

VSA arts of Florida 2007 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 2007 VSAFL provided direct service to 35,000 students with disabilities and 600 adults with disabilities, along with 225,000 additional individuals in inclusive settings. Indirect service was provided to 800,000 individuals. These individuals were primarily students that benefited from teachers that participated in VSAFL professional development workshops. All in all, over one million Floridians learned through, participated in and had the opportunity to enjoy the arts.

Young Soloists



2007 VSA arts of Florida Young Soloists Finalists

Since 1984, the VSA arts International Young Soloists Program has sought to identify nationally 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. This year, VSA arts of Florida announced its first statewide program to feature the talent of our young vocalists or instrumentalists with disabilities. After an extensive search, a panel of prominent musical professionals chose five finalists to showcase their talent in an exciting performance on October 20, 2007 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Ferguson Hall. The five finalists for the 2007 Florida Young Soloists Award were Lauren Burke of Osceola County, Briana Duensing of Volusia County, Dallas Remonda of Lee County, Jessica Tomlinson of Pinellas County, and Ashley Townsend also from Volusia County. The two VSA arts of Florida Young Soloists nominees for the International Young Soloists award were Briana Duensing and Ashley Townsend. The October 20th performance included a selection of songs from mezzo-soprano, Laurie Rubin, who is a past winner of the VSA arts international competition. In addition, there was a performance by the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus. Thanks to John Wilson, FOX News Anchor for acting as emcee for the event.

Public Awareness:

VSAFL.org

The VSAFL website continues to evolve with the addition of new linkages, an updated artist registry and new calendar. The website is accessible and is a model for other websites.



Festival held in West Palm Beach



Catie from Walton County received a VSA National Award. (Catie is pictured with her teacher, Constance Rogers and VSAFL Executive Director, Marian Winters.)



Children participating in Artist Residency Program at The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami.

The screenshot shows the VSAFL.org website with a navigation menu including Home, Who We Are, Programs, Get Involved, Calendar, Resources, Careers in the Arts, Contact Us, Artist Registry, Online Gallery, National Website, Donations, and Where to GO. A main banner reads "See Arts and Education in Action!!!" and lists various programs and locations. A sidebar includes a "Join Our Free E-mail Mailing List" button and a "COMING IN THE FALL! 2008 YOUNG SOLOISTS AWARDS AND PERFORMANCE" announcement. A "Calls for Art" section invites users to visit a page to find active calls for art, and a "Workshops" section invites users to check out workshops around the state. A "VSAFL is seeking teaching artists for residency opportunities" notice is also present.

We Are in the News!

Many articles were printed in statewide publications in 2007 highlighting the numerous events and exhibitions sponsored by VSAFL. The local newspapers which covered our events included, *The Tampa Tribune*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *The Polk County Democrat*, *The Suncoast News*, and *Creative Loafing* as well as several internet sites such as tbo.com, local10.com and newsjournalonline.com. Events covered in press across the state included *Feel the Art*, a tactile traveling exhibition which originated in Miami, *Through My Eyes*, an exhibition at the Tampa Museum of Art of juried art from VSAFL's artist registry, an exhibition of registry artists' work at the Oldsmar City Hall, the opening and subsequent exhibitions of registry artists at the Open Door Gallery at the West Tampa Center for the Arts and numerous pieces on the Young Soloists Awards and Performance at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. VSAFL was also represented on television channels 10 and 13 in Tampa Bay with interviews with local Young Soloists finalist, Jessica Tomlinson and on local stations in Daytona Beach.

Education: Artist in Residence Program

VSAFL provides artist residencies in inclusive settings for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP), adults with disabilities in day programs, pediatric patients in healthcare settings and youth at risk in Juvenile Justice Centers. The teaching artists present hands-on sessions with their participants in the areas of visual art, movement, music and drama. These 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 six to ten hours depending on the age and disabilities of the participants and is evaluated for the academic and social achievement reached. During 2007, 360 teaching artists worked with over 2600 individuals with disabilities. Residencies occurred in the following counties: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Collier, Dade, Desoto, Duval, Escambia, Gulf, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Wakulla, Walton, Washington and Volusia.

Program Partner Sites

VSA arts of Florida has 22 Program Partner sites throughout the State. Program Partner are organizations which consist of schools, school districts, performing arts centers and other private not for profit organizations who have agreed to participate and promote VSA arts programs in their communities.

