

# VSA Wisconsin

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Singing the National Anthem at VSA Day

## VSA Programming

15+ Wisconsin Communities



## Overview of Achievements

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, VSA Wisconsin programming directly served over 1,000 individuals across the age spectrum and across all disability categories including physical, emotional, learning, behavioral, and intellectual. An additional 200,000 individuals were engaged through special events, art exhibitions and concerts throughout the state of Wisconsin – and thousands more in our nation's capitol!

Especially notable VSA programming from the last year includes our annual Call for Art, Free to Be Me, a dance collaboration in Stevens Point, Vets' Art Studios in Madison and Wausau, and our participation in the National Christmas Tree celebration in Washington D.C.



# Call for Art and Statewide Traveling Exhibition

Each year, VSA Wisconsin invites submissions of artwork from Wisconsin residents with disabilities ages 5 and up. Historically, hundreds of submissions are received from all age groups (young children to octogenarians) in a wide variety of media of both two- and three-dimensional visual art work. All artists who submit work are displayed in Visual Expressions: A Call for Art Exhibition at the VSA Wisconsin Art Center and Gallery in Madison during April that culminates in a public reception in early May. All entries are juried by arts professionals who look for creativity, originality, and craftsmanship. Jurors select ten artworks that will be added to Creative Power, VSA Wisconsin's Traveling Exhibition. The visual art exhibition provides public recognition of hundreds of individuals with disabilities at the Call for Art Event.

Call for Art & Creative Power: VSA Wisconsin's Traveling Exhibition was made



2018 Call for Art award winning "Self Portrait" by Charlie Green

220 ENTRIES  
70 ART WORKS SOLD  
300 GALLERY ATTENDANCE  
2,000 TRAVELING EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE

// Captivating! I was about to leave the library when I noticed the exhibition and had to see it. Congrats to the artists! The beauty they created captured my heart.

– Mary Larkin, Wisconsin Rapids //

possible by

National Guardian Life  
Endres Manufacturing Foundation  
The Great Dane Pub & Brewery  
Wisconsin Arts Board  
Wisconsin Department of Public

Instruction  
The Capitol Times Kids Fund

## National Christmas Tree

Ornaments by Wisconsin artists with disabilities dazzled President's Park (White House) in Washington, D.C. as part of the 95th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting display. Using pine cones, beads, glitter and paint, artists participating in VSA Wisconsin programs created ornaments that showcased their talents and the pride they have in our beautiful state.

The handcrafted ornaments adorned one of 56 trees representing each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia from December 1, 2017 through January 1, 2018 as part of the America Celebrates display.

"It was an honor to be among the organizations chosen to help our nation celebrate the holidays in one of our most recognizable national parks," says Kathie Wagner, past President of VSA Wisconsin. "We were excited to be a part of the America Celebrates display because it

showcases the talents of artists with disabilities and encourages them to continue pursuing their creative dreams."

The unique ornaments were created in classes conducted at the VSA Wisconsin Art Center. Many ornaments feature the winter scenes so familiar to Wisconsinites. One salutes the state's contribution to the armed forces. Several others depict the University of Wisconsin's beloved Bucky mascot – and the famous 'cheeseheads' for which the state is known.



Art doesn't see disability

# Vets' Art Studio

**// It's great watching people make progress and have something in their lives that gives them hope and joy. //**

– Teaching Artist, David Hummer, of the Vets' Art Studio Wausau

VSA Wisconsin's Vets' Art Studios were formed in partnership with the Veterans Centers in Madison and Wausau to provide art-making experiences to veterans with disabilities. Over the past year, twenty-one Vets' Art Studio participants have dedicated over one hundred hours to art-making. The veterans consider their artwork a version of therapy and way of coping with life stressors and military trauma.

"I'm really happy and honored to be able to share and instruct these vets," says Vets' Studio Wausau teaching artist David Hummer. "And at the same time give them a chance to get to know each other better." Developing a sense of trust by engaging in a collaborative project with men and women working closely together and being comfortable in doing so was a notable outcome of the program. One participant reported that it renewed and expanded their sense of trust in others

while improving their overall sense of safety. Several participants have expressed that doing art gives them a healthy coping skill and allows them to be focused on something that brings them joy and a sense of peace to their life during their healing process.

