ([itlookslikeitsopen.com/](http://itlookslikeitsopen.com/)). Email [freshairgallery@gmail.com](mailto:freshairgallery@gmail.com) for more information about the Artist Circle.

## **March 9, 10am - 1pm, Transition Training, Niles**

The Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, in collaboration with the Ohio Coalition for Children with Disabilities (OCECD) will be presenting trainings on "Planning for the Transition from School to Adult Life," in seven major cities throughout Ohio during the fall of the 2009-2010 school year. Training is designed for parents and will provide an overview of the transition process under IDEA 2004 and current Ohio law. SST 5 Eastwood Mall, Unit 696, 555 Youngstown-Warren Rd. Niles, OH 44446. To register visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SRPB892>.

## **March 16, 2:00 - 3:30 est, Conducting Effective Accessibility Surveys Part I**

What to measure, how to measure, who is qualified to do a survey and what tools are available to support this activity are commonly asked questions. Two-part series explores requirements to conduct accessibility surveys by business, government and educational institutions to ensure that they meet the requirements of the ADA. Free to attend at select locations in Columbus ([adaohio@aol.com](mailto:adaohio@aol.com)), Toledo (419-885-5733), Cleveland (216-696-2716, x129), Lancaster (740-689-1494). Or, register for the online session at <http://ada-audio.org/>.

## **March 23, 1:00 - 4:00pm, Snoezelon (SNOOZE-a-len): Sensory Fun for Everyone!, Chillicothe**

Susan McKinley, Founder and Owner of Tangible Alternatives will discuss Snoezelen, a multi-sensory philosophy that uses an environment designed to encourage relaxation and exploration, including: how to create sensory environment, structuring for success, and incorporating sensory environments into the IEP. Sponsored by Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities in collaboration with Chillicothe City Schools and Fayette County Parent Mentor Programs. Ross County Educational Service Center, 475 Western Avenue, Suite E, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601. To register visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BKTWH2B>.

## **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 contact Down Syndrome of Central Ohio at 614-263-6020 or visit [http://www.dsaco.net/sites/default/files/public\\_files/WrightsLaw10\\_RegForm\\_0.pdf](http://www.dsaco.net/sites/default/files/public_files/WrightsLaw10_RegForm_0.pdf).

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

To order tickets call 440-366-4040

**April 13, *Nobody's Perfect* and Theatre Vision Day, the Franciscan Center at Lourdes College, Sylvania**

To order tickets call 419-824-3986

**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. Discounted tickets available for groups of 10+. For information and tickets contact Aubrey at 513-376-7627 or [aubreyshermock@gmail.com](mailto:aubreyshermock@gmail.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. To register call Ohio Citizens for the Arts at 614-221-4064 or visit <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/events/ViewPublicEvent.asp?ID=218>.

**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

**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 (216-344-1761) and numerous local partners. Call VSA arts of Ohio/Cleveland Area Service Division at 216-344-1761 for more information and to volunteer.

**May 22, Walk for Independence, Shawnee Park, Xenia**

Join Towards Independence, Inc and Walk Sponsors for 8th annual Walk for Independence. Registration deadline is April 23; \$12 includes t-shirt, breakfast, walk, entertainment, and cash prizes. Walk alone or in teams and get pledges to raise money to meet the needs of men, women, and children with developmental disabilities residing in Miami Valley. For more information visit [www.ti-inc.org](http://www.ti-inc.org) or call Jodi Hill at 937-376-3996.

## News

### **Study Suggests Intensive Music Therapy May Help Stroke Patients, Others**

"Words and music, such natural partners that it seems obvious they go together. Now science is confirming that those abilities are linked in the brain, a finding that might even lead to better stroke treatments...In addition, researchers said, music education can help children with developmental dyslexia or autism more accurately use speech." Read the full text of The New York Times article (2/20/10):

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/02/20/science/AP-US-SCI-Words-and-Music.html?\\_r=3](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/02/20/science/AP-US-SCI-Words-and-Music.html?_r=3).

### **Scientists, Musicians Combine Efforts in New Green Music Movement**

"The Union of Concerned Scientists announced it is partnering with a high-profile coalition that brings together musicians, industry leaders, and music fans to promote widespread environmental change within the music industry and around the globe...Since 2004, Reverb has greened more than 80 major music tours and reached out to more than 10 million music fans. The nonprofit group promotes sustainability throughout the music industry, from record labels to radio stations." Read the full text of the Union of Concerned Scientists article (2/1/10) [http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press\\_release/ucs-partners-with-musicians-to-green-music-industry-0342.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/ucs-partners-with-musicians-to-green-music-industry-0342.html).