VSA arts of Florida's Program Partner sites initiated and participated in the following educational programs: 17 Festivals, six individualized educational programs, six Artist Residency programs at various schools with their communities, seven Traveling Exhibitions, seven Concert/ Performances, four *Start with the Arts* trainings, four *Express Diversity* Trainings, two Mini Grant programs, and four miscellaneous art programs. Great work!



ARC Residency Program

Exemplary Participant

Bank of America Charitable Foundation has been the sponsor of the Exemplary Participant Recognition Program since its inception in 2003. Deserving students are nominated in two categories: Personal Growth Through the Arts and Exemplary Work in Art or Music. A statewide panel of teaching and artistic professionals reviews the applications and selects a winner and runner-up in each of these categories. The winners and their nominating teachers receive a \$200.00 US Savings Bond and the runners-up \$100.00

In 2007, the awards were presented during the Young Soloists Performance at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

The 2007 Winners are:

The Runner-up award for "Personal Growth Through the Arts" – Victoria Gonzalez and her teachers Nayda Flores, Debbie Fahmie, and Maggie Carrillo of Cypress Elementary School in Kissimmee.

Exemplary Participant Recognition First Place award for "Personal Growth Through the Arts" – Omar Alvarado and his teacher Karen Cotton of North Elementary in Okeechobee.

Exemplary Participant Recognition award Runner-up for "Exemplary Work in Art or Music" – Lindsay Krajewski and her teacher Brenda Flach of Prine Elementary in Bradenton.

Exemplary Participant Recognition First Place award for "Exemplary Work in Art or Music" – Vivienne Crews and her teacher Laurie Russell of South Miami K-8 Center in Miami.

Congratulations to all...



Exemplary Participant Winners



Cultural Access Initiatives

Artist Registry

The VSAFL Artist Registry is a comprehensive computerized database of artists with disabilities. Member artists are provided with a wealth of exposure through calls for art, exhibition and performing opportunities. Membership is free and open to all artists with disabilities, ages 18 and over. During 2007, VSA arts of Florida artists were offered many opportunities to showcase their work, including the *Through My Eyes* exhibition at the Tampa Museum of Art, as well as an exciting new partnership with the West Tampa Center for the Arts. WTCA will continue to host an array of exhibitions and workshops including our Artist Registry members. Our inaugural show at WTCA showcased over 20 pieces of artwork from 14 different artists. Over 1000 people viewed the show at the opening reception on Friday, September 28, 2007. The WTCA partnership also provided Artist Registry member, Lora Duguay the opportunity to work as hostess for the Opening Reception of *REDUCED*, which was held on Friday, December 14, 2007.



Through My Eyes Opening at the Tampa Museum of Art

Exhibitions

VSAFL exhibitions continue to grow in number increasing from 12 to 15.

2007 VSAFL Exhibitions

- Florida Mental Health Institute Summer Collaborative (FMHI)
- Oldsmar City Hall
- Tampa Museum of Art
- Jewish Community Center in St. Petersburg
- FMHI Fall Collaborative
- Landscapes at West Tampa Center for the Arts (WTCA)
- FMHI Winter Collaborative
- *REDUCED* at WTCA
- *FLOCAS* at WTCA
- Explorations V Children's Museum in Lakeland
- USF College of Education Main Building
- *My Family*, Florida Pride and Exemplary Participant at the Open Door Gallery
- USF College of Education Offices
- *Art on the Move* traveled throughout the Miami Area (Women's Park, Miami Dade Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Miami Children's Museum, Miami Art Museum, Miami Public Library Main Branch, Amad Lozi Gallery)
- Department of Education, 6th floor, Tallahassee

Cultural Access

VSA arts of Florida expanded access to community cultural facilities and programs for children, youth and adults of all abilities. Cultural access initiatives included:

- Professional development in access, inclusion, audio description, and assistive technology for a variety of audiences including staff and administrators of museums, parks and recreation departments, cultural educators, public school educators, and volunteers in performing arts centers. Two day trainings entitled "Arts Access Made Easy" were presented in Tampa and Miami-Dade County.
- *Art on the Move*, an accessible, multi-sensory, multi-faceted, traveling art exhibit, made its debut in February, 2007, at the Assistive Technology Awareness event in Miami and then traveled to seven locations in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties showcasing the use of cell phone technology for audio described tours of the exhibit. The show will be traveling to other venues in Florida upon request.
- VSAFL was awarded a Challenge Grant entitled "Building Cultural Access for Florida" that is being implemented through a network of six regional facilitators to provide professional development, technical assistance, information and referrals, and support for inclusive programming to cultural venues in their regions. Facilitators were provided training and materials from VSAFL.

