

VSA arts of Florida 2008 A Year in Review



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 2008 VSAFL provided direct service to 66,000 students with disabilities and 400 adults with disabilities, along with 260,000 additional individuals in inclusive settings.

We have had an extraordinary year of great accomplishments: activities in 52 counties; hosted an international conference; won awards on the national and state level for exceptional programming with state access programs, school districts and performing arts centers; programs piloted at the local level have been adopted at the state level; increased the numbers of participants taking part in our professional development workshops; exhibited at new venues; and met the majority of the goals of our three year strategic plan in year two. A great thanks to our outstanding board of directors for their support and guidance of our most ambitious and successful year to date.

Marian Winters, Executive Director

Florida Young Soloists



Briana



Natalia

For the second consecutive year, VSA arts of Florida conducted an extensive statewide call for art for the Young Soloists Award. A distinguished panel of music professionals reviewed each submission and selected this year's winners: Briana Duensing, 16, a talented pianist from Ormond Beach and singer Natalia Sulca, also 16, from Hialeah. This year VSA arts of Florida will highlight the talent of these young women at the Florida Orchestra Concert in the Park. The concert, free to the public will be held at Vinoy Park, St. Petersburg on Saturday, October 18, and will begin at 6:15pm.

In addition, these performers will represent Florida at the VSA arts International Young Soloists program. Since 1984, the VSA arts International Young Soloists Program has sought to identify internationally talented musicians, age 25 and under, who have a disability. The VSA arts International Young Soloists Award is given annually to four outstanding musicians, two from the United States and two from the international arena.

Public Awareness:

VSAFL.org

VSAFL recently launched our newly remodeled website. Please visit www.vsafl.org to see all the changes and stay up to date with the happenings in your area.



Professional Development and Technical Assistance Programs: Impact Revealed

Brevard County Teachers implemented several strategies acquired from a VSAFL inclusion workshop held in May, 2008. One teacher stated: "I have used clay as a manipulative to look at shapes, i.e. triangles, circles, squares, etc., thus I was able to reach all the students, especially the kinesthetic learners." Another participant shared: "I allowed my students to have a moment to transition from when they came to my class. I have one student who always needed 5 minutes to regroup, but now he is on task with the entire class." Another teacher shared how she used the "idea of the students feeling textures to awaken senses and the use of color to bring out different ideas or concepts for my visual learners." These are only a few of the strategies that were presented at the workshop that have helped students to be engaged in their learning. VSAFL offers workshops for teachers and staff on inclusion and *Start with the Arts*, an early childhood pre-literacy and arts based curriculum guide. Last year 20 professional development workshops were coordinated by VSAFL.

Cultural Access

Artist Registry

Over the past year Artist Registry members were given the following opportunities for career development, personal growth and promotion of their artwork:

- * 16 different employment instances in various capacities, such as workshop presenter and exhibition opening reception hostess, with two more employment opportunities scheduled before the end of the year.
- * five workshops on careers in the arts
- * nine exhibitions throughout the state of Florida
- * 31 "Calls for Art"

In addition to these artist opportunities, VSAFL participated in 9 community events in Pinellas, Leon, Orange and Hillsborough counties.

Our Artists' have been busy!!!

John Bisbee

- University Medical Center at Princeton, NJ, 6th Annual Art First, an international, juried exhibition, 2nd Place Oils and Acrylics 2008

Bill Renc

- Commissioned oil painting for the Art in the Park at Raymond James Corporate headquarters- benefit for Chi Chi Rodriguez Foundation, March 2008.

Deb Raulerson

- Artist in residence at Belle Witter Elementary School - class project which was displayed at the Tampa Museum of Art.

Lora Duguay

- 1 of 2 artists interviewed for the video produced by Luis Perez for VSA

Jack Beverland (Mr. B)

- Will appear in a book by WIDE WORLD INSTITUTE on DISABILITY entitled *Sticks and Stones; Disabled People's Stories of Abuse, Defiance and Resilience*.

Linda DeLong

- Entered first artwork with VSAFL and now has works featured at Edfish Gallery & the LEAD Conference 2008

Patsy Rodriguez

- Public Art installation: 'Pond in the Round' at Freedom Playground, McFarlane Park, Tampa.

Jamie Morhaim

- Has participated for 5 years in annual medical missions to Ecuador where he serves as a translator for the organization named Community Cares For Kids, and will soon begin organizing an art exhibition featuring portraits of patients and their families.

