

Expressions

SPRING 2017

Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities.

VSA
WISCONSIN

The State Organization
on Arts and Disability

In their own words...

Creative Forces at Work

Last year, we told you about a new program partnership with the Madison Vet Center, using the creative arts to help military veterans battle the physical and emotional scars resulting from service to our country.

Over the course of the past year, twenty veterans have participated in a weekly studio class, led by teaching artist, Leslie Iwai. During that time they have explored printmaking, watercolor, book alterations, clay and other visual art mediums.



The Veteran artists have this to say about creating art:

- The Vets' Art Studio exposes me to my fears and helps me overcome them.
- The Studio is a positive hobby to share with other vets struggling just like me. It allows me to comfortably go outside my comfort zone.
- It allows me to practice what I'm learning in counseling and challenge what is no longer working for me.
- The art class for Vets helps me to express myself and know I'm not alone in facing challenges post deployment. Together we move forward.
- It's helping me make sense of things.
- I was afraid of people, but have started overcoming my fears through art class.
- I'm learning new skills for success.

This program has been wildly successful and plans are being made to replicate the program in Wausau.



Art Doesn't See Disability!

Inclusion is what drives us at VSA Wisconsin. For over thirty years, we've worked hard to ensure accessibility and participation in the creative arts. Art is for everyone. All artists. All ages. All cultures. And, all abilities. When people with disabilities explore the arts, exciting things happen. Our donors are the catalyst... your donations matter and you change lives!

Kathie Wagner



Kathie Wagner
President

& News Events

Art Exhibitions

Creative Power

A traveling exhibition
featuring 30 award
winning works from
across the state

UW - Eau Claire

Centennial Hall, 3rd floor
May 1 - June 30

Lester Public Library

Arpin
July 7 - August 25

Visual Expressions

A Call for Art Exhibition
VSA Wisconsin Gallery
April 17 - May 6

Events

Visual Expressions Public Reception

VSA Wisconsin Gallery
Madison
May 6, 2-4 pm

VSA Wisconsin
1709 Aberg Ave. Suite 1
Madison, WI 53704
608-241-2131
www.vsawis.org

Your Dollars...

Choirs



"Come to a performance and witness the joy and display of confidence on the faces of the participants! It is so uplifting to see the camaraderie that develops as members socialize at weekly practice sessions. It is heartwarming to observe the team building and support that goes on as the members pursue their interest in music. It provides a wholesome activity that gets members out of their homes and into the community socializing, learning and performing." ~Madison Choir parent

Early Childhood Residencies

"This is my 7th year participating in this residency. Each year I learn new songs and new ways to incorporate music/movement into the students learning. My goal is to incorporate the use of more instruments into musical activities and other areas of instruction. Tiffany does a great job interacting with the students at their level of ability.



She incorporates our themes into her activities and promotes participation and turn taking. Her activities keep the students attention and they were excited to see her each week!" ~Jessica Kelley, Traeger Elementary School, Oshkosh

Art Center



Rob attended four of ten classes and either left early or chose not to actively participate for some of the time. When we used the fingertap application on the interactive whiteboard, Rob verbalized enjoyment of the drums. During the last class of the session, Rob asked questions about what we were doing, smiled and laughed while playing maracas and dancing, and said at the end "I liked drawing with music. It was fun."

"John arrived early for class and helped me set up. I offered him a drum to play as I continued to prepare. John said, "Here is my beat" and played a rhythmic pattern on the drum. After he shared it with me, I invited him to play it again when the rest of the class participants arrived. Later on in the class, without me reminding him of the pattern, he played it again. He had a great big smile and told the class, *my beat*." ~Sheila Santos, teaching artist



... At Work

School Residencies



Students at East High School and Horace Mann Middle School in Wausau developed gross motor and literacy skills and learned about the environment while creating a dance/theater production of "The Lorax". In addition to creating the play, students made the props, costumes and sets.

Above, a student at Hamilton High School in Sussex, displays the Memory Box he made which was inspired by the work of assemblage artist Joseph Cornell. While creating the boxes, the students learned new vocabulary words and creative art techniques. At the end of the project, students demonstrated more self-confidence as well as increased motivation and engagement.



Call for Art

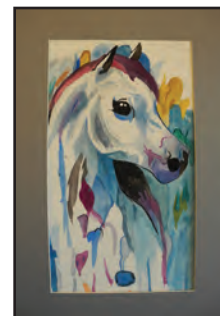


"I just wanted to thank you for the award I received yesterday for my painting. I had a great time receiving the award and at the reception after. I also liked receiving the \$50 dollar gift card. I will use it for art supplies. I really enjoyed the event, and I will enjoy it again next year." ~Caleb Duren

Comments from exhibition viewers: The awards ceremony and art work are wonderful! Very inspiring! Lots of talent—wish I would have brought my artist friends. So glad we could be a part of it. Thanks so much for all your hard work putting this together.

