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 Vermonter.

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 Vermonter 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 Vermonter 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

**2017-18 Board of Directors**

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<tr>
<td>Alex Bacon</td>
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<td>Heidelise Corriveau</td>
<td>Hilary Maslow</td>
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<td>Bridget Edwards</td>
<td>Ashley McCullough</td>
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<td>Ruth Gminski</td>
<td>Mary-Katherine Stone</td>
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<td>Geoff Hand</td>
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**Leadership Team**

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Rainville</td>
<td>Director of Children’s Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Miller</td>
<td>Development &amp; Communications Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidi Swevens</td>
<td>Volunteer &amp; Adult Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toby MacNutt</td>
<td>Program Manager</td>
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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
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
**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.

**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
Chigeec 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 Martin
Jane Ross-Allen
Janet Felis
Joan Stepeske
John Douglas
Judith Chalmer
Judith Wrend
Kassandra Kohler
Kathleen Maloy
Kathy Olwell
Kim Bent
Kim Keiser
Leslie Turner
Linda Markin
Lisa Schambach
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 Blumle
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 Foundation

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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

EXPENSES
- General & Administration $87,525
- Fundraising $46,005
- Program Expenses $226,811
Total Expenses $360,441

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

Ours is a state organization on arts and disability.