

# VSA arts of Florida's Year In Review 2005 - 2006



VSA arts of Florida (VSAFL) is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Headquartered at the University of South Florida, VSAFL was established in 1981 by the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of State. Our mission is to create a society where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in and enjoy the arts by providing arts, education and cultural opportunities for and by people with disabilities.

We believe that:

- o Every person with a disability deserves access to appropriate arts learning experiences.
- o All artists in schools and art educators should be appropriately prepared to include students and adults with disabilities in their instruction.
- o All children, youth and adults with disabilities should have complete access to community cultural facilities and activities.
- o All individuals with disabilities who aspire to careers in the arts should have the opportunity to develop appropriate skills.

All VSAFL programs fall into one of four areas: education, professional development, cultural access and public awareness. During 2005-2006 VSAFL provided direct service to 48,000 students with disabilities and 600 adults with disabilities, along with 150,000 additional individuals in inclusive settings. Indirect service was provided to 779,000 individuals. These individuals were primarily students that benefited from teachers that participated in VSAFL professional development workshops. Over 55,000 individuals participated in VSAFL activities as audience members or as visitors to the many VSAFL exhibitions held statewide. All in all, over one million Floridians learned through, participated in and had the opportunity to enjoy the arts.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



VSA arts of Florida celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 6 and 7, 2006. Over 500 individuals participated in activities throughout the weekend at the Murray Theater of Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. The celebration began on Friday with a gallery opening, "Alike but Different", which included artwork from artists of all different abilities, including children and adults. It continued Friday night with a performance by Asher Dance Eclectic, of M.A.D. Theatre of Tampa, directed by Elizabeth Robins-Edelson. The celebration resumed on Saturday with workshops focused on dance, arts for the vision impaired, Start with the Arts, and drama/music with puppets. At noon, a luncheon was held to honor the winners of the Exemplary Participant Program. VSA arts President, Soula Antoniou, presented the awards to the students and their teachers. In the evening the celebration concluded with a performance by Laurie Rubin, a professional opera singer from New York City, who has been blind since birth. Following Laurie's performance, a reception was held.

## VSAFL gains national, state and local recognition.

We proudly share the recognition that VSAFL was awarded this year:

1. VSAFL was selected as the non-profit of the year in the arts by the Tampa Bay Business Journal.
2. VSAFL was awarded the VSA arts National Award for Excellence in Professional Development and Technical Assistance for its multi-pronged statewide approach to professional development programming that reached more than 600 educators and teaching artists across the state.
3. VSAFL was awarded the VSA arts National Award for Outstanding Community Partner for its work with the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, to measurably increase access and inclusive arts services statewide.
4. VSAFL was recognized with major articles in Florida Monthly Magazine, USF Magazine and Florida History & the Arts.
5. VSAFL art work created by Florida students won top honors in the VSA arts international children's art exhibition, "A View From My Window."
6. VSAFL artwork created by exceptional education students was chosen for the annual greeting card of Florida Lt. Governor.
7. VSAFL was recognized at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts when Jonathan Mayer of Seminole County, won the VSA arts Young Playwrights Competition.
8. VSAFL was recognized at the Smithsonian when Jessica Goldberg of Hillsborough County, a member of the VSAFL artist registry was selected as a finalist in the 2006 VSA arts/Volkswagen juried touring exhibition, "Destination Anywhere".
9. VSAFL hosted the VSA arts Education Institute held in Jacksonville at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens that brought together over 300 educators and museum staff to learn how to create inclusive learning communities.

# Public Awareness:

## VSAFL Open Door Gallery

The Open Door Gallery continued to showcase work created by members of the VSAFL artist registry and students with disabilities. VSAFL was awarded a State of Florida Challenge Grant to use the gallery to showcase best practices in creating an inclusive gallery space.



## Arts Access

The first edition of the VSAFL quarterly e-newsletter – Arts Access- was distributed in March. Arts Access highlights successful programs statewide, firmly demonstrating that VSAFL provides quality programs throughout the state, with active programs in 43 counties.

## VSAFL.Org

The VSAFL website continues to evolve with the addition of new linkages, an updated artist registry and new calendar. During 2005-2006 the website had 34,582 visits with the months of May and June being the heaviest. The website is designated Bobby Ready for universal access.



# Education:

## Artist in Residence Program



VSAFL provides artist residencies for Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP), adults with disabilities in day programs, pediatric patients in healthcare settings and youth at risk. Each teaching artist participates in professional development to learn successful strategies in

the arts for individuals with disabilities. The teaching artists present hands-on sessions with their participants in the areas of visual art, movement, music and drama. The teaching artists include a hospice nurse that is a professional artist, a dance company producer and choreographer and artists that are recognized at the state and national level. Each residency is from 6-10 hours depending on the age and disabilities of the participants and is evaluated for the academic and social achievement reached.