Art for Sale

"I've been to eight galleries today and hands down, the work at VSA Wisconsin is the best. The work is vibrant, compelling and creative. Every time we go to the VSA gallery or booth at Art Fair on the Square, I see something authentic. The VSA artists aren't copying, they're not imitating, What comes out is 100% authentic." ~Karl Harter



Community Artist Residencies



"Leslie [teaching artist] is by far the best person you could ever find for this job. She is a wealth of knowledge and brings tons of energy and fun to the program. I know Leslie went well beyond what she was required to do. I seriously cannot say enough about how great Leslie is at her job with VSA. This program is something that our clients and staff can look forward to because it's different and fun and exciting. The quality of life is the biggest impact this program has on our clients because their lives are strictly regimented and this program increases their social interactions." ~Taneil Boerner, MTILP, Madison



REPORT ON GIVING - JULY 1, 2015 -JUNE 30, 2016

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses, foundations, and partners who responded to grant requests, direct mail, newsletter and email solicitations, and workplace giving campaigns to provide generous financial and inkind support. This report reflects cash and documented inkind gifts received from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Pledges made, but not received during this period will be included in the next fiscal year report.

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Electronic Theatre Controls

Best thing about the VSA Choir . . .

- Singing new songs!
- Meeting new friends!
- Singing a different solo than last year!
- VSA Day because I like to sign the National Anthem and see Bucky!
- I gained confidence!
- All of us have amazing talents. We just need to keep working on it to get better and better!



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Burns, William and Joan
Canter, Joanne
Cooley, Lydia
Cooper, Dennis and Janis
Corcoran, Pam
Duemler, Bruce and Tina
Ferderer, June
Gagnow, Kathleen and Richard
Gipp, Jerry and Karen
Greenhalgh, Mary
Hamerow, Diane
Hofeldt, Bill
Kehl, William
Kirchhoff, Jane
Lanser, Brian and Suzanne
Lapham, Jennifer
Linenfelser, William

Milwaukee Center for Independence
Morris, Laura
Mount Horeb United Methodist Church
Mueller, Mark
Murtaugh, Phil and Susan
Nasco
National Mutual Benefit
Neuman, Deb and Jim
Oberkrieser, Sharon
Ohm, Carol
Olson-Sutton, Judith
Paul, Kathy A
Peine, Sylvia
Peters, Donna
Pfaendtner, Kathryn
Quraishi-Landes, Asifa
Ring, Gerald
Sanders, Linda and Matt
Sanna, Charles and Margaret
Sehmer, TJ and Mya
Shannon, Susan and Thomas
Shutter, Sedona
Singel, Elaine and Steve
Stirr, Gail
Thomas, Laurel
Top Promotions
University Theatre
Vande Zande, Bruce
Van Ryzin, Gwen
Varsos, Phyllis (Flip)
Von Allmen, Tamara
Weis, Mary
Weiss, Lee
Weller, Mark
Wilmet, Sally and Terry
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REPORT ON GIVING- JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

Chet's Car Care
Cihowiak, Thomas and Patricia
Clougherty, Kathleen
Cohen, Marcus
Cordisco, Leanne
Davenport, Jim and Valerie
D.B. Infusion Chocolates
DLUX Restaurant
Dolci: Italian American Sweets
Sandy Hunter
Drane, Robert and Susie
Eisenmann, James
Esler, Dennis
Event Essentials
Farnan, Laurie
Fechner, John
Feen, Hildy
Fernan, Patrick
Fett, John
Firefly Coffeehouse
Foodfight Restaurants
Forward Theatre
Friedrich, Barbara (BJ)
Graff, Olivia
Griffin, Laura
Griffith, John David
Hanson, Anette
Hartkopf, Eric
Haskin, Lawrence and Holly
Henke, Tammi
Hirschboeck, Paula
Hoffman, Les and Susan
Hurt, K.
Jatczak, Julann
Jensen, Quint
Julian, Thomas and Kathryn
Justiliano, Maria
Krause, Todd
Kuech, John and Gail
Loumos, Dean
Luebke, Glenda & Mark
Luttrell, Lesleigh
Madison Capitols Hockey Club
Manna Café
March, Christa
Marik, Wayne and Judith
Meyer, Jim and Margaret
Millie's on 2nd
Minkus, Dan
Moll, Michael
Monroe-Kane, Erika
Oace, Victoria

