

VSA FLORIDA

Join us in Making a Difference



The mission of VSA Florida is to provide, support and champion arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities.

For over 36 years, VSA Florida (VSAFL) has provided visual and performing art programs that make it possible for people with disabilities to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic life of Florida. Our programs have demonstrated long-term success in increasing artistic skills, fostering creativity, promoting social skills, increasing self-confidence, teaching marketable skills, and providing new ways of communication for people with disabilities.

Our vision is to create a world in which the arts are universally accessible.



"G is the only student in the class that uses a wheelchair. He and the rest of the class are used to the constant reminders of the teachers and staff to be careful and to not get too close to the chair. So when I suggested interaction with the chair as a way of creating relationships, he was in heaven. He blossomed [and] discovered something new and we all cheered for him."

- Lucia Lund, Teaching Artist, Miami-Dade County- Hialeah High School

Our Impact in 2016-2017

- 494 programs directly serving over 55,600 people in 64 counties
- 96% of programs provided free of charge
- 208 multi-week artist in residence programs serving 3,320 students
- Trained 1,113 teachers, teaching artists, and cultural organization professionals on accessibility and accommodations
- Contracted teaching artists to conduct programs, injecting \$183,662 into Florida's economy
- 91.4% of our budget goes to program expenses

All VSA Florida programs follow four guiding principles.

Guiding Principle #1

Every young person with a disability deserves access to appropriate arts learning

VSA Florida conducts artist in residence programs in schools and Department of Juvenile Justice facilities to increase access to high quality visual and performing arts learning experiences for students with disabilities. These programs are supported by the Florida Departments of Education and Juvenile Justice.

- Residencies are tied directly to the Florida Standards and meet an average of 9 standards per residency, with 80% of residencies focusing on 21st century skills like critical thinking. For 2016-17, 94% of residencies included standards in language arts and special skills, and 77% included standards in math.
- According to teacher evaluations, 99% of teachers felt the residency helped students express themselves in new ways and learn to work cooperatively, 98% felt the residency helped students increase their communication, and 95% felt the residency helped students increase their retention of information.

In the future, we aim to provide artist in residence programs in all 67 counties in Florida. In addition, new evaluation tools will more closely track outcomes in skill development, self-expression, and creative thinking.



Guiding Principle #2:

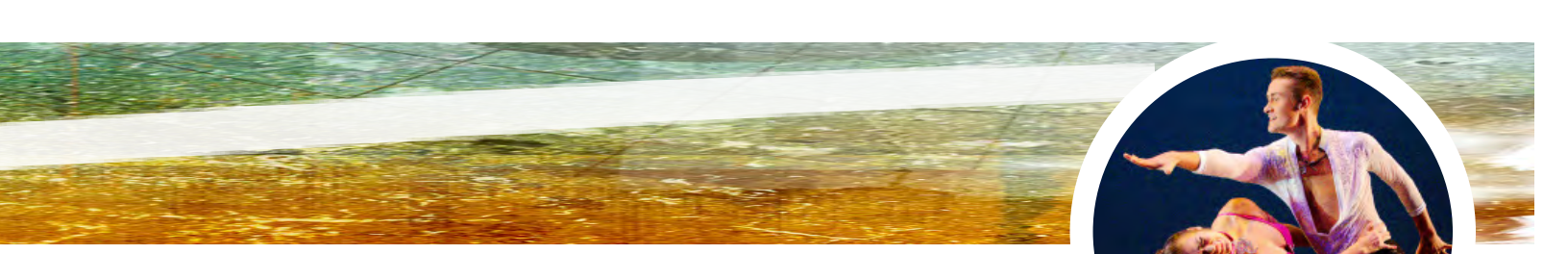
All artists in schools and art educators should be appropriately prepared to include students and adults with disabilities in their instruction.

