



Kati and Shaqe, VSA trainers

Volunteer

Arts Access hosts a variety of events and sponsors services that make the arts accessible, such as audio description of performances. If you are interested in volunteering to help out at an event or providing accessibility services, please call our office: (919) 833-9919.

Upcoming Events

- **April 15, 2011 -Arts for All Workshop- NC Museum of Art, Raleigh NC**
Arts Access, Inc. is pleased to present a half-day workshop on strategies for including children of all abilities in arts education activities. For more information or to register for this workshop, please visit our website.
- **April 1 and May 6 -Arts for All Cabaret- Crockers Mark Gallery, Raleigh NC**
Dancing, singing, and telling stories! Enjoy an evening of creative play in which all abilities are welcome! No previous experience of any kind needed. Wheelchair accessible. For more information contact Ginny Going, interplaync@nc.rr.com or (919) 821-3723.
- **Audio Description Schedule**
Please visit our website for up-to-date schedules of audio described performances and productions around the Triangle. Audio description is provided at no additional cost to the patron beyond the regular price of admission. www.artsaccessinc.org/schedule
- **Learn more about our upcoming events!**
Stay tuned to our website for upcoming events, performance schedules, and workshops. Please visit us at www.artsaccessinc.org!



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Welcome!

Welcome to our first edition of Arrow. Our organization is growing and among many improvements, we are bringing back our newsletter. Soon to be available digitally, if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please visit our website at www.artsaccessinc.org.

Who are we?

For 29 years, **Arts Access**, a nonprofit organization based in Raleigh, NC, has been *making the arts accessible to people with disabilities*. We advocate for arts accessibility throughout North Carolina; provide audio description for theatre patrons who are blind or have low vision; refer arts administrators to sign language interpreters; and provide accessibility training to arts organizations and arts accessibility information to the public.



Greetings from the Board President

Change and growth

-Barbara Olson, Board President

The last two years have seen many exciting changes for Arts Access!

Arts Access has historically operated as an all-volunteer organization, with the majority of the board members functioning as volunteer staff. There has not been a physical space for Arts Access or paid staff. This speaks greatly about the dedication of the board and volunteers that they have providing such an important service for 28 years with these limited resources.

In 2009 Arts Access began the process of becoming a staffed organization, providing training statewide and working toward VSA affiliate status.

VSA Arts is a national organization operating out of the Kennedy Center and was founded by Jean Kennedy Smith. www.vsarts.org.

VSA affiliation brings financial resources and technical assistance that would benefit the state of North Carolina. We are also proud of our partnership and support from the North Carolina Arts Council that has enabled a statewide survey, regional training and a new website.

With support from our existing funders and the NC Arts Council and VSA, a contract staff person (Betsy Jones Ludwig) was hired part-time to conduct and complete a statewide needs assessment,

coordinate program efforts, write grants and help build the capacity of Arts Access.

We have rented space in a shared office to establish a community presence and physical office space. Recently a second staff person, (Michele Proctor) was contracted to provide administrative support and establish data management systems.

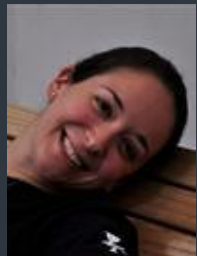
With these capacity building changes we plan to offer increased services across the state, attain VSA affiliation, and increase access to the arts for people living with disabilities.

Meet the People of Arts Access



Programs: Betsy Ludwig – Betsy brings more than twenty years experience working with children and adults with disabilities to her work with Arts Access. She has worked at UNC-Chapel Hill, Durham Public Schools, NC Autism Society, and Community Partnerships.

She has a BA in Sociology from Salem College and an MS in Therapeutic Recreation from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Administration: Michele Proctor– Michele joined Arts Access in January 2011 upon graduating from NC State University with a Masters in Industrial Design. Michele has worked for other NC government programs and specializes in developing office protocols and organizational systems.



Workshop participants grouped up to create a planned Tableau to communicate the text a poem.



North Carolina Arts Council Wins NEA Award

Arts Access and NCAC partner to address arts accessibility

Article excerpts courtesy of NCAC press release

www.ncartseveryday.org/, September 10, 2010

Left: NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman (Photo by Lloyd Aaron)

National Endowment of the Arts Chairman Rocco Landesman announced in October the North Carolina Arts Council as the recipient of the 2010 National Accessibility Leadership Award for its outstanding accessibility work.

