

# **vsa**

## **VERMONT**

**The State  
Organization on  
Arts and Disability**

**2018 Impact Report**





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 Swan McClure* *Kathryn Miller*

Susan McClure

Kathryn Miller



The State Organization  
on Arts and Disability



## CONTACT US

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**"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

Tyler Compton

Heidelise Corriveau

Bridget Edwards

Ruth Gminski

Geoff Hand

Deborah Krug

Sarah Kulig

Hilary Maslow

Ashley McCullough

Mary-Katherine Stone

## Leadership Team

Peggy Rainville

Director of Children's Programming

Katie Miller

Development & Communications Director

Heidi Swevens

Volunteer & Adult Program Manager

Toby MacNutt

Program Manager



# 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 before had the opportunity to be a leader in her classroom and was grateful for the program.

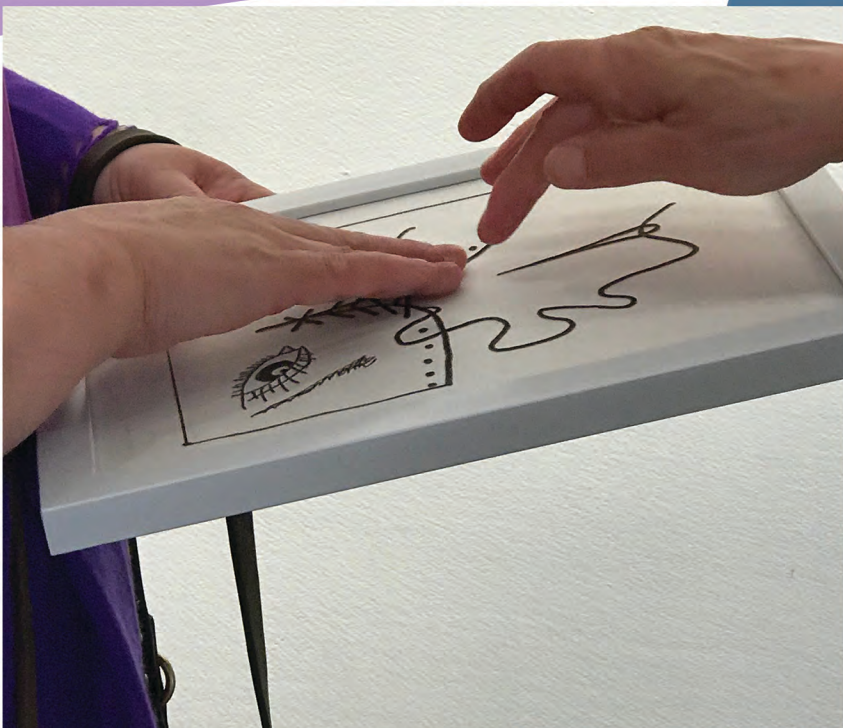


## GALLERY VISITS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH BLINDNESS OR LOW VISION

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





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

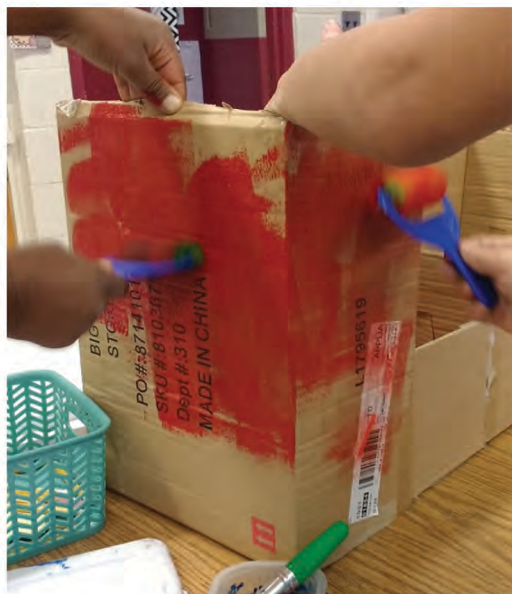
**"It's so valuable. It allows them the deepest affirmation of who they are and the self-expression that makes all of us feel whole and authentic."**

Janet St. Onge, LEARN Academy

## 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.



## 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 in 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 online at: [www.vermontcam.org/show/arts-smarts-promo](http://www.vermontcam.org/show/arts-smarts-promo).