Bruce Cook

- Award: Community Activity of the Year Award from Comprehensive Community Services for artist-in-residence program with VSAFL.

Deborah Lulei

- Two fine art works entered into the Strawberry Festival art show.

Joseph Parrino

- [Veterans History Project \(Library of Congress\)](#)

John Ayes

- Entered the Smithsonian Portrait Competition, a national competition.

Jane Palmer

- Moss Rehab, "All About Art", Elkins Park, PA, *Purchase of Cascades for Permanent Collection 2008*

Dorothy Riley

- 2008 Florida State Fair, *First Place* for portrait "Ruby", *Third Place* for "Autumn Light", *Honorable Mention* for "Lora's Moon"

Ginnie Ungewitter

- 6th Biennial National Exhibit, Visual Art Center, Punta Gorda, FL

Work of Art program

The ArtThread Foundation and VSA arts of Florida have been awarded a \$35,000 grant from The Able Trust to create an innovative program designed to help artists with disabilities in the greater Tampa Bay area achieve success as working artists.

The "Work of Art" program will be a full-day training session where artists will receive hands-on training in the technical and entrepreneurial skills needed to sustain a career as an independent artist.

Artist Spotlight

How VSA Changed My Life

By Susan Kubes

In 2005, after raising two sons and retiring from full time work, I started painting in oils again, and acrylics, and anything else that looked fun. My only shows were weekend demonstrations on the porch of my friend's restaurant on Indian Rocks Beach, and at a coffeehouse in Clearwater. Again, some success, but both of those places closed, and I wondered what I would do next.

Just then, I was fortunate to meet my friend, Lora Duguay. Lora told me about VSAFL – and my life completely changed!! Suddenly, I was in art shows and exhibits at USF, and a one person show at the Open Door Gallery of VSAFL at the West Tampa Center for the Arts, at the Coliseum in St. Petersburg, and many other wonderful places. One email from VSAFL mentioned that the Tampa Artist Emporium was opening in Old Hyde Park Village in Tampa. With encouragement from my previous art exhibits, I had the confidence to give it a try, and now I've been there for over a year, with great success! Of course, one contact leads to another, and I found doors opening for me everywhere, along with all the VSAFL opportunities that keep coming. I had one of my paintings *Manatees in the Spring*, published in the Tampa Bay Business Journal's 2008 Book of Lists, and an article written about me in the St. Petersburg Times. One of my watercolors, *Macaw*, is now in the VSAFL permanent collection, and one of my acrylics, *Bird of Paradise* was used on the VSAFL information folder this year.

I've learned so much from VSAFL about art, marketing, framing and showing my work. I can't state strongly enough how grateful I am for the guidance and opportunities that have come to me through VSAFL. I'm so grateful for any VSAFL opportunities that come my way and they always have first priority. I'm happy to report that, in spite of recent and serious health problems, I have even opened my own studio and am painting there now, as well as having a place to bring my clients by appointment. I'm working on several commission pieces and am doing some interesting and unusual work in abstracts.

Two years ago, I could never in my wildest dreams have imagined that all this could be happening at this stage of my life and health. VSA arts of Florida has made all of this possible for me in so many ways. They have given me assistance, hope and direction! I can't begin to imagine where I'll be or what I'll be doing a year or two from now, but I know it will be a great new adventure! Meanwhile, I'm having the time of my life, doing what I had always wanted to do – painting!

LEAD Update

The 2008 Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disabilities (LEAD) conference presented by the Access Office of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts was a tremendous success. Held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, August 21-24, VSAFL was a co-sponsor along with the Center and the Division of Cultural Affairs. The attendance of over 230 was the largest in the 8 year history of the conference, AND 130 people attended from Florida—demonstrating that access to cultural organizations is a priority for the state. Thanks to VSAFL Board President, Wade Wetherington, for his welcoming remarks at the opening reception.

An attendee writes "I just wanted to send you a quick email to let you know how fabulous the LEAD conference was last week. As a "first-timer" I learned so much and realized just how much my organization needs to do in regards to accessibility."

Education: Artist in Residence Program

During 2007-08 VSAFL coordinated 79 artists in residence programs for schools, ARC facilities, Department of Juvenile Justice sites and arts in healthcare for pediatric patients in healthcare settings in 37 counties for the state of Florida. Each of these residencies allowed the participants to experience the arts, gain new skills and as a means of self expression. Teachers reported that the experience made: "connections between science, the environment and music;" "provided the opportunity to see the other side of the students;" "a student with low self-esteem now has more confidence in the classroom as a result of this experience;" "the students were very inspired to be creative and to try something new."