During 2005-2006, forty-four teaching artists worked with 1900 individuals with disabilities. Residencies occurred in the following counties: Alachua, Broward, Duval, Escambia, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, Jackson, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, St. Johns, Sarasota, Seminole, Suwanee, and Washington

## Exemplary Participant



Through the generosity, commitment and ongoing support of the Bank of America Foundation we were very pleased that all the finalists for the 2006 Exemplary Participant Recognition Program were able to attend the VSA arts of Florida 25th Anniversary Celebration. Each of these students, their families and teachers were presented their awards by Soula Antoniou, President of VSA arts.

The 2006 Winners are:

**The Runner up award for “Personal Growth Through the Arts”** Emanuel Lookadoo, III and his teacher Kelly Delaney of Southside Middle School in Jacksonville.

**Exemplary Participant Recognition First Place award for “Personal Growth Through the Arts” to:**

John Flowers and his teacher, Constance Rogers of Van R. Butler Elementary School in Santa Rosa Beach.

**Exemplary Participant Recognition award Runner up for “Exemplary Work in Art or Music”**

Andy Martinez and his teacher Diane Ferguson of Golden Gate High School, in Naples

**Exemplary Participant Recognition award for “Exemplary Work in Art or Music”**

Precious Brown and her teacher Christine Flanagan of Suwannee High School in Live Oak.

Congratulations to all...

## Cultural Access and Inclusive Art Services:



## Artist Registry

The VSAFL Artist Registry is a comprehensive database of artists with disabilities. Membership is free and open to all artists with disabilities, ages 18 and over. Member artists are provided with a wealth of exposure through calls for art, exhibitions and performing opportunities. The 2005-2006 year ended with 110 member artists enrolled. They received 10 calls for art with a number of artists selling their work and winning recognition.

## Florida PRIDE!

For the third year, VSAFL was invited to participate in Florida PRIDE! Through a special opportunity presented by Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, Florida students with disabilities were asked to submit artwork for the cover of her holiday greeting card. The theme of this year's Florida PRIDE! program was *The Art of Family*. Florida's students were invited to use art to express their ideas about what family means to them and to explore how the idea of family has changed over time. Lt. Governor Jennings selected the following two students' artwork, from over 100 entries, to be represented on her annual greeting card:

### Elijah Santana

Audobon Elementary  
1201 N. Banana River Dr.  
Merritt Island, FL 32952  
Teacher: Bonnie Speicher

### Michael Broadley

Dale Cassens  
1905 S. 11th St.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
Teacher: Dan Galloway



## Exhibitions

VSAFL exhibitions continue to grow in number increasing from 12 to 16. This year also saw more exhibitions in public galleries with a decrease in social service organization settings.

## 2005-2006 Exhibitions

- o Hillsborough Community College – Ybor Campus
- o Hillsborough Community College – Dale Mabry Campus
- o USF Institute of Research
- o USF Children's Medical Center
- o USF College of Education- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- o USF College of Education - offices
- o Department of Education (Tallahassee)
- o Division of Blind Services ( Tallahassee)
- o Ruth Eckerd Hall
- o Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens
- o Art Walk Jacksonville
- o Project Return for Mental Health Awareness Month
- o 4 exhibitions in the Open Door Gallery

