Dear Friends,

During our 37 years, VSA Florida has had numerous names: Florida Arts for the Handicapped Program, Very Special Arts Florida, VSA Arts Florida, and VSA Florida. We are proud to announce that we are changing our name to Arts4All Florida! We feel this new name better reflects how our mission, vision, programs, and audience have adapted over the past few years, yet still keeps Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith’s core vision of providing universally accessible art.

We hope you enjoy this year’s look back at everything Arts4All Florida accomplished and thank each of you for your support!

Best,

Jennifer Sabo, Executive Director
Over 49,600 people were directly served through 457 programs in 64 counties.

87% of our programs were provided free of charge to the participants.

94 teaching artists were contracted to teach programs and classes, injecting $207,464 into Florida’s economy.
Ensuring Arts for All Through the Artist in Residence Program

3,062 students participated in 196 multi-week artist in residence programs

59% of the schools and facilities served were low-income

Residencies addressed an average of 14 Florida Standards, with 90% of residencies including standards in Special Skills, 82% including standards in Language Arts, and 72% including standards in Mathematics.

75% of residencies for students in grades 9-12 provided opportunities to practice transition skills, including self-determination, good work habits, independence, artistic skills useful for careers in the arts, and positive social and work relationships.

307 students exhibited their artwork at a museum or gallery, including the 22nd Floor Capital Gallery, Appleton Museum of Art, HistoryMiami, Pensacola Museum of Art, Tampa Museum of Art, the University of South Florida’s Contemporary Art Museum, and more.

502 students performed on stage at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, and more.
“A student named Angel is selectively non-verbal according to several teachers. They were surprised she was happy to repeat the names we gave the drum strokes many times over and over while we were playing, almost 100% of the time! She loves music so much, it draws her out apparently.”

“We were able to take the monthly theme we were working on and extend their knowledge of vocabulary, concepts, spelling, rhyming words, syllables, left and right, etc. They were able to memorize song lyrics and dance moves in a couple of weeks. They were able to work as a team in order to present a show to teach others. Their self-esteem went through the roof. To this day my students will break into song when anyone says the word ‘HOT’. It was a wonderful way to teach changes in our world (global warming) through song and dance. This experience will be with them for the rest of their lives.”
When asked what areas they felt their students grew the most in during the residency, teachers responded:

#1: Self-Expression and Communication

“Cristina is a non-verbal student and usually communicates through a Promethean board. Ever since she started the dance residency two semesters ago, Cristina now uses non-verbal language to communicate with classmates and teachers. Cristina has also increased the use of sounds and is able to follow directions without re-direction. Cristina claimed that the dance residency is her favorite part of the week, and something she looks forward to with joy and excitement. Cristina had trouble sitting down on the floor and getting back up, but ever since we began our dance creative process, Cristina sits and gets back up without any assistance, and quicker than when we started. Cristina is a pure example of how the arts creates transformations and assists in growth and increase of skills.”

87% of teachers felt the art lessons helped most or almost all students express themselves in new ways.

#2: Willingness to Try New Things

“Most of the girls were very shy, one in particular felt very insecure about improv, especially with the others watching. With a little encouragement from her peers, she was able to go across the floor for an improv exercise. During her reflection, she expressed that she realized that everyone else probably feels nervous too but that they are all there to support each other.”
#3: Social Skills

“Students engaged in a discussion of what it means to be a ‘friend.’ Students listed qualities of a good friend and discussed how they could be a good friend to others. Students created a ‘Friend Doll’ using polymer clay to represent these ideas.”

87% of teachers felt the residency helped most or almost all students learn to work cooperatively.
413 children and teens with and without disabilities participated in 10 spring and summer camp programs.

Programs included:
• Animation Gets Real in Tampa and Miami
• MacDill AFB Airman & Family Readiness Center Artfully Fun
• Camp SpARTan
• USF - Pepin Academy Summer Institute
• New Hope for Kids
• Rotary Youth Camp of North Florida

“Tristan has had a wonderful week! He sings to me at night and tells me about his space projects. He’s been so happy!”

95% of parents reported the camp helped their child express themselves in new ways.
“It was very helpful to know William was learning new things over spring break. He demonstrated his new dance moves for his mother and I every night after camp, which was great!”

“I am so grateful for this program. It is very rewarding as a parent to watch your son get so excited about learning a new skill. His self-esteem and morale was boosted.”