## Training Educators & 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.





# FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS OF VSA VERMONT

Adelaide McCracken  
Alan Peister  
Amy Gamble  
Andrea Rogers  
Andy Robinson  
Ann Andrews  
Ann Curran  
Anna Seyller  
Anne Bakeman  
Ashley McCullough  
Barbara Miles  
Benjamin Cadwallader  
Betsy Brown  
Beverley Bettmann  
Bob Hooker  
Bridget Edwards  
Bruce McKenzie  
Carol MacDonald  
Carol Pritchard  
Casey Welch  
Celia Asbell  
Champlain College Social Work  
Charles Cole  
Cheryl Forsythe  
Chigee Cloninger  
Christina Erickson  
City Market  
CoBank  
Constance McGovern  
Dana Valentine  
Darryl Bloom  
David Ellenbogen  
David French  
David McBride  
David Shepler  
David Speidel  
Deborah Krug  
Denise Edwards  
Donna Bister  
Donna Reback  
Edward Gale  
Edward Paquin

Elizabeth Gibbons  
Elizabeth O'Brien  
Ellen O'Brien  
Erica Ittner  
Esther Evans  
Francena Beard  
Geoff Hand  
Harvey Klein  
Heidelise Corriveau  
Hilary Maslow  
Hope Schultz  
J. Mark Billian  
Jane Hamburger  
Jane Marlin  
Jane Ross-Allen  
Janet Felis  
Joan Stepsenke  
John Douglas  
Judith Chalmer  
Judith Wrend  
Kassandra Kohler  
Kathleen Maloy  
Kathy Olwell  
Kim Bent  
Kim Keiser  
Leslie Turner  
Linda Markin  
Lisa Schamberg  
Lisa Steele  
Marcia Merrill  
Marguerite Adelman  
Mark Stoler  
Mary-Katherine Stone  
Megan Humphrey  
Melanie Combs  
Melinda Moulton  
Michael Bukanc  
Michael Levine  
Michelle Lefkowitz  
MMU Dance Team  
Pascal Cheng  
Patricia Alley

Paul Gruhler  
Peter Sills  
Peter Tkatch  
Phyllis Rubenstein  
Raymond Turkin  
Rene Pellerin  
Richard Alther  
Richard Maslow  
Rose Pels  
Ruth Gminski  
Sandra Berbeco  
Sarah Kulig  
Sherry Johnson  
Sue Ashworth  
Susan Burch  
Susan Sciora  
Sydney Lea  
Thomas DiSilvio  
Tiffany Bluemle  
Tyler Compton  
Virginia Hobbs

## FOUNDATIONS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

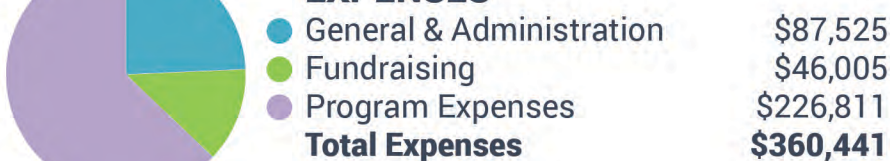
A.D. Henderson Foundation  
Bay & Paul Foundation  
Buffum Family Foundation  
Canaday Family Charitable Trust  
The Fountain Fund  
Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation  
Maslow Family Foundation  
Green Mountain Foundation  
The Kennedy Center  
Marks Family Foundation  
Mobius, VT's Mentoring Partnership  
National Life Group Foundation  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Oakland Family Foundation  
Parent Child Center of Northwest  
Counseling Services  
The Permanent Fund for  
Vermont's Children  
Ronald McDonald House Charities  
The Turrell Fund  
Vermont Arts Council  
Vermont Children's Trust Foundation  
Vermont Community Foundation  
Walter Cerf Community Fund

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



**Change in net assets from operations (\$4,006)**





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 Participants

Of those, 1,150 were people with disabilities and 973 were children.

## How we engaged them:

### 181 Total Programs & Activities

77 Arts Education

53 Professional Development

51 Cultural Access

## Where we went:

### 154 Sites

In 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