Vets' Art Studio was made possible by

Wisconsin Arts Board, the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, and the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin with additional funding from National Guardian Life Insurance, the Gannett Foundation, and WPS.



Artists working in the Wausau Vets' Art Studio

## Bucky on Parade

VSA Wisconsin's Vets' Art Studio participated in the community-wide Bucky on Parade project, providing a tremendous source of pride to vets in 2018. Bucky on Parade was a free public art event featuring 85 Bucky Badger statues throughout Madison and Dane County from May through September 2018. Local and regional artists transformed the Bucky statues into unique works of art. The VSA Wisconsin Vets' Art Studio Bucky, "Full Fatigues," sponsored by TDS, resided at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. "It has led to opportunities for them to speak out at public places about their time in service," says Jennifer Sluga of Madison Vet Center. "Art has helped them heal because when some of the Vietnam Vets came home they felt isolated and now they are getting the chance to feel accepted in public."

"Full Fatigues" Bucky brought in \$23,000 for the Garding Against Cancer campaign of the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association and Greg and Michelle Garding to raise funds and awareness for cancer research and care in the state of Wisconsin.



**// Doing such a high-stakes, collaborative project was more positive than they ever thought it would be. //**

– Jennifer Sluga, Madison Vet Center

Members of the VSA Vets' Art Studio team that created "Full Fatigues" Bucky for Bucky on Parade in 2018

# Free to Be Me

// Providing the VSA dancers with the environment simply to dance and enjoy the process of generating movement creates so many opportunities for growth and creativity. //

– Pamela Luedtke, Point Dance Ensemble Artistic Direct

Free to Be Me, a collaborative program between VSA Wisconsin and Point Dance Ensemble studio in Stevens Point, was launched in the summer of 2017, creating an innovative opportunity for young dancers with disabilities to be mentored by and perform with more experienced dancers from Point Dance Ensemble. This nine-month project led by VSA Teaching Artist Angie Nyquist culminated with performances on March 2-4, 2018. Several parents were concerned that their child's disabilities were so significant that they would be denied entry to the program. VSA staff assured them that any child with a disability that wanted to participate could do so. VSA believes that art doesn't see disability, and Free to Be Me has welcomed all the children with disabilities. Nine children with disabilities, ages 6-12, participated in the program.

The effects of this project live on not only in wonderful memories, but also in the hearts of the High School aged mentors who learned about opening themselves up to others who seem different from themselves.

Free to Be Me inspired further creative exploration as well as lasting friendships. "The collaboration between Point Dance Ensemble and VSA Wisconsin has offered the company members and community dancers a space to expand relationships beyond the dance studio or classroom," Pamela Luedtke, Artistic Director of Point Dance Ensemble, says. Laura Wertjes, one of the dancers involved in this project, is working with Angie Nyquist and the Point Dance Ensemble on another project. Laura, paired with a dancer from Point Dance Ensemble and working through her soundboard and nonverbal cues, will choreograph a dance piece to be performed in 2019. "Providing the VSA dancers with the environment simply to dance and enjoy the process of generating movement creates so many opportunities for growth and creativity," Luedtke says. "Many of which we never anticipated."

Free to Be Me was made possible by Department of Public Instruction

Dancers rehearsing Free to Be Me at Point Dance Ensemble in Stevens Point



## VSA Billboards

A highlight of 2018 was a series of billboards generously created and donated by Adams Outdoor in 2018. The billboards featured joyful VSA participants engaged in one of the many artistic mediums taught by our amazing teaching staff. Every day these vibrant billboards greeted thousands of people throughout Dane County while promoting our guiding philosophy: Art doesn't see disability.