**89% of parents reported the camp helped their child try new things.**

“I was extremely pleased with the camp. Nicholas was excited to attend every day. Each day we drove back to Orlando, Nicholas would talk to me about his ENTIRE day of camp! This camp helped Nicholas with his socialization skills; he met several new friends. He also has learned how to manage his time while completing tasks.”

**88% of parents reported the camp helped their child make new friends.**
Two very talented teens with disabilities were selected as the 11th Annual Florida Young Soloist winners: 18-year-old vocalist Stephanie Slagle from Hernando County and 23-year-old pianist Matthew Cravener from Leon County. The two artists were selected through a strict adjudication process facilitated by Hillsborough County music professionals.

18 students with disabilities were recognized for their outstanding artistry, personal growth and leadership in the arts during the 2017-2018 Student of the Month program.

Athletes became artists as we continued our six-year partnership with Special Olympics Florida. An estimated 1,600 athletes, families, and friends participated in accessible art activities during 16 Special Olympics’ Spring Area Games.
418 children and adults participated in 308 community art classes during 34 different programs. Community art classes were hosted at The ARC, the Boys and Girls Club of Marion County, Duvall Homes, Flagler County schools, Franklin County schools, Great Explorations Children’s Museum, the Land O’ Lakes Recreation Center, Lighthouse of Manasota, MACTown, the New Tampa YMCA, and Sunrise Community.

64 participants joined us as we continued our second year of the “Dancing Through Parkinsons” program in Pinellas County with 37 dancing sessions during five different programs.

“One little boy [during the community art class] said he hated art. When he completed his sand art it was so colorful and beautiful, I made a big deal about it. I always complimented his artwork after that. On the last day, I had to select the best work from each student for the exhibit. When I came to him, he proudly said, ‘You don’t know what to do right? Everything I do is so beautiful, you just don’t know what to do.’ I said, ‘You’re right...I’m going to have to take them all home and decide.’ He turned to the class and said, ‘You see people, I’m the best!’
Creating Accessible Arts Instruction for All

This year, Arts4All Florida teamed up with the Florida Department of State (Division of Cultural Affairs) and the National Endowment for the Arts, to help increase access to the arts for people with disabilities in schools and cultural organizations across Florida.

One of the projects under this grant was to develop basic accessibility toolkits tailored to the needs of the requesting organization. Kits included a variety of adapted tools and materials, as well as personalized resources.

13 kits were distributed across the state, serving thousands of people with disabilities!
This year, Arts4All Florida hosted a Call for Art for our new annual calendar. Twenty-five adult artists with disabilities submitted 36 pieces to the contest and 13 pieces were selected for the calendar. Not only did these artists get exposure through Arts4All Florida, but three markets of Regions Bank also distributed the calendar to over 1,000 of their customers, introducing our artists to an entirely new audience.

Arts4All Florida, in collaboration with the Mount Dora Center for the Arts, hosted an invitational exhibition, “Art on the Spectrum”, featuring a body of work from four visual artists who are individuals on the autism spectrum. Featured artists included Daniel Horak of Gainesville, Austin Lubetkin of Miami, Thomas Reaves of New Port Richey, and Remmick Wadsworth of Tampa. An estimated 225 people saw the exhibition during the six weeks it was up, and one piece of art was sold during the exhibition.

Artists with disabilities on the Artist Registry participated in several events, providing opportunities to have their work showcased and purchased. Among these were the Florida State Fair Art Show; an exhibition of artwork by artists with autism from the Tampa Bay community at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI); the F.A.I.R., one of the largest disability education and awareness events in Tampa Bay; and more.
Arts4All Florida was honored to host James Durbin in Tampa and Tallahassee during our “From Backstage to Center Stage” program in October. Durbin, a singer, songwriter and guitarist from Santa Cruz, California, who gained fame following the 2011 season of “American Idol” and is now the lead vocalist for 80’s heavy metal rock band “Quiet Riot”, conducted school outreach programs; had a lunch and learn with University of South Florida students with disabilities and music education majors; and performed at the University of South Florida (USF), Florida State University (FSU), and Tallahassee Community College.

Over 1,800 people were impacted through 10 events.
“James’ testimony, interaction, and music had a definite impact on our students. Our ESE arts class is putting on a production of ‘Beauty and the Beast’. Kyle, the young man playing the Beast in our show, asked James for advice for his own performance of this famous character. James showed him how to walk and talk like the Beast, and he even sang a little sample from the play. Kyle was inspired! He came to class that day roaring louder and speaking more in character than he has ever done before. Since that day, Kyle has continued to improve in a way that I could not have brought out of him. To see the way that James motivated Kyle was amazing! He is giving kids the courage to try new things and believe in themselves.”

