

Inclusive Arts Vermont

2019 Annual Impact Report

Large Print Format With Image Descriptions

Cover Art:

A splash of watercolors and pastels take up the entire background. They are a rainbow of color, represented in splatters of purple, blue, yellow, orange, pink, and green.

On top of this, in the lower left corner, is an orange box. Within the box sits the Inclusive Arts Vermont logo.

Underneath the logo it reads "2018-19 Annual Report"

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2018-19 was another year of transition and incredible positive growth at our organization - starting with our new name. On June 1, 2019 VSA Vermont officially became Inclusive Arts Vermont!

Selecting our new name was an opportunity for the organization to choose something truly reflective of the vibrancy of our work and history. Meanwhile, the new logo bursts with creativity and movement. Multiple colors were used to represent diversity in art forms and abilities, while the shapes have been

described by many as brushstrokes, or human figures in a dance. However the viewer interprets it, the logo is meant to represent what our organization is all about: the inclusion of all people in their communities through creativity.

The arts are such a vital part of Vermont. And each year, through our work, I am delighted to work together to expand access to the arts to even more communities throughout the state.

I am thrilled to share with you some of the highlights from the past year in this annual report. I hope you enjoy learning about some of our favorite moments from the variety of programs we provide.

Thank you for another year of magic and joy!

Katie Miller
Executive Director

IMAGE: Katie Miller smiles in this headshot. She wears clear glasses and a denim jacket.

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2018-19 Board of Directors

Alex Bacon
Deborah Krug
Tyler Compton

Heidelise Corriveau
Hilary Maslow
Bridget Edwards
Ashley McCullough
Ruth Gminski
Mary-Katherine Stone

Leadership Team

Katie Miller, Executive Director

Peggy Rainville, Director of
Children's Programming

Heidi Swevens, Director of Community Partnerships

Scott Robbins, Development & Communications Director

Lisa Condino, Lead Teaching Artist

Alexandra Turner, Inclusive Arts Specialist

IMAGE: A toddler boy in blue glasses pins a crochet carrot to a clothesline with the help of an adult.

“Through art, I was given ideas to inspire the children in my program to be more accepting of each other. It was truly transformative.” – Start With The Arts Childcare Provider Participant

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

“The training provided our team an opportunity to think deeply about policy, practices, and personal experiences around disability. The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is a more inclusive, welcoming place because of this experience.”

Impacting Systemic Change through Training

The University of Vermont provides an invaluable service to its employees: every year or so they launch a new series of professional development opportunities called "Intercultural Identity Training" which focus on how to work effectively with marginalized communities. The latest series focused on ableism was presented by Inclusive Arts Vermont.

The series began with 2 day-long sessions attended by 150+ student-facing staff, who then deepened their understanding with follow-up sessions.

Jilliene Johnson of UVM notes that "this investment is critical to the culture of inclusion that the University is working to develop. Staff members who go through these trainings are better able to think more critically about the work they do."

This sentiment underscores the importance of our training programs: through effective accessibility training for partners in the arts community and beyond, we hope to be

the spark that ignites systemic change for inclusion and accessibility throughout our communities.

Sensory-Friendly Drumming

2019 marked the third anniversary of our partnership with the Flynn Center to offer free Sensory-Friendly Drumming workshops to the public.

Each workshop is designed in a way to create a space where all can participate and are encouraged to explore at their own comfort level. In addition, there are places in the studio space where children can go if they feel overwhelmed while still being able to engage with the activity.

Participants come and go as they choose, opting to take a pass on any activity if they need to. These accommodations come together to create a space where participants feel valued and accepted, while having the opportunity to engage in the arts and express themselves in meaningful ways. The parent of a participant told us after her child led the group with a rhythm: "You could see how proud she was at the fact that she was 'in charge' and everyone was keeping time with her. She got to be the leader!"

