**VSA Vermont**

**2018 Annual Impact Report**

**Large Print Format With Image Descriptions**

**Cover Art:**

VSA Vermont 2018 Impact Report

The VSA Vermont logo is show in white against a full-page image: a close-up of student artwork. Purple crayon swirls with blue watercolor. Pieces of shiny aluminum foil and aqua yarn lay atop the artwork.

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2017-2018 was a year of transition and growth at VSA Vermont. With the arrival of Susan as our new executive director in October of 2017, the organization has taken time to reflect on who we are, what we do, and the communities with whom we partner. We have a renewed focus on the power of the arts to engage and inspire. Through our educational programs, professional development opportunities for teachers and arts organizations, and cultural access experiences for the public, VSA Vermont is creating a more inclusive, accessible arts community for all Vermonters. In the past year, VSA Vermont programs reached 4,591 people at 154 sites throughout Vermont. Our arts-based educational experiences engaged the capabilities and enhanced the confidence of children and adults with disabilities. Professional development for teachers created inclusive arts-integrated classrooms for learners of all ages. Our public art events brought wider opportunities for all Vermonters to learn through the arts.Over the next year, VSA Vermont will embark on a new strategic planning process that will further define the impact we want to have with the communities whom we serve. We are looking forward to the broad discussions that will shape our thinking and the future of our work. And, of course, our team is ready to create the strategic plan in an inclusive, creative way that matches our organizational values. We continue to be inspired by the communities with whom we work. The arts are a vital part of Vermont, and Vermonters enhance the vitality of the arts. We look forward to more creativity, more joy, and more art together with all of you and are thrilled to share some of the highlights from the past year in this annual report.

Susan McClure

Kathryn Miller

IMAGE: Two black and white portraits are viewed one above the other. On the top is Susan McClure, smiling at the viewer in front of a background of trees and brick buildings. Below this, Katie Miller smiles at the camera from behind black-rimmed glasses against a white background.

IMAGE: Three toddlers seated at chairs with trays, painting with their hands and brushes on paper plates.

"All of the children have a deeper sense of pride in their work. They are much more imaginative in their dramatic play. We all look at books and art in a much more profound and meaningful way."

Julie Taylor, Childcare Provider, Start With The Arts Participant

**2017-18 Board of Directors** Alex Bacon

Deborah KrugTyler Compton

Sarah KuligHeidelise Corriveau

Hilary MaslowBridget Edwards

Ashley McCulloughRuth Gminski

Mary-Katherine StoneGeoff Hand

**Leadership Team** Peggy Rainville, Director of

Children’s ProgrammingKatie Miller, Development & Communications DirectorHeidi Swevens, Volunteer &

Adult Program Manager

Toby MacNuttProgram Manager

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**Stories of Impact**

**Using Arts-Based Literacy to Engage Reactive and Reluctant Early Learners**This spring we piloted a program with a therapeutic childcare center integrating social and emotional learning strategies to Start With The Arts, VSA Vermont’s award-winning arts-based literacy program for preschool students and childcare providers. The teacher who completed the pilot said that the program completely changed the way she sees herself as an educator and as a leader, and the way she sees her students. She has increased the number of times she offers arts and literacy activities and reports that she is able to adapt to each child’s individual needs and interests consistently because of her time in the program. Start With The Arts provides crucial leadership opportunities for early childhood educators to gain new skills and confidence, while having a new sense of responsibility for their lessons. The same teacher said that she had never had the opportunity to be a leader in her classroom and was grateful for the program.

IMAGE: Viewed from above, a child is seated a table and creates a painting using bright blue and yellow paints, dragging a toy car and tractor through the paint to create tracks.

**Gallery Visits for Individuals With Blindness or Low Vision**The FLOURISH exhibition was a rare and needed opportunity for people with disabilities to engage with artwork in a deep and meaningful way. We capitalized on this opportunity and facilitated tours of the exhibition for people with dementia and two separate groups of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. To make this possible, teaching artists were provided specialized training (from Gordon Sasaki, who developed the dementia program at the Museum of Modern Art) in welcoming individuals with memory loss. We also held a training for staff and volunteers in live verbal description of artwork. “I want to thank you again for your vigor in accommodating our students. You went above and beyond to help create the best experience for them. I cannot thank you enough for your dedication to making the exhibit accessible for all people. This was a one of a kind experience.” -S. Glass, LEAP Group Coordinator

IMAGE: Against a white backdrop, two sets of hands enter the photograph from either side, together holding a framed piece of artwork. One hand delicately touches the piece, which is a 3-D printed tactile representation of an artwork from the FLOURISH exhibition.

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“It’s so valuable. It allows them the deepest affirmation of who they are and the self-expression that makes all of us feel whole and authentic.”Janet St. Onge, LEARN Academy

**Program Highlights**

**Flourish Exhibition**

On April 6th we opened FLOURISH, an exhibition featuring the work of artists with disabilities in partnership with the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The show featured 36 works from both new and established artists in acrylic, oil, and watercolor; drawings in ink, pastel, crayon, and charcoal; photographs, ceramics, weaving, as well as mixed-media sculpture and assemblages. The exhibition ran through the month of June and saw thousands of visitors. FLOURISH was made accessible through tactile representations of selected works, verbal descriptions, Braille, large print documents, recorded audio tour, and ASL interpretation of public events.

IMAGE: Along the right side of the frame, a series of artworks are hung in a line on a gallery wall during the FLOURISH exhibition. On the left, a large group gathers, engaged in conversation during the opening reception.