## Professional Development and Technical Assistance

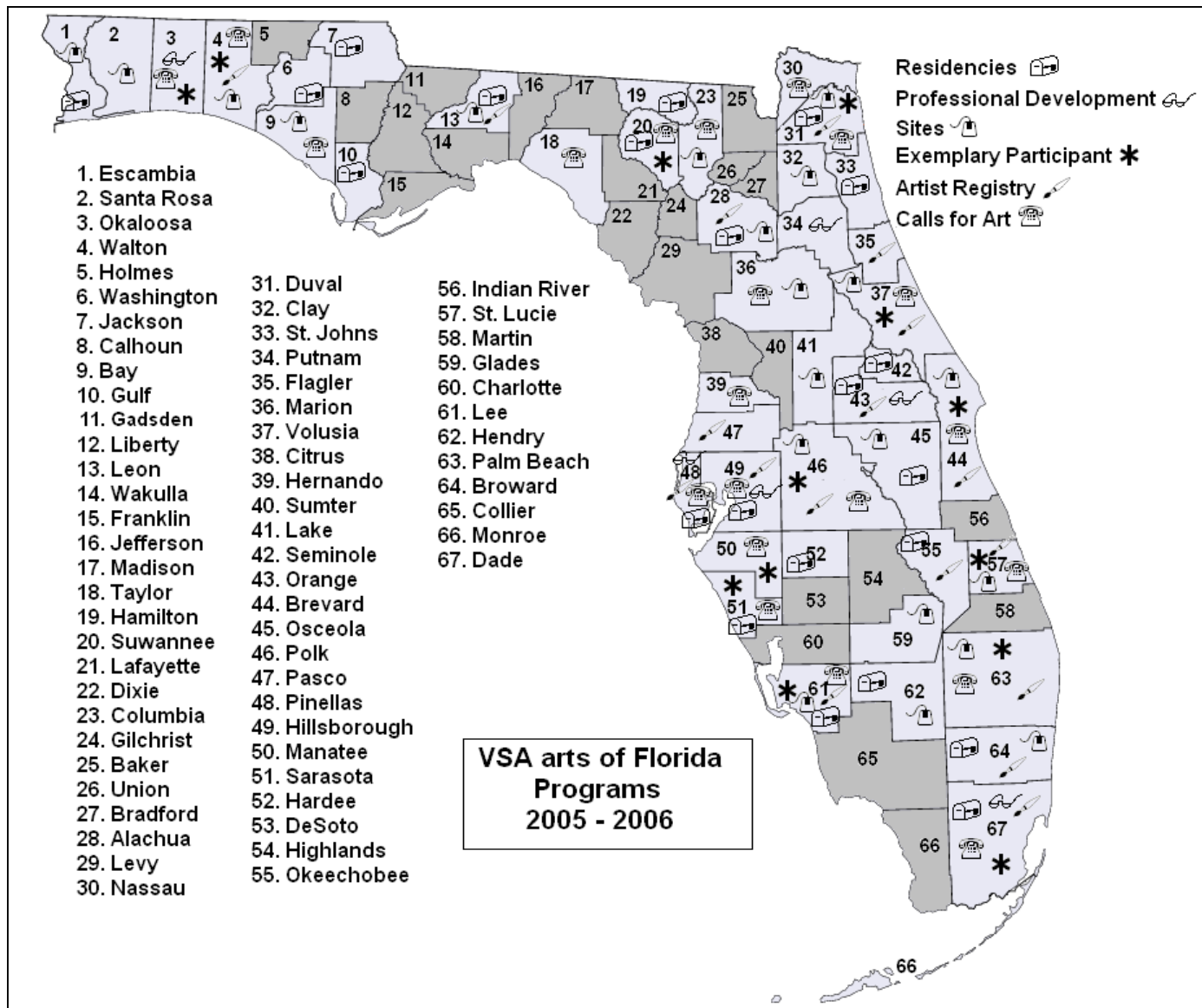


## Programs:

VSAFL professional development is provided for arts teachers, special education teachers, regular education teachers, teaching artists and for volunteers and staff of cultural organizations. In 2005-2006, 1000 individuals participated in VSAFL trainings: 6 Start with the Arts workshops, 3 regional full day workshops for arts teachers based on the Department of Education publication, *The Visual Arts for Students with Disabilities: Accommodations and Modifications*, 4 workshops on inclusion, 2 on Careers in the Arts for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and 8 on Cultural Access. The sessions occurred in the following counties: Broward, Collier, Hillsborough, Leon, Miami-Dade, Orange, Pinellas, Putnam, and Santa Rosa.

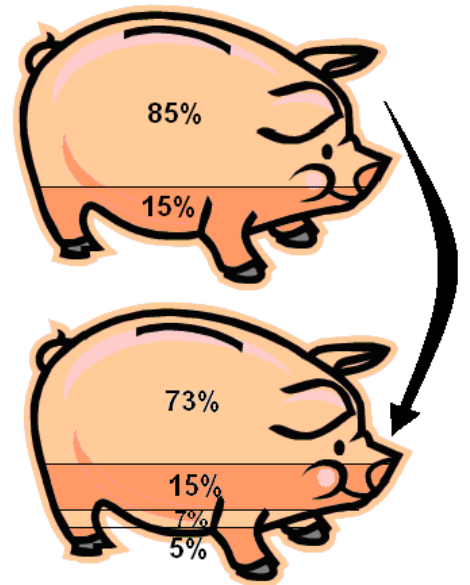
## Careers in the Arts

For the second year in a row, VSAFL received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Social Security Administration to develop a program to help adult artists with disabilities find employment in the arts. A power point presentation, "Keys to Careers in the Arts", was developed and presented at workshops for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors at statewide, regional and local meetings. In addition, the workshop was presented to transition counselors for local social service agencies. Each workshop included a presentation by a successful artist with a disability.



