



**OHIO**

**The State Organization  
on Arts and Disability**

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



**Erin J. Hoppe**  
Executive Director

### Celebrating 30 years of service in 2016

VSAO works to change perceptions about ability and disability by helping connect people to creative opportunities that inspire us all. Ever-evolving programs provide an inclusive environment in which people with disabilities are given the opportunity to celebrate life through the arts, education, and creative expression. A network of local, regional, and state-level partners, grass roots efforts, and 21<sup>st</sup> century outreach strategies allow VSAO to serve many of Ohio's counties.

VSAO is also an advocate, with services impacting more than 20,000 lives in classrooms, galleries, and other community spaces. Public awareness efforts through traditional print, online, radio, and television outlets ensure thousands more indirectly benefit and learn about VSAO's mission and services.

VSA Ohio is an affiliate of VSA, an international organization founded by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in 1974. VSA is a program of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

### Our Strategic Plan for Growth

# Strategic Action

## EDUCATION

Provide stakeholders with the tools, resources, and opportunities to enhance teaching and learning through:

- Inclusive arts education residencies
- Training and resources for educators
- Creative career consultations for artists
- Information and resources for the public

## ACCESS

Increase access to the arts and cultural participation through:

- Communication efforts
- Inclusive arts and arts education experiences
- Local, state and national partnerships

## DEVELOPMENT

Invest in infrastructure and financial stability to meet evolving constituent needs, including:

- Staff
- Board
- Organization



## Board of Directors

President: **Thomas Kromer**, Deloitte Tax  
Vice President: **Elizabeth Sammons**, Artist  
Treasurer: **Michelle Moskowitz-Brown**, Local Matters  
Secretary: **Greta Robertson**, Columbus City Schools

**Mary Kay (MK) Barno**, Community Advocate  
**Jody Beall**, Ohio Department of Education \*Appointed  
**Susan Dlouhy**, Creative Abundance Group  
**Amy Hess**, OSU Center for Autism Service and Transition  
**Laura Lazor**, Kellogg's  
**L. Scott Lissner**, OSU, ADA Coordinator  
**Keila Naparstek**, Jewish Family Services  
**Steve Pleasnick**, Community Advocate  
**Joseph Supina**, Sandusky Artisans  
**Nate Thomson**, Athens Photographic Project



**13.5%**  
Prevalence of disability in Ohio

**1 in 5**  
Number of Americans  
65+ by 2030

**25,000+**  
Numbers served  
annually by VSA Ohio



# Accessibility Matters

## Arts & Autism in Ohio Initiative

How can the Ohio Arts Council better support access to the arts for students and young people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder? The answer lies, in part, in a *groundbreaking initiative* between VSAO and Ohio Arts Council. Research findings and stakeholder input shape this Initiative.

- Convene an Advisory Group to promote partnerships, raise awareness, and develop resources for the state.
- Publication of Resource Guide Series for Families, Teaching Artists, and Cultural Administrators.
- Launch an on-line database, NEXUS, with accessible arts opportunities, housed by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence.
- Statewide convening during the *2016 Arts and Autism Conference: Creating, Learning, Living* at the Columbus Museum of Art
- The Arts & Autism Ambassador Program in-person training curriculum.
- Raise awareness through traditional and 21<sup>st</sup> century outreach.

**1 in 88**  
Incidence of Autism

**1 in 54**  
Incidence of Autism  
in Boys

**16,336**  
Number of  
students with  
Autism in  
Ohio's schools

\*Autism is the  
fastest-growing  
developmental  
disability in the US

## Cultural Access

How can institutions make their spaces, programs, and governance more inclusive of, and accessible to, individuals with any disability? By making considerations for accessibility, institutions become more inviting to everyone, of any ability.

- *Building Access by Design* is a full day professional development institute bringing together professionals from across the country, fields, and all levels of experience. Presentations, panels, and networking provide best practices and change perceptions about why and how to promote access accommodations.
- *A Culture of Access* is a shorter training session for any level of administrator, volunteer, front-line staff, security, executives, and board members. Content addresses specific best practices for engaging people with different disabilities and answers all your etiquette questions.

## Outreach & Advocacy

VSA Ohio advocates changing perceptions about dis/ability while making the arts and arts education more accessible and inclusive. We share pertinent information, resources, opportunities, and news with our constituents and the community through our website and social media efforts. Presentations on cultural access and disability culture are made to diverse audiences across Ohio.





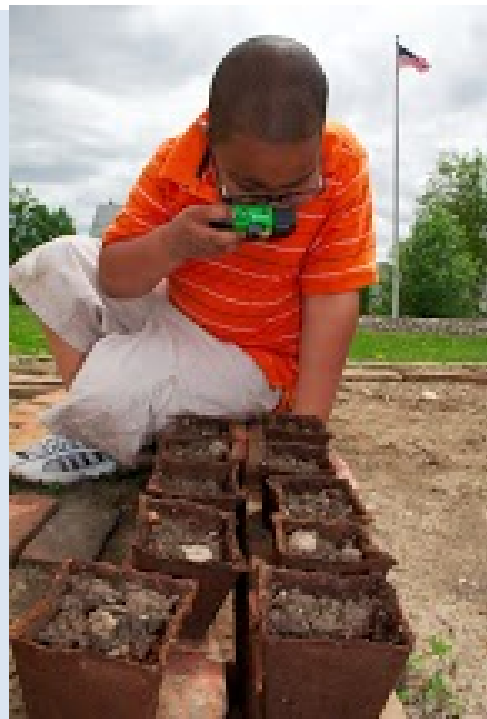
# Lifelong Learning

## **Adaptation, Integration & the Arts (AIA) Residencies**

AIA was developed in 2002 to enhance teaching and learning in inclusive classrooms through arts integration. In this program, teaching artists and classroom educators work together to develop curricula that incorporates art into the existing subject matter. Students with disabilities demonstrate increased participation and learning when arts activities are integrated into the curriculum. Students, educators and teaching artists all benefit from an increased understanding of integration and classroom inclusion.