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), the award recognizes exceptional initiatives or programs that make the arts accessible and inclusive for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

"We work hard to serve all North Carolina residents," said Mary B. Regan, executive director of the N.C. Arts Council. "We are honored and humbled by this award that acknowledges our work in making the arts accessible."

Arts Access was proud to have partnered with the North Carolina Arts Council on helping to make this award possible. As stated in the press release:

- "Partnering with Arts Access, a Raleigh-based accessibility

service organization, the Arts Council worked to expand the organization's capacity from a local service provider to a statewide resource. This collaboration included regional access workshops and site evaluations for arts groups around the state and a comprehensive needs assessment."

Arts Access looks forward to future collaborations with the NC Arts Council and congratulates them on their progressive work on accessibility in the arts and the NEA award!

March VSA Institute Report

Arts Access hosted a dynamic workshop in Greensboro on the topic of arts education for students of all abilities featuring the principles of Universal Design for Learning. VSA, The International Organization on Arts and Disability conducts learning institutes all over the United States and Internationally.

Our VSA trainers were Kati Blair from Massachusetts, and Shaq Karaj a teaching artist from Michigan, Mary Linger, the VSA director of education also presented.

We had 35 teachers, arts educators and support staff from all over the state who attended the day long training event.

Beyond Academics, a college program for students with intellectual disabilities at UNC-G provided space and support for the event. Thank you to everyone who helped with the event and participated. Arts Access is expanding our training and workshop offerings in the coming year so stay tuned! Our next workshop is in April at the NC Museum of Art.

The Results are In

Survey participants speak out

Thank you to those who participated in our statewide survey!

A statewide needs assessment was conducted in 2010 that included online surveys, interviews and focus groups.

Two versions of the survey were offered; one for people with disabilities and their families and one for art teachers and advocacy organizations. Over 350 surveys were collected; a number that greatly exceeded our expectations.

The survey information will be used by Arts Access to help determine service offerings to meet identified needs. In addition to guiding our growth and direction, the names and resources identified are the start of our statewide information network to be shared by our new website.

If you would like to receive a complete summary of the survey results emailed or mailed to you please contact Arts Access by phone or email betsy@artsaccessinc.org

Arts Access NC Survey on Arts and Disability Summary of Responses (Collected Nov. 2009-March 2010)

Question: If you do not participate in the arts as much as you like, what are the barriers to participation?

Response from People with Disabilities and Families	
Information about what is available	
Money	54.6%
Lack of opportunity	48.7%
Transportation	43.4%
Art teachers who can adapt activities	30.3%
Other	27.6%
Other	17.8%

Response from Arts Educators and Provider Agency Staff

Money	78%
Lack of opportunity	75%
Information about what is available	74.4%
Transportation	74.4%
Art teachers who can adapt activities	55.8%
Other	10.9%

Survey Highlights Top 7 responses

Question: What do you think would help you/people with disabilities participate more in the arts?

Survey for People with Disabilities and Families

1. Awareness of opportunities (for just people with disabilities, as well as inclusive opportunities); information network of opportunities and resources in communities
2. Market opportunities as "disability friendly"
3. Affordability of programs; discounts or scholarships/funding for participation
4. Increase the number of opportunities available, especially in smaller/rural communities
5. Transportation is a major barrier
6. Better educated instructors for programs for people with disabilities (sensitivity training, knowing how to adapt their program/class and make accommodations)
7. Need supplies and adaptable tools

Survey for Arts Educators and Provider Agency Staff

1. Accessibility to programs (physical, attitudinal, and programmatic access)
2. Transportation
3. Awareness of opportunities; better marketing of inclusive programs; information network
4. Affordability for participants
5. Funding for more and better programming
6. Better educated instructors who are capable of working appropriately with people with disabilities
7. More opportunities for arts programs (both inclusive and specialized)

Make a donation

Support Arts Access

If you would be interested in becoming a

sponsor of

Arts Access, Inc.

please visit our website at

www.artsaccessinc.org and click donate.



It's Coming! Our new website and logo

Arts Access, Inc will soon have a new look

Arts Access is working on a new website that will serve as an information exchange and resource for issues related to arts and disability. A NEA grant from the NC Arts Council has supported this important effort as we seek to create an Inclusive Arts Coalition. Arts Access is working with Baer Marketing on the new look.



Our new logo was unveiled in March and we are expecting the website to be up by early summer. Stay connected! Send us your contact information to be part of our expanded email list.