Professional Development and Technical Assistance Programs:



VSAFL Professional Development programs include various training sessions for teachers, teaching artists, and cultural institutions. In 2007, VSAFL provided: seven *Start with the Arts* trainings; seven inclusion sessions; one accessibility workshop; one disability awareness session; one session for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and two sessions on "Why the Arts". These 19 sessions were attended by 470 music and art teachers (pre K-12), parents, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and museum docents. These sessions occurred in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Madison, Orange, St. Johns, and Miami-Dade counties. The underlying focus of all sessions is the inclusion of people with disabilities in the arts.



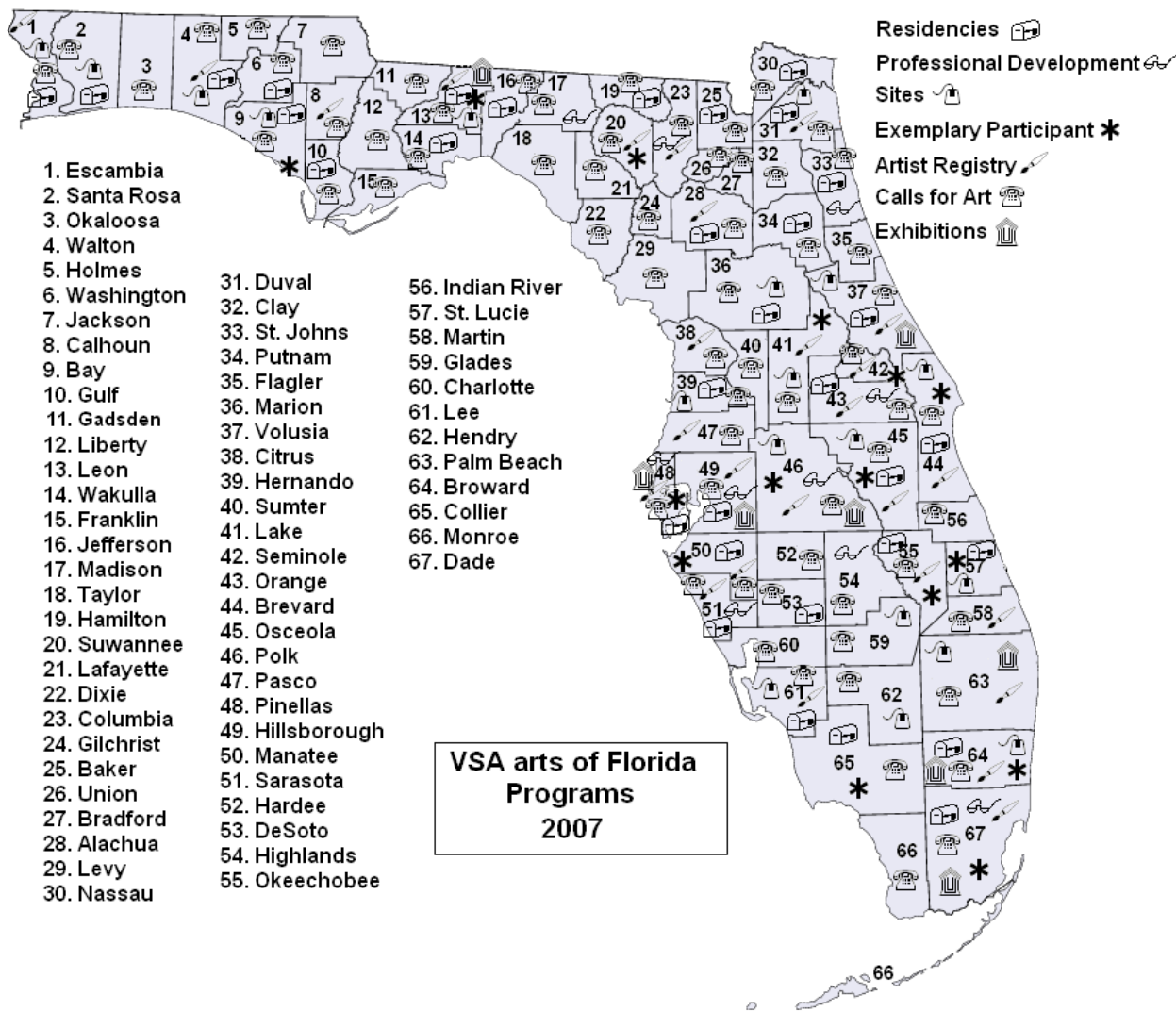
School Children enjoying *Art on The Move* in Miami



