



ALABAMA

**The State Organization
on Arts and Disability**

2009

ANNUAL REPORT



Arts in Community We provided programming in the visual arts, art therapy, music therapy, drumming and rhythm, and drama at 20 community agencies across the state in FY2009. Through our programming, children and adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses explored a variety of media and had the opportunity to shine through the arts!

PROGRAM SITES

Arc of South Talladega • Arc of Jefferson County
Independent Living Center of Mobile • Eastern Shore
Art Center • United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville
United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham (LincPoint
Adult Center) • 1920 Club • Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair
Mental Health Authority—Deaf Services • North Central
Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation • AIDS Alabama
The Burkett Center • South Highland Center
McCoy Adult Day Care • Rittenhouse Senior Living of Hoover • Kirkwood By The River
Vent Kids Camp • Arc of Walker County • Mobile ARC • Clarke County ARC • Workshops, Inc.

**1,281 Served
26 Programs
20 Sites**

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Arts in Education *not including ArtPartners

**313 Served
7 Programs
5 Sites**

PROGRAM SITES

UCP of Greater Birmingham—Hand in Hand Early Learning
Center (PreK) • The Bell Center for Early Intervention (PreK)
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (Rhythmic Empowerment
Drumming Program) • Helen Keller School and Alabama
School for the Blind • Epic School (visual arts, drama,
music therapy)—Multi-disciplinary arts program for
students in grades 1-11

ArtPartners ArtPartners is a year-round program taking place in Birmingham, Mobile/
Fairhope, and Sylacauga. This program partners emerging artists (children and adults with
chronic illnesses and disabilities) with local community artists to create artwork collaboratively
and build mentoring relationships.

**333 Served
50 Sessions Statewide
5 Sites**
(Birmingham studio, Greenvale Pediatrics, Sylacauga, ESAC, ILC Mobile)

Gallery Spaces In 2009, artwork submitted by adult artists with disabilities was displayed in 7 prominent gallery spaces in the Birmingham community.

UAB Civitan International Research Center • UAB Spain Rehabilitation Center Red Mountain Theatre Company • UAB Resource Center • UAB Medical Scientist Training Program Office • KPS Group (architecture firm) • UAB Center for Palliative Care (Please check our Web site for 2010 gallery spaces as some have changed.)

Exhibits

Creativity—Art in the Magic City is an annual state-wide, juried exhibit celebrating work by adult artists with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Our 17th Annual Creativity—Art in the Magic City exhibit was hosted by AT&T Operations Center in Birmingham in March and April. This exhibit gives talented artists with disabilities from across the state the opportunity to market their artwork, gain professional skills, and showcase their work to a public audience.

116 Adult Artists with Disabilities Served
198 Works of Art
Dates of Exhibit: 3/3/09–4/3/09
60 Awards of Merit

A closing reception was held at AT&T in Birmingham in April (attended by approximately 150). VSA Alabama works with the participating artists to develop professional skills necessary to market their artwork to the public. All artwork is priced by the artists and a portion is added to support VSA Alabama's programming. Selected award-winning works were included in the VSA Alabama Traveling Exhibit.



CreativeFest Reception and mini-festival in the lobby of Children's Hospital of Alabama on April 5, 2009.



111 students participated
(42% with a disability)
123 Works of Art
Dates of Exhibit: 1/21/09–9/11/09
20 Awards of Merit

Share My World Exhibit is our inclusive juried exhibition featuring artwork by students in grades 1–11 attending Birmingham City Schools. The exhibit was displayed at Children's Hospital and included a celebratory reception and mini-festival.

VSA Alabama Traveling Exhibit The 2009 Traveling Exhibit featured a selection of award-winning works from Creativity and CreativeFest featured at prominent venues throughout the state. A closing reception hosted by Governor Bob Riley was held at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery on November 16, 2009 to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of these outstanding emerging artists.



National Programs

VSA International Young Soloists VSA Alabama participates in the national call for Young Soloists by hosting a live showcase featuring Alabama's young performing artists with disabilities. 5 young people with disabilities participated in the VSA Alabama live competition and the two state winners were submitted to the VSA International Young Soloists program. Our live juried competition was held in December 2009 at Bradley Lecture Center at Children's Hospital of Alabama. This program gives budding vocalists and musicians with disabilities the opportunity to showcase their talents by performing before a live audience and panel of judges.

- **100%** of audience polled felt that each contestant was allowed to pursue his/her strengths in the performing arts
- **100%** of contestants rated their overall experience as outstanding
- **\$500 cash award** presented to winner Jon Michael Ogletree to continue studies in music
- **\$250 cash award** presented to runner-up Micaela Burney to continue studies in music

CVS Caremark and VSA present "All Kids Can....Create" 100 online submissions of visual artwork were made by young Alabamians on the Artsonia website. One of our Alabama finalists, Rody Davis, was chosen to attend the Congressional Reception in Washington, D.C.

Program Outcomes

- 1) Increased access to the arts and exposure to different modes of artistic expression.
- 2) Increased social skills, communication, cooperation and teamwork as a result of collaborating through the arts.
- 3) Opportunities for emerging artists with disabilities and chronic illnesses to participate in juried exhibits, display their work in public gallery spaces, and (adults) market their artwork to the public.
- 4) Reduced stress and anxiety typically associated with hospital visits and chronic medical conditions and improved coping skills.
- 5) Increased confidence and self-esteem through participation in the arts.

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2009 Fiscal Year

Revenue	\$411,192
By Source	
Contributions	\$155,781
Grants	\$170,025
Program Fees	\$49,805
United Way	\$35,000
Other Income	\$581

Expense	\$462,398*
By Purpose	
Programming	\$416,207
Mgmt. & Gen.	\$40,163
Fundraising	\$6,028

*In May 2008, VSA Alabama moved from in-kind to 100% paid space. We are happy to report this deficit will be eliminated in FY2010.



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