### **U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky Introduces Technology Bill of Rights for the Blind**

On January 27 "Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)..introduced the Technology Bill of Rights for the Blind (H.R. 4533), which will mandate that all consumer electronics, home appliances, kiosks, and electronic office technology provide user interfaces that are accessible to the blind..." Read the rest of the PR Newswire:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/us-representative-jan-schakowsky-introduces-technology-bill-of-rights-for-the-blind-82834412.html>.

## **CVS: Reflections from Volunteers at A Day of Arts for All**

On Saturday February 20th, we at CVS completed our third year of participating with VSA arts of Ohio and second year at the Westerville Community Center. We have become more than two companies participating in a great cause, we have become one family. Our original involvement came from an e-mail from CVS corporate asking if anyone in the Central Ohio area would like to get involved. There was an invitation sent out to ask for volunteers and we had 10 people respond. Our first time working with VSA was outstanding. Now our folks ask me when the next VSA event will be, and how can they be involved? This year 20 people respond and they had fun! The reason for this response is because VSA is one of the best organizations to work with. VSA is so easy to work with, very appreciative of what we do, and it is just plain FUN to work with the artists and their families.

All of us at CVS are also blown away by the quality of the work in the Accessible Expressions Ohio exhibit. It is no surprise to me that this year's event was so much bigger than last year. The way the staff at VSA cares for its people and participants is outstanding. It is great to see the excitement around all of the activities. There is also an appreciation by our CVS people at letting our children interact with your children, talk about experiences these kids are going to take away with them. The way VSAO always looks to improve is admirable. A great example of this was the professional development workshop, *Telling Your Story*. This was an opportunity for artists with disabilities to develop artist statements and many discussed roadblocks on their career paths. You could tell from the participation in the room that this workshop was well received and much needed. You could actually see healing going on as people realized they were not the only one being affected by these roadblocks.

This is an event I personally look forward to each year. The friendliness of everyone involved is very encouraging. The way you all treat each other as the winners are announced and how excited everyone gets is contagious. This year I was able to get my daughter and son involved and they came away with a sense of accomplishing something good, but also an understanding of the great work VSAO does, and at least for a little while, being exposed to 'walking in another persons shoes' and what they go through. It was a great life lesson for them and for everyone involved at CVS. I also want to stress it was FUN.

Thanks for letting us be involved and I look forward to working with VSA arts of Ohio and the great artists in this state again when ever you need us.

***Cliff Barson, district manager, CVS***



CVS volunteers and members of A Day of Arts for All planning committee after the event. Photograph by Paul Wilbur

## Artist Spotlight: Charlotte McGraw, Founder and Mayor of Charlottesville

Welcome to Charlotte's world, a quaint little town nestled between here and there named Charlottesville. Charlotte's real life has not always been so quaint. Mistakenly misdiagnosed with mental retardation as a teenager she spent ages 16-27 in an institution. Now 55, she works with Cody Miller at United Cerebral Palsy ArtBridge Studio. Charlotte, who has also battled depression, said Cody persisted for 5 years before she relented and joined the creative process in the art studio at UCP. That was three years ago, and that is when the groundbreaking for Charlottesville took place.

As Mayor of Charlottesville, Charlotte has an intimate knowledge of all her citizens because she has created them. What she likes most about them is that they all have a voice in her town and are allowed to be themselves. They are born when an idea pops into Charlotte's head and then sketched out. Slowly their image begins to tell a story of who they are; their name comes next. The final character takes form in a multi-media collage using torn paper, magazines, paint, and ink. Cody Miller has continued to encourage Charlotte in the creative process and encourage her to develop stories to go along with each character. Two of Charlotte's favorites are Brumfus, who people pass and don't talk to, and Eustuce the Body Snatcher (part of Accessible Expressions Ohio 2009).

At her premier solo gallery opening at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (now through March 5) in Columbus Charlotte expressed she never thought she would make it this far, "I was really unsure about making art, Cody just kept bugging me and one day I finally said yes. Now I love doing art and my favorite part is seeing peoples' reactions as they view my pieces and read the stories."

You can see *Pixie Dust Fairy* and *Big Puff Daddy and His Family* as part of the 2010 VSA arts of Ohio Accessible Expressions of Ohio tour.

By Derek Mortland  
VSAO artist services coordinator



Left: Charlotte McGraw at Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010 Opening Ceremony (Photograph by Paul Wilbur)

Right: 1st Place Professional award winner, *Pixie Dust Fairy*, mixed media, \$225

## **VSA arts of Ohio Board of Directors**

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Please forward and share the e-Voice! Anyone can subscribe by sending contact information to [info@vsao.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@vsao.org).

*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, the National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, individual, and corporate sponsorship.