A VSA billboard featuring Laura Wertjes

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES



36 TEN-WEEK EARLY CHILDHOOD AND K-12 ARTIST RESIDENCIES

3 COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENCIES

630 YOUTH AND ADULTS

100% OF TEACHERS REPORTED SUCCESSFUL & ACHIEVED EXPRESSED GOALS





# 2018 VSA Report on Giving

## \$150,000 +

Adams Outdoor Advertising  
Department of Public Instruction  
\$20,000–\$49,999  
Kennedy Center for the Arts  
Guenther and Sharon Ruch  
Jason and Ana Stephens

## \$10,000–\$19,999

American Girl Fund for Children  
Gannett Foundation  
Madison Community Foundation  
Thompson Investment Management  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## \$5,000–\$9,999

Access to Community Services  
Clack Corporation  
Endres Manufacturing Co. Foundation  
Green Bay Packers  
National Guardian Life  
Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation  
The Herzfeld Foundation  
Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Thomas and Marcia Nelson  
US Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation

## \$2,500–\$4,999

Capital Times Kids Fund  
Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin  
Dane Arts  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Incourage Community Foundation/Terrance and  
Judith Paul Designated Family Fund  
Kikkoman Foods Foundation  
Knights of Columbus Wisconsin Council  
Madison Arts Commission  
Madison Events, LLC  
Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation  
Sub-Zero Wolf Foundation  
Wahlin Foundation  
Wisconsin Arts Board

## \$1,000–\$2,499

Altrusa International, Inc.  
Bryant Foundation  
Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin  
Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region  
Courtier Foundation Inc.  
Department of Health Services  
Donald W. and Margaret M. Anderson Foundation  
Electronic Theatre Controls

Emory Clark Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors  
Hooper Corporation  
Jennie Olson Charitable Foundation  
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation  
Johnston Voice Studio, LLC  
Kathie Wagner  
Knights of Columbus Wisconsin State Council  
Leslie Brodhead-Griffith  
Madison South Rotary Club  
Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.  
Menasha Corporation Foundation  
Nelson G. and Vera C. Hicks Charitable Foundation  
On Track Communications  
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation  
Pieper Electric/PPC Foundation  
Robert Walker  
Rodney Schreiner  
Susan M. Rutter  
SECURA Insurance Companies  
TASC  
The Evjue Foundation  
The Keller Family Charitable Trust  
Theodore W. Batterman Family  
US Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation

## \$500–\$999

American Family Insurance  
Bemis Company Foundation  
Elaine and Nick Mischler  
J.F. Ahern Co.  
Jewelers Mutual Charitable Giving Fund  
John Brigham  
Kimberly High School  
Madison Gas & Electric Foundation  
Nonn's Design Showplace  
Principal Financial Group  
Ronald and Deborah Krantz  
Ryan Parks  
School District of Beloit  
Steve Singel  
Stoughton Area Community Foundation  
Sue Ann Thompson  
Thomas and Carol Ehrsam  
Tim and Beth Mielcarek  
Vance and Betty Kepley

## \$250–\$499

Ann F. Wenzel  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Bruce Weber  
Carol and Gwen Van Ryzin  
Chambers & Owen, Inc.

## CHOIRS



**7** CHOIRS

(Madison, Stoughton, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point, Oshkosh, and Appleton)

**110**  
MEMBERS

**18+**

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

## ART GALLERY



**5** EXHIBITIONS

Brushworks: Beese/Bursh | Creative Power: A Call for Art Exhibition | Visual Expressions: A Call for Art Exhibition 2018 | 2018 Call for Art Award Winners | Vibrant Views

**1,400** VIEWERS



## ART FOR SALE

**12**  
SALES EVENTS

**80**  
ARTISTS REPRESENTED

**\$10,000** SALES  
PAID DIRECTLY  
TO ARTISTS

Cooperative Educational Service Agency  
 GFWC Stevens Point Junior Wom  
 Gregory and Susan Samuels  
 Herbert H. Kohl Charities  
 John and Penni Pautz  
 Jonathan Vos  
 Julie and Matt Vobejda  
 Karen Gallagher  
 Katherine and Bob Gould  
 Lacey E. Endres  
 Matthew Vogel  
 MTILP  
 My Choice Family Care  
 Patricia and Michael Wilson  
 Patricia Jungbluth  
 Paul William Jones  
 Peter and Jill Lundberg  
 Phil and Susan Murtaugh  
 Sharon & Bill Oberkrieser