O'Rourke, Shaun
Ornstein, Marjon
Patterson, Sara
Piggott, Melissa
Pire, Gary & Jill
Planey, Heide
Powell, Thomas
Preissel, Judy
Richter, Bob and Joan
Sanders-Andrews, Megwyn
Schimmenti, Lisa
Schumacher, Michelle
Sell, James
Slempkes, Daniel & Joan
Smith, Jennifer
Smith, Marla
Steinhauer, Lorraine
Stojanovich, Diane
Sundquist, Shirley
Swanson, Sarah
Terible, Nick
Thompson, Nancy
Trueba, Cathleen
Van Beaver, Suzan
Van Vleck, Janet and Michael
Vitello, Jodylynn
Wenzel, Dawn
Westrich, Jonah
Whittaker, Stephanie
Wolff, David and Sally
Woodman's
Wrolstad, Jacquie
Ziehm, Linda and Lon
Zins, Mary

Tribute Gifts

In honor of Sam Brickman
David M. Brickman
In honor of Samara Corsmier
J. Wolfgang Wallschlaeger
In honor of Scott Gurriell
Lynn & Roger Korfmaier
In honor of Sharon Kessel
Zelda & Elkan Gamzu
In honor of Tom Nelson
Kim & Rodger Goke
In honor of Kathleen Peters
Eloyse & Reginald Peters
In honor of Phil Porter
Sandra Cutlip
In honor of Jim Riordan
Kim & Rodger Goke

"VSA is an outstanding arts program. In our school, they have helped students learn about different types of art, hone their fine motor skills and develop language, literacy and cognition through the presentations they prepare. The students loved the Eric Carle books and projects, they looked forward to Tiffany (teacher) coming each week and were excited to dig into their artwork. VSA has also presented at one of our parent meetings, we received positive feedback from all families who attended. I hope to continue our collaboration with VSA for many years to come. ~ Emily Gorges, Guadalupe Head Start – Murguia II

In honor of Dan Stace
Nell Stace
In honor of Steve Stricker
Betty Olson
In honor of Joe Wahlers
Robert Wahlers
In honor of Ann Wenzel
Salli Martyniak
Arlene Norris
Kathryn Schubert
Mary Zins
In honor of Emily Wollner
Cheryl & Jeffrey Kuhn
In honor of Mary Zins
Salli Martyniak
Arlene Norris
Kathryn Schubert
Gwen Torkelson
Ann Wenzel
Ann Wolfe
In honor of their 3 daughters, 3 sons-in-law, and 4 grandchildren
Jack & Penni Pautz

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Special Events

Many thanks to The UW-Madison
Athletic Department and School
of Music

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In memory of Jenni & Kyle
Guerkink
Sally Wilmet & Terry Guerkink
In memory of Arlene Jungbluth
Patti Jungbluth & Dennis Zick
In memory of Esther Larson
LaVonne Burlingame
In memory of Jackie Mathes
Kathleen M. Ableidinger
Kathy Paul & Earl Madden
Deborah & James Neuman
Phyllis & Steve Varsos
In memory of Don Miller
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In memory of Olive Nordby
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In memory of Mikey Riesch
David & Julie Lancaster
In memory of George Ross
Bob Ross
In memory of Carrie Samuels
Mary & John Padgett
In memory of Carl Wartman
Vicky Slater

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Department of Public Instruction
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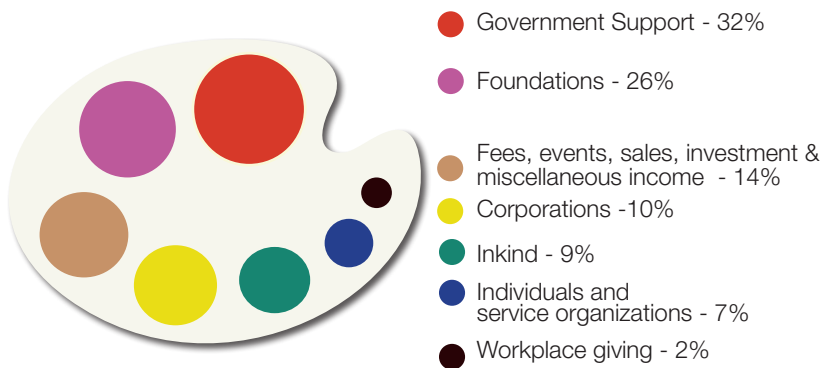