“Today was absolutely AWESOME!!! I just want to take the time to thank EVERYONE for the role they played in making today a total success! James’ message was so beneficial to us ALL! And I must say…hands down he can SING!! Our Trojans were on their BEST behavior and really showed the world that we here at R. Frank Nims Middle School have what it takes to meet our individual challenges and embrace our known and hidden talents head on with a ‘Yeah I’m different but that’s ok’ type attitude!”
708 teachers, teaching artists, and cultural organization staff and volunteers attended 36 webinars and in-person trainings. These trainings focused on preparing arts educators and cultural organizations to better include people with disabilities in arts classes and cultural activities.

An estimated 20,000 students benefited indirectly from these trainings!

“This training has definitely helped me understand how I can better adapt my classroom for all students. I enjoyed being able to make some of the adaptive tools, so my students can start using them as soon as tomorrow.”

New for the 2017-2018 school year, Arts4All Florida began offering “Inclusive Practices in the Arts”, a five-hour training for teachers that presents information on developing lessons using Universal Design for Learning guidelines and Differentiated Instruction that is specific to the arts, incorporating accommodations, and assessing the performance of students with disabilities in the arts. This training also provides opportunities for arts educators to make and take adapted art tools back to their classrooms. Three counties offered this training to their arts teachers.
“The most interesting thing I learned [during this webinar] was that it is possible to do an entire music program with only students that have learning disabilities or [are on the] autism spectrum or have some kind of physical disability, and it still be a successful program.”

Based on evaluations completed immediately following the training, 89% of participants rated the training program a 4 or above (out of 6) on increasing their knowledge on accessibility and accommodations.

In April, Arts4All Florida follows-up with training participants to see if they used what they learned from the training they attended. This year:

• 78% of participants reported using the tips and techniques they learned in the training on a regular basis,

• 76% felt the tips and techniques they learned increased student engagement in arts activities, and of those,

• 100% felt the increased engagement reduced the need to remove students from their class due to behavior.
Did you know, last year 94.5% of our budget funded program expenses!

I would like to help in the mission!

_____ $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
_____ $500 to fund one artist in residence program
_____ $100 to sponsor one month of the Student of the Month program
_____ $________________ to Arts4All 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: ________________________________________________

Mail to: Arts4All Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave., EDU 105, Tampa, FL 33620

Thank you for your contribution! Arts4All 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.
Thank you to our 2017-2018 sponsors and donors!

Francine Andersen  
Diane Bateman  
Jan Beals  
Marianela Bedolla  
Michael Bowers  
Elva Brady  
Children’s Communication Center  
Jill D’India  
District 5 GFWC Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs  
Wendy Finklea  
Susan Gallo  
Allison Galloway-Gonzalez  
GFWC Coral Gables Woman’s Club  
GFWC Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs  
GFWC Greater Ocala Woman’s Club  
GFWC Gulf Coast Womans Club, Inc.  
GFWC Lutz-Land O’ Lakes Women’s Club  
GFWC Satellite Beach Woman’s Club, Inc.  
GFWC Tallahassee Junior Women’s Club  
GFWC Temple Terrace Womans Club, Inc  
GFWC Womans Club of Panama City FL, Inc.  
Kathleen Giddens  
David Handera  
Bill and Jeanne Heller  
Sandra Hill  
Vicki Herlovich  
Belvai and Radha Kudva  
Las Damas de Arte  
Lilyan Lewis  
Judy Litt  
Suzanne Martin  
Katie Molloy  
Merry Lynn Morris  
Publix Super Markets Charities  
Clint Randles  
Rotary Club of New Tampa  
Marelle Rukes  

Sai Nrityalaya  
Mindy Shrago  
Paula Sklodowski  
Nanci Speagle  
Sandra Sroka  
Statements 2000  
Dorothy Stroz  
Robert Terri  
Trader Joe’s  
Gregory Vawter  
Daryl Ward  
Alan Williams  
Glenn Williamson  
Marian Winters  

In memory of Robert Fosnaught:

Denise Ankudowich  
Ann Campbell  
Charles H. Carver  
Filomana Ferrara  
Marc Gaines  
Nell Green  
Richard and Alice Ostrom  
Amy F. Phillips  
Karen Roberts  
Kathryn Vanspanckeren
Thank you!