### \$100–\$249

Andy Porter  
 Barbara J. Friedrich  
 Bill Hofeldt  
 Brian and Suzanne Lanser  
 Brian Duffy  
 Bruce and Tina Duemler  
 Chris and Elizabeth  
 Christina Stanfield  
 Daniel Wiltrout  
 David & Julie Lancaster  
 Dennis J Esker  
 Donna J. Peters  
 Dorothy Oconnor  
 Elkan and S. Zelda Gamzu  
 Eugene J. Nordby  
 George and Patience Roggensack  
 Gerald Ring  
 Jane Fay Kirchoff  
 Janet and Michael Van Vleck  
 Janice Werlein  
 Janus Galleries

Jermaine Hennings  
 Jerry and Karen Gipp  
 Julia Davidson  
 Kay and Jim Lindblade  
 Kim and Rodger Goke  
 Lands' End, Inc.  
 Lee Weiss  
 Linda and Matt Sanders  
 Lydia Cooley  
 Lynn Ruedinger  
 Mary Zins  
 Mathew Cerletty  
 Matthew R. Stogbauer  
 MGROC  
 Nasco  
 National Mutual Benefit  
 Phil and Susan Murtaugh  
 Robert and Mary Brennan  
 Robert Ross  
 Safe-Way Bus Transit, Inc.  
 Sally Wilmeth and Terry Geurkink  
 Sandy Rick-Wirth  
 Shannon, Susan and Thomas Shannon  
 Sharon L. Brooker  
 Thomas Corsmeier  
 Tiffany M. Vollrath  
 Top Promotions  
 Waddell & Hand  
 William J. Kehl  
 William Linenfesler & Tammy Vaade  
 Zumbini, LLC  
 Andy Porter  
 Barbara J. Friedrich

### \$1–\$99

Amazon Smile Foundation  
 American Family Insurance  
 Anonymous  
 Barbara Arnold  
 Barry DeZonia  
 Blain's Farm & Fleet  
 Carolyn Anderson

Cynthia Gresmer  
 Dan J. Minkus  
 Dave and Gina Braun  
 David and Sally Wolff  
 Dawn Danz-Hale  
 Deborah Davidson  
 Dennis J. Esker  
 Dick and Margy Walker  
 Gregory and Debra Bastian  
 Gregory J. Strampe  
 Heather Johnson  
 Hope & Marcus Tauch  
 James E. Eisenmann  
 Jan Lavake  
 Jane Lewis  
 Jeanne Flickinger  
 Jennifer Smith  
 Jim and Margaret Meyer  
 John and Gail Kuech  
 John and Mary Padgett  
 Judith and Robert Rubin  
 Judith O. Olson-Sutton  
 Judy Preissel  
 Julann M. Jatczak  
 Katie Dreps  
 Krause, Todd Krause  
 Laura Griffin  
 LaVonne Burlingame  
 Lawrence and Holly Haskin  
 Lesleigh Luttrell  
 Liberty Mutual Foundation, Inc  
 Linda and Lon Ziehm  
 Louise Uttech Loehnertz  
 Marian Osterberg  
 Mary Heinrichs  
 Mauree Childress  
 Nancy Abraham  
 Nancy Thompson  
 Nellie Stace  
 Nicole Lipowski  
 Phil Schulz  
 Principal Financial Group  
 Robert & Elizabeth Tarrell

Rona Malofsky  
 Rosemary Mellenberger  
 Ryan and Anne Hill  
 Shirley Sundquist  
 The Veerman Household  
 Thomas and Kathryn Julian  
 Thomas Skinner  
 Vicky Slater  
 Wayne and Judith Marik

### Tribute Gifts

In honor of the Family of Carrie Samuels  
 Laura Griffin  
 In honor of Susie Samuels  
 Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin  
 In honor of Odie  
 US Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation  
 In honor of Kathie Wagner  
 MTILP  
 In honor of Jim Ohm  
 Rosemary Mellenberger  
 In honor of Jenni and Kyle Guerkink  
 Wisconsin Arts Board  
 In honor of Dan Stace  
 John and Penni Pautz  
 In honor of Carrie Samuels  
 Dan J. Minkus  
 For Brian Miller  
 Bemis Company Foundation  
 For Susan Cerletty  
 Dane Arts

### Memorial Gifts

In memory of Robert Englund  
 Madison Trust

## ART CENTER

51

MULTI-WEEK ART,  
 MOVEMENT,  
 MUSIC CLASSES

374 ADULTS