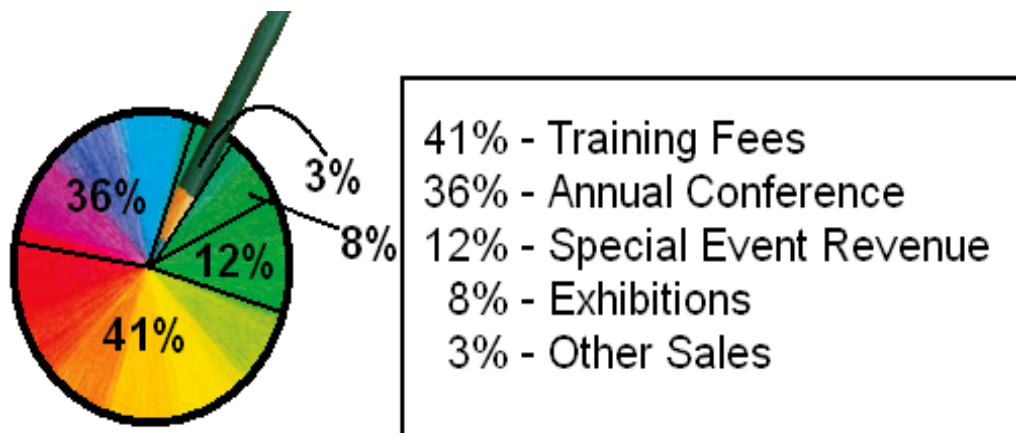
## Program Money Allocation

85% Support for Programs  
15% Support for Management and General Costs



73% Education Programs  
15% Cultural Access Programs  
7% Professional Development Programs  
5% Public Awareness Programs

## Earned Income:



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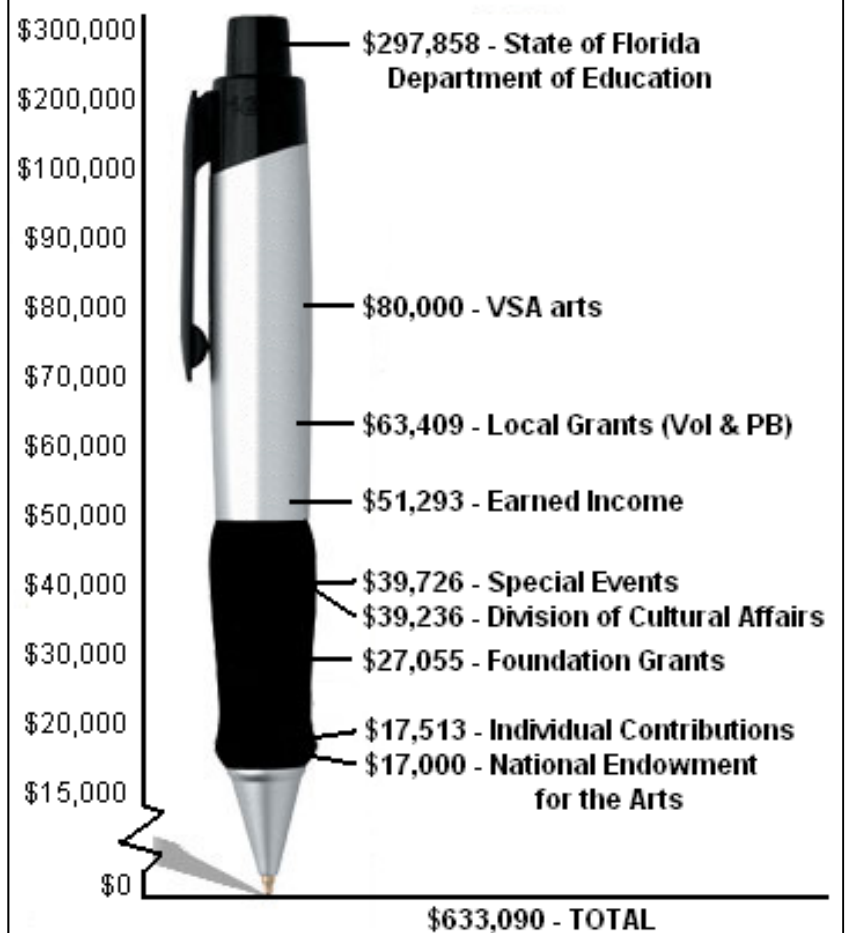
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## 2005-2006 Financial Information



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