ARC administrators reported: "a client with Downs' syndrome made the decision to involve himself in the activity;" "an increase in the clients awareness of music and instruments;" "participants and families were beaming with pride at the final performance".

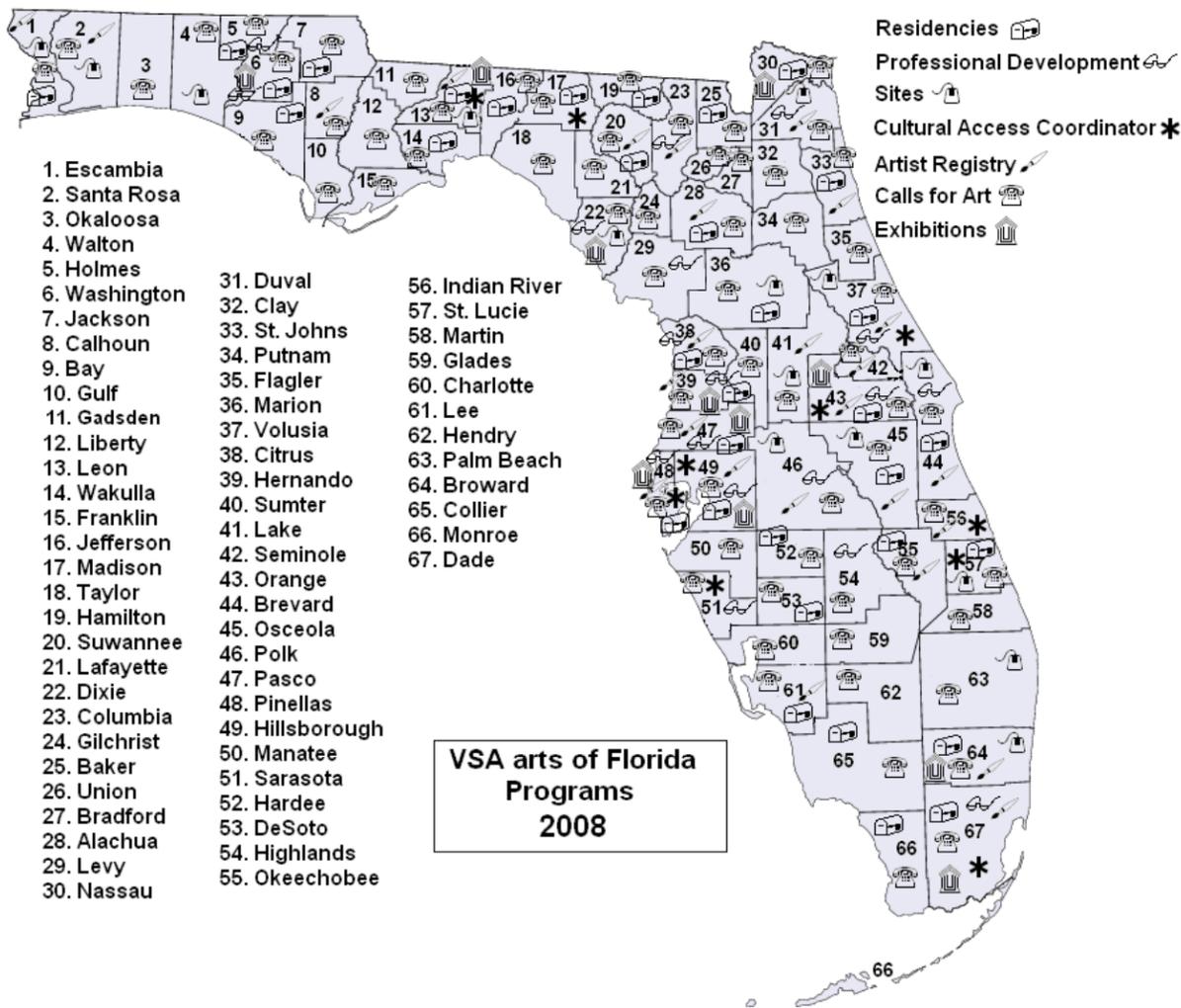


Program Partners

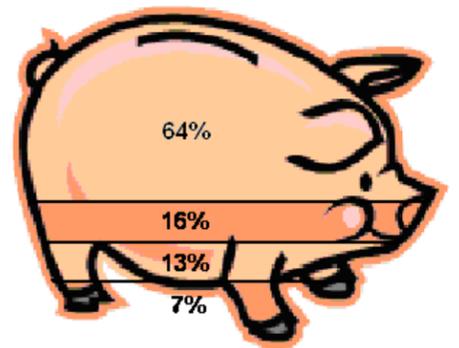
VSA arts of Florida is extremely grateful to our Program Partners for their commitment to children with disabilities. Because of their dedication to the arts, this year they impacted more than 65,000 children with disabilities. Festivals, exhibitions, concerts and many other programs exposed communities to the talents of our children and the pride that our teaching professionals have in bringing out these inner talents in children of all abilities.