Last year AIA was in 25 schools in 14 districts. AIA served over 3,000 students, pre-K through 12, and 460 educators. The program will emphasize results driven accountability and focus on reading and math in the 2014-2015 school year.

*AIA had a positive impact. Students developed a respect for one another that helped with developing motivation and resiliency towards learning goals. I believe by making more connections to real life with curriculum it will help our students learn and retain more knowledge they will be able to use for a lifetime.* - Principal



**Total number of Ohio's students with disabilities**

**16**

**Percentage of total student population with disabilities**

**52%**

**Achievement rate in Reading for students with disabilities**

*Compared to*

**89%**

**Achievement rate in Reading for students without disabilities**

*\* 2013 Special Education Profile © Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities.*

## **ReelAbilities Columbus Film Festival**

ReelAbilities is the largest film and cultural festival in the country bringing communities together to explore, discuss, embrace and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience. The festival originated in New York; Columbus is one of a 15-city national program. VSAO has presented three ReelAbilities film and cultural festivals. The festival has included 12 venues, 25 films, 100+ artists/panelists, 4 workshops, and 40+ partners.

Numerous promotional screenings are planned throughout central Ohio leading up to the next full festival in 2017.

*I was shocked at the variety of conflicting viewpoints on disability. I had never known so many existed! "Cure/Kill", "Oppression", "imposter's syndrome." While I possess little knowledge of these concepts, I do know films can allow us transcendence of disability theory; that is to become more than one was before through a viewing experience, regardless of preconceptions. That was what I ultimately take away from the ReelAbilities Film Fest.* – Chris B., Attendee

**ReelAbilities**  
FILM FESTIVAL  
COLUMBUS

# Creative Careers

## Accessible Expressions Ohio (AEO)

AEO provides opportunities for artists of all ages with disabilities to create, exhibit, and sell their art in an inclusive environment.

A 75-piece exhibit kicks off with an opening ceremony in March, before going on a statewide tour in small groups. AEO marks 20 years in 2016.

AEO engages communities as tour sites, patrons, and pARTicipants who can send a postcard to artists, providing valuable feedback and encouragement.

## Workshops and Technical Assistance

Professional development workshops are hosted across Ohio to meet help break down barriers for artists with disabilities seeking to earn income in the arts. Examples include lessons by a master artist, how to market work, and how to photograph and price art.

VSA Ohio's staff provides technical assistance to artists seeking to develop creative career necessities such as portfolios. The Careers in the Arts Workbook is a free resource which provides a roadmap for success by challenging individuals to consider their strengths then enact practical tips for overcoming obstacles.

## Pearl Market Merchant Program

One popular way for artists to sell their work and market themselves is to participate in farmer's markets or other local craft fairs. However, the money, time, and physical demands frequently prevent people with disabilities from participating. In response, VSA Ohio rented a merchant booth at our local downtown farmer's market, Pearl Alley, allowing artists and studios to use the space at no cost. The program netted about \$1,000 in sales for artists and allowed VSA Ohio to raise awareness about our mission and the talents of our constituents.

## Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) Grant program

The ADAP program is funded by the Ohio Arts Council. The grant provides support to individual artists with disabilities (up to \$1,000) as well as organizations helping artists with disabilities (up to \$3,000). Funds are available for a variety of activities, materials, and services. VSA Ohio provides technical assistance with the grant program, serving approximately 100 artists each year.



**20%**

People with disabilities  
(ages 21 to 64)  
working full time

**31.4%**

Poverty rate of  
working-age people  
with disabilities

**33.2%**

Employment rate for  
people with  
disabilities in OH

*compared to*

**76.5%**

Employment rate for  
people without  
disabilities in OH

\*2011 Disability  
Statistics Report –  
Ohio; © 2012 Cornell  
University.

# Friends of VSA Ohio

Engage. Create. Support.

Online \* Traditional \* In-Kind  
Workplace \* Matching \* Tribute

From donations to participation to occasional perks, Friends of VSAO are a core group of supporters who make it possible for VSAO to celebrate life through art. Join today!

*All donations to VSA Ohio are 100% tax deductible.*

## Celebrating & Thanking this year's Supporters & Partners

MK & Doug Barno  
Jennifer CaJacob  
Gary DeVault  
Mac & Marg Hawkins  
InnerVision  
Cassandra McDonald  
L. Scott Lissner  
Greta Robertson  
Joey Supina

Michelle & Aaron Brown  
Jody & Kelly Beall  
Liz Frantz  
Summer Hawkins  
Tom Kromer  
Connie Page  
Jerome F. Page, Jr.  
James H. Sanders, III  
Nate Thomson

Norma Capocci  
Donna Collins & family  
Brooke Hawkins  
Erin Hoppe  
Laura Lazor  
MK & Doug Barno  
Steve & Robin Pleasnick  
Sonia M. Schottenstein



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