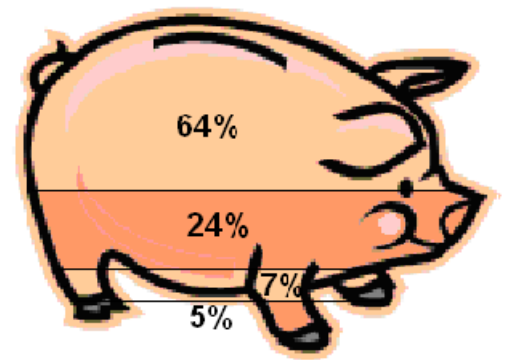
Lora Duguay presents a workshop on Careers in the Arts

Careers in the Arts

"Careers in the Arts" workshops were held in several areas of the state, including Jacksonville, Daytona Beach, Tampa and Miami. These workshops were presented primarily to employees of Vocational Rehabilitation and South Florida Workforce, totaling approximately 100 attendees combined. The workshop includes a presentation on access to arts careers including hand-outs, resource lists and hands-on activities, as well as testimonials from successful artists with disabilities.



Program Money Allocation



- 64% Education Programs
- 24% Cultural Access Programs
- 7% Professional Development Programs
- 5% Public Awareness Programs

Earned Income:

- 46% - Special Event Revenue
- 22% - Training Fees
- 20% - Exhibitions
- 12% - Other



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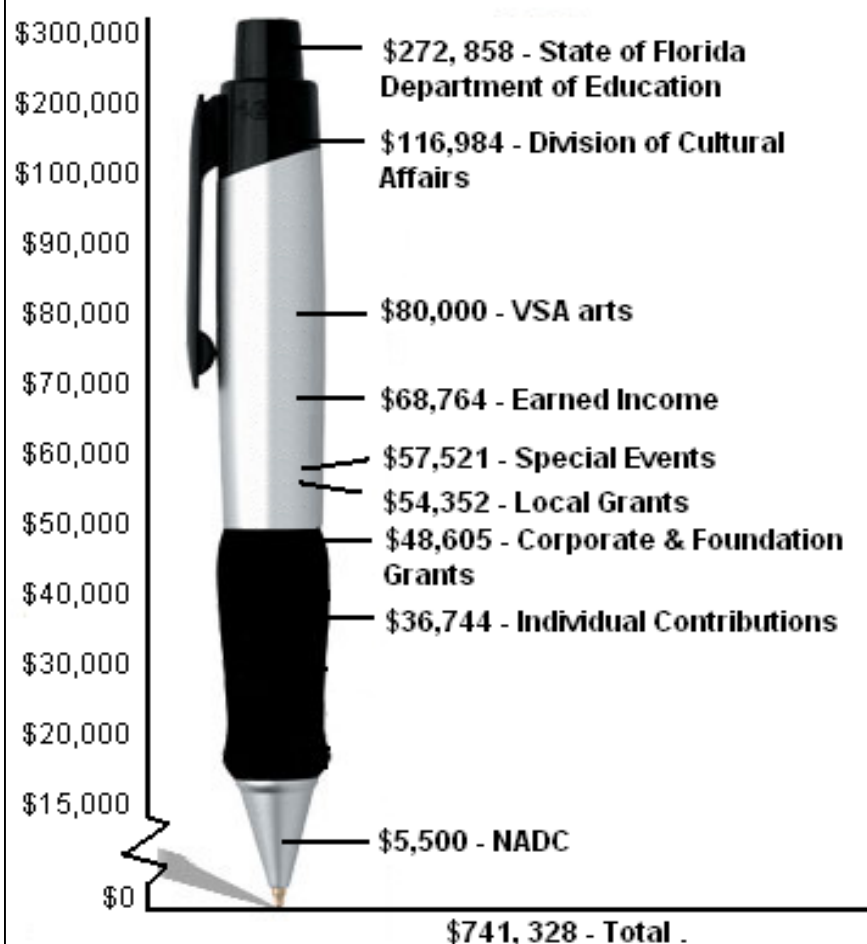
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