VSA Day

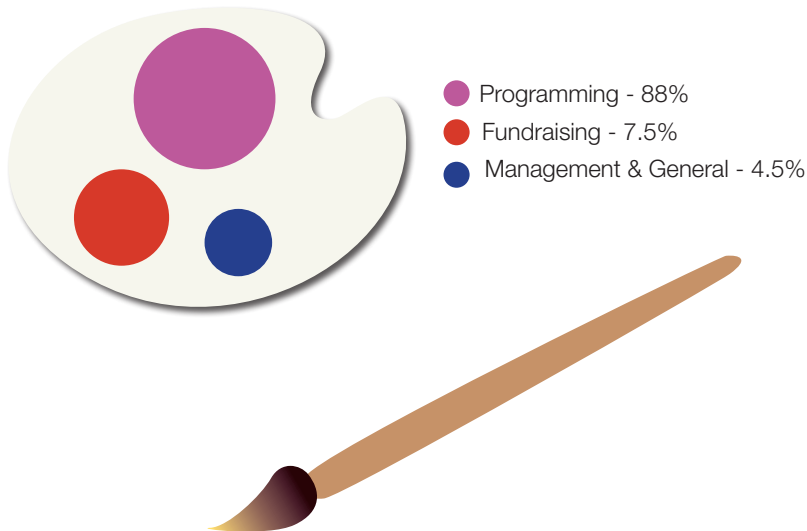
Students learned new skills such as right/left hand drum patterns. Other outcomes include improved listening skills, self-confidence, teamwork and cooperation. This year the Medford High School VSA participants got a spot in the Homecoming pep assembly. All VSA participants were recognized and the student body gave them a standing ovation.



Revenues



Expenses



FY16 by the numbers

Educational art programs directly served **1,643** individuals, most with disabilities

88% of annual expenses were devoted to programming

More than **287,000** people were impacted by exhibitions, concerts, and special performances by individual with disabilities

60 volunteers provided **360** hours of support for administration, programs and events



Last semester one participant required both picture assistance and gesture assistance to feel comfortable performing a new song. This semester the participant told the volunteer providing the visual cues that she “wanted to try it by herself” and after that instance had the confidence to sing the song without volunteer assistance.



Early Childhood statistics: **100%** of the early childhood educators surveyed indicated that they saw an increase in student interest in creative arts activities, and **100%** would like to participate in another program. In addition, teachers reported that **75%** of the students demonstrated growth in motor development and sensory organization most of the time; **62.5%** demonstrated improved emotional awareness, self-concept and social competence most of the time; **87.5%** demonstrated growth in listening, speaking and early literacy areas most of the time; **100%** demonstrated growth in curiosity, engagement, and creativity most of the time; and **62.5%** demonstrated growth in problem solving, mathematical and scientific thinking most of the time.

Professional Development

Over the past year, VSA Staff and teaching artists have conducted a number of professional development workshops for early learning educators and staff at disability support agencies. These workshops address Universal Design for Learning strategies and emphasize the effectiveness of the arts in promoting whole-brain learning, which, in turn promotes academic or vocational success. For those in the early childhood field, the workshop presenters also demonstrated how to create drama, music, movement or visual art lesson plans that foster early literacy and math skills.

Workshop participants learned how to build activities for success through materials, objectives, space and time as well as incorporating visual supports, auditory cues and alternate ways to communicate and express.



Comments from workshop attendees:

- I liked to see how easy it is to incorporate music and movement into class activities. My children need more of that—and it can cover so many areas.
- I'm familiar with Giraffes Can't Dance. I'll be using the lesson plan to enhance the story. I also think the strategy for self-regulation will come in handy.
- It was amazing and so much fun. Thanks!
- Loved it!
- Fun, informative and interactive training!

Curing Cabin Fever... Beat the Winter Blues Party



Nearly 200 people attended the annual Beat Winter Blues party on Friday, February 24. Music for dancing and celebrating was provided by the Tony Castenada Latin Jazz Band.

Guests strolled through the art gallery to view "Creative Forces: Veterans Branch Out," an exhibition of work created by military veterans who are using the creative arts to deal with trauma experienced during service to our country.



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The mission of VSA Wisconsin is to expand the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities by providing programs in dance, drama, creative writing, music and visual art.

VSA Wisconsin is a member of the VSA affiliate network, a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

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To receive the annual report in an alternative format, contact VSA Wisconsin.

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You are invited! Visual Expressions

A Call for Art exhibition celebrating the creative power of people with disabilities.

VSA Wisconsin Gallery
 1709 Aberg Ave, Madison

Public Reception
 Saturday May 6, 2-4 pm

GALLERY HOURS

Apr 17 - May 6

Mon - Thur
 9am - 4 pm