**Social & Emotional Learning**

Over the past year, VSA Vermont has expanded its efforts to bring arts-integration into classrooms serving students with emotional and behavioral challenges. Arts to Smarts, our K-12 program, increases opportunities for students with behavioral and emotional challenges to engage in learning and participate in positive social interactions through the arts. Through this program, highly-trained teaching artists reached students 26 classrooms across the state, both in public and private therapeutic schools. Often students at the start of the program found it difficult to remain in a classroom focused for less than five minutes. By the end, teachers report all students staying, remaining engaged and respectful of their classmates for entire class periods. You can learn more about the program and watch a short documentary video on VCAM’s website: www.vermontcam.org/show/arts-smarts-promo.

IMAGE: Two sets of hands enter from opposite sides of the frame, each painting a side of a cardboard box with bright red paint, using foam rollers.

**Training Educators and Organizations**

This year, VSA Vermont trained teaching artists across the state in a variety of subjects including: offering gallery tours to individuals with dementia, Universal Design for Learning and inclusive classrooms, and social and emotional learning. We also offered a series of trainings specifically for the Northeast region of Vermont. In partnership with Vermont Arts Council’s The Agile Nonprofit, we trained arts and cultural organizations on inclusion and access. Together with these partners, we are making the arts more accessible for all Vermonters.

IMAGE: Three teaching artists are seated, engaged in a lively conversation during a training. The middle person’s hands are slightly blurred as they wave, mid-conversation.

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**Supporters and Friends of VSA Vermont**

Adelaide McCrackenAlan PeisterAmy GambleAndrea RogersAndy RobinsonAnn AndrewsAnn CurranAnna SeyllerAnne BakemanAshley McCulloughBarbara MilesBenjamin CadwalladerBetsy BrownBeverley BettmannBob HookerBridget EdwardsBruce McKenzieCarol MacDonaldCarol PritchardCasey WelchCelia AsbellChamplain College Social WorkCharles ColeCheryl ForsytheChigee CloningerChristina EricksonCity MarketCoBankConstance McGovernDana ValentineDarryl BloomDavid EllenbogenDavid FrenchDavid McBrideDavid SheplerDavid SpeidelDeborah KrugDenise EdwardsDonna BisterDonna RebackEdward GaleEdward Paquin

Elizabeth GibbonsElizabeth O'BrienEllen O'BrienErica IttnerEsther EvansFrancena BeardGeoff HandHarvey KleinHeidelise CorriveauHilary MaslowHope SchultzJ. Mark BillianJane HamburgerJane MarlinJane Ross-AllenJanet FelisJoan StepenskeJohn DouglasJudith ChalmerJudith WrendKassandra KohlerKathleen MaloyKathy OlwellKim BentKim KeiserLeslie TurnerLinda MarkinLisa SchambergLisa SteeleMarcia MerrillMarguerite AdelmanMark StolerMary-Katherine StoneMegan HumphreyMelanie CombsMelinda Moulton, Main Street LandingMichael BukancMichael LevineMichelle LefkowitzMMU Dance TeamPascal ChengPatricia AlleyPaul GruhlerPeter SillsPeter TkatchPhyllis RubensteinRaymond TurkinRene PellerinRichard AltherRichard MaslowRose PelsRuth GminskiSandra BerbecoSarah KuligSherry JohnsonSue AshworthSusan BurchSusan ScioraSydney LeaThomas DiSilvioTiffany BluemleTyler ComptonVirginia Hobbs**Foundations & Government Contracts**

A.D. Henderson FoundationBay & Paul FoundationBuffum Family FoundationCanaday Family Charitable TrustThe Fountain Fund Jack & Dorothy Byrne FoundationMaslow Family FoundationGreen Mountain FoundationThe Kennedy CenterMarks Family FoundationMobius, VT’s Mentoring PartnershipNational Life Group FoundationNorthfield Savings BankOakland Family FoundationParent Child Center of Northwest Counseling Services The Permanent Fund

for Vermont’s ChildrenRonald McDonald House CharitiesThe Turrell FundVermont Arts CouncilVermont Children's Trust FoundationVermont Community FoundationWalter Cerf Community Fund

**Statement of Activities**

**Revenue**Federal & State Contracts - $42,436Program Fees - $36,998Individual Contributions - $33,093Foundations - $241,263Corporate Contributions - $1,978Interest and Misc. Income - $668Total Revenue - $356,435

**Expenses**

General & Administration - $87,525Fundraising - $46,005Program Expenses - $226,811Total Expenses - $360,441Change in net assets from operations

-$4,006

IMAGE: A series of brightly colored, hand-painted, bookmarks are spread out across a table to dry.

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Our mission is to use the magic of the arts to engage the capabilities and enhance the confidence of children and adults with disabilities. Through educational programs, professional development for teachers,

and cultural access experiences for the public, VSA Vermont creates a more inclusive, accessible arts community

for all Vermonters.

**Who we engaged:**

4,591 ParticipantsOf those, 1,150 were people with disabilities and 973 were children.

**How we engaged them:**

181 Total Programs & Activities77 Arts Education53 Professional Development51 Cultural Access

**Where we went:**

154 SitesIn every region of Vermont at arts and cultural organizations, service centers, schools, and childcare sites.

“VSA Vermont changed my whole life. Now the door is open. All you have to do is walk in.”Adult Program Participant