Another parent spoke to the challenges that can come with being a parent of a child with disabilities. She noted that all families should be able to get out and about and enjoy time together without having to feel on display all the time. "There are not many places to take our families that

are safe. People are not [always] tolerant of kids with differences," she said. She's grateful "to have a place to go, like the sensory-friendly drumming workshop, and just enjoy ourselves and know that not everyone around you is [distracted by] you."

IMAGE: A group of approximately 75 people are seated at round tables in a conference room, participating the disability awareness training.

IMAGES: Two images, stacked on top of one another.
TOP: Two young boys hit a sound comfort drum with black mallets. They are facing each other on either side of the drum.

BOTTOM: A baby is seen from behind, tapping their hand on an African drum.

Page 4: STORIES OF IMPACT

Participant Exhibits Work Publicly

Eva Seyller has taken several of our Adult Arts Education classes, including photography and open studio. According to Eva, her time in the programs has deepened her love of the arts and helped her to realize possibilities for her future. It is now her dream to become a professional artist. Eva's piece "Sheep on the Road-Scotland" was featured in the 2018 FLOURISH exhibition at the Flynn Center, and her work has also shown at the Penny Cluse Café and Fletcher Free Library.

This fall, Eva launched a solo exhibition at August First Bakery in Burlington that featured ten of her original works created using colored pencil on paper. Eva pulls inspiration for her art from life experiences, photographs, or stories and then transforms them into abstract images filled with bold shapes and colors.

Everywhere she goes, Eva is on the lookout for the perfect composition for her next drawing or photograph. Her time with Inclusive Arts Vermont has also encouraged Eva to advocate for herself. Persistence is what made her recent solo show possible. Eva shared with us that she is finding her place in our community and her experience in our various programs continues to grow her confidence in both herself and her work.

Social & Emotional Learning with Preschoolers Through Arts-Based Literacy

We continue to see positive outcomes from the integration of social and emotional learning into Start With The Arts, our award-winning arts-based literacy program for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

For example, at a therapeutic center in Essex, a bulletin board at the entrance to the childcare center has become a revolving display of children's artwork. The classroom teachers, who previously stated not feeling like leaders in their classrooms, feel inspired by the program to continue to display artwork and share it with visitors to the facility. The display sparks conversations with all who

enter the center about books, literacy, and creative engagement. Staff report that families look forward to seeing the children's creations and discussing the projects with classroom teachers. We are excited to continue this meaningful partnership for a third year.

IMAGE: Eva Seyller's "Sheep on the Road, Scotland." This is a large, simple drawing of sheep on a road. There is green grass on either side of a wide gray road. Four sheep stand side by side on the road, in two pairs, walking away. In each pair, the two sheep's wool overlaps each other, shown with overlapping outlines within their white bodies. They have pointy ears, round tails, and pointy black legs.

IMAGE: Eva Seyller stands in front of a brick wall at August First Bakery, which displays her artwork.

IMAGE: A bulletin board at the entrance of a childcare center is filled with children's artwork.

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Northfield Savings Bank
Northwest Counseling & Support Services
Oakland Family Foundation
Turrell Fund
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Children's Trust Foundation
Vermont Community Foundation

Statement of Activities

REVENUE

Federal & State Contracts	\$22,580
Program Fees	\$48,456
Individual Contributions	\$78,457
Foundations	\$161,868
Corporate Contributions	\$6,252
Interest and Misc. Income	\$468
Total Revenue	\$318,081

EXPENSES

General & Administration \$75,167

Fundraising \$39,499

Program Expenses \$218,349

Total Expenses \$330,015

Change in net assets from operations (\$14,934)

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 arts education, professional development, and exhibition programs for Vermonters of all ages, Inclusive Arts Vermont creates a more inclusive, accessible arts community.

Who we engaged:

4,367 Participants

Of those, 2,987 were adults and 1,336 were children.

How we engaged them:

157 Programs & Activities

60 Arts Education

52 Professional Development

45 Cultural Access

Where we went:

146 Sites

In most regions of Vermont at arts and cultural organizations, service centers, schools, and childcare sites.

“Inclusive Arts Vermont changed my whole life. Now the door is open. All you have to do is walk in.”