VSA Florida provides professional development workshops for teachers and teaching artists to better prepare teachers to include students with disabilities in their class. Trainings focus on developing universally-designed curriculum, specific accommodations for including children with disabilities in the arts, and classroom management strategies. Based on written evaluations:

- 87% of teachers felt they increased their knowledge
- 79% of teachers regularly used what they learned
- 81% of teachers felt the tips they learned increased student engagement
- 85% of teachers used what they learned to better implement accommodations for students with disabilities.

In the future, we aim to provide at least 20 teacher trainings and webinars annually throughout Florida.





Guiding Principle #3

All children, youth and adults with disabilities should have complete access to community cultural facilities and activities.

VSA Florida hosts one large-scale cultural event annually. In October 2016, VSA Florida presented the second year of "A New Definition of Dance." Internationally renowned dancers, who also have disabilities, conducted Master dance classes, workshops in schools, performances and more, during 34 programs in Tampa, Jacksonville and Miami. 3,583 people were directly impacted through this two-week event.

VSA Florida also conducts disability awareness and accommodations workshops for cultural arts organizations to ensure facilities are accessible and staff/volunteers are trained to provide excellent customer service and educational opportunities to all guests. Based on written evaluations:

- 97% of participants felt they increased their knowledge
- 89% of participants regularly used what they learned
- 71% of participants felt the tips they learned increased student engagement
- 89% of participants used what they learned to better implement accommodations for students with disabilities.

In the future, we plan to continue our large-scale annual event and provide at least ten cultural organization trainings annually.

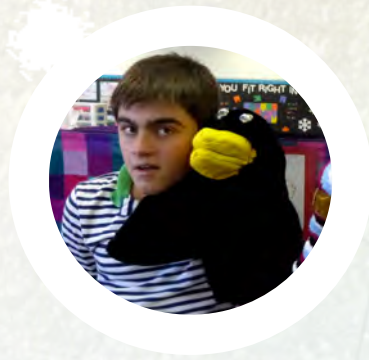
Guiding Principle #4

All individuals with disabilities who aspire to careers in the arts should have the opportunity to develop appropriate skills.

VSA Florida provides career development and professional opportunities for artists with disabilities through our artist registry, exhibitions, and performances. VSA Florida also hosts art and performance competitions, including:

- Calls for Art, where artists with disabilities submit works of art based on a theme. Submissions are adjudicated and cash prizes are awarded.
- The Student of the Month program, which recognizes the outstanding art achievements of students with disabilities. Two Students of the Month are selected throughout the school year and each receives an award and gift certificate.
- The Florida Young Soloist Program, which recognizes talented musicians up to age 22 who have a disability through an adjudicated statewide program. Finalists are given a chance to perform at a professional venue in Florida.

In the future, we aim to conduct one Call for Art each quarter and provide monetary awards to the Florida Young Soloist program winners.



Who We Serve

- 60% of artist in residence programs are at low-income and/or rural schools or facilities
- 55% of our programs target middle and high school students
- Students served through residencies have a wide range of disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, autism, speech or language impairments, orthopedic impairments, multiple disabilities, visual impairments/blindness, specific learning disabilities, Deaf/hearing impairments, developmental delays, emotional/behavioral disabilities, other health impairments, and traumatic brain injuries.

I Would Like to Support VSA Florida!

I would like to contribute:

- _____ \$10,000 to fund 20 artist in residence programs
- _____ \$5,000 to sponsor the Florida Young Soloist scholarship program for three years
- _____ \$1,000 to sponsor one Call for Art with cash prizes
(includes the opportunity to display the winning piece for six months.)
- _____ \$500 to fund one artist in residence program
- _____ \$100 to sponsor one month of the Student of the Month program
- _____ \$_____ to VSA Florida's general operating fund

Organization Name (if applicable): _____

Organization Website (if applicable): _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How you would like to be listed for donor recognition:

Check Credit Card Please invoice me

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____



Thank you for your contribution! VSA Florida is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and your donation is tax deductible. Our tax ID number is 59-2758321. Our registration number from the Florida Division of Consumer Services is CH8088.

For more information contact:
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www.vsafl.org