VSA arts of Florida was able to add two new counties, Washington and Citrus, to our Program Partners. We look forward to working with these communities in developing programs for children who may not otherwise have access to the arts. On a sad note, one of our favorite partners has retired and we will miss her dearly.

Andrea King has been our site coordinator in Pensacola for many years and has been instrumental in the inclusion of the VSAFL festival as part of the Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival. In addition, due to her commitment to the professional development of teachers, Andrea has successfully used VSA programs such as Express Diversity and Start with the Arts as a training tool for the Escambia County school community. We will miss Andrea but more than anything we would like to thank her for her commitment to her community and most importantly to children with disabilities.



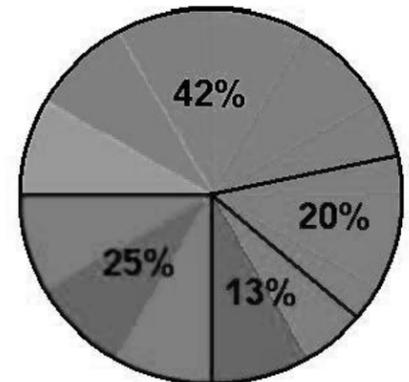
Program Money Allocation



64% Education Programs
 16% Cultural Access Programs
 13% Professional Development Programs
 7% Public Awareness Programs

Earned Income:

42% Special Events
 20% Training Fees
 13% Exhibitions
 25% Other



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Thank you to our Board of Directors...

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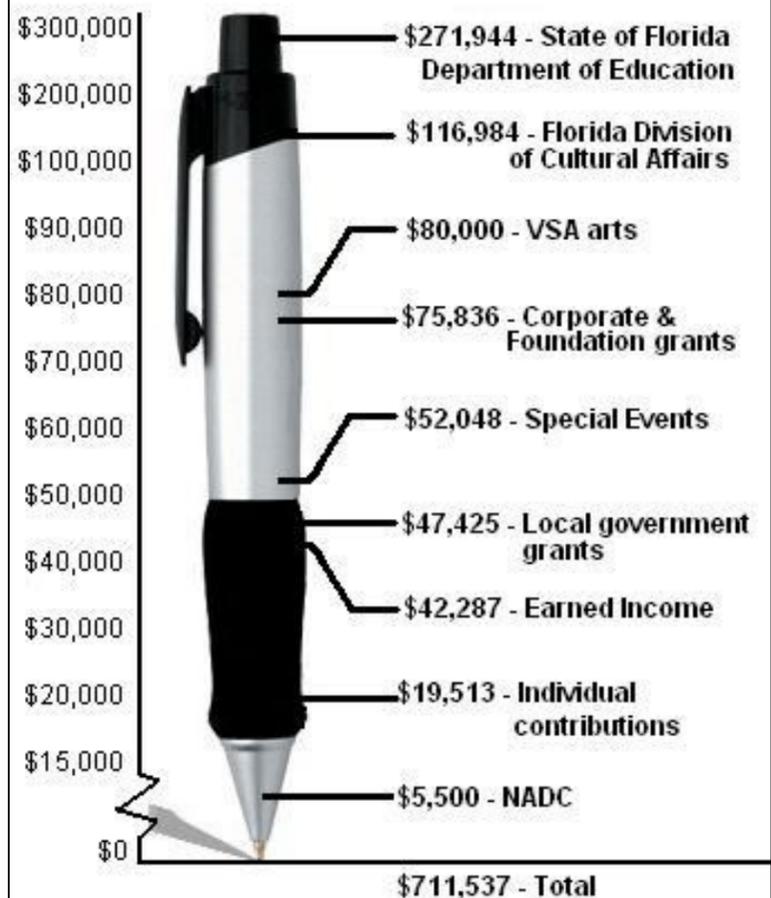
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2008 Financial Information



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