On behalf of the 2007/2008 board of trustees, I’d like to thank the many supporters of Art Access/VSA arts of Utah for helping us blossom into the thriving organization that we have become.

Chartered in 1984 as an organization providing arts activities for people with disabilities, Art Access was spearheaded by a small but committed group of community activists who believed that by participating in the arts, people with disabilities would have access to the community. A marvelous opportunity to offer gallery exhibits came our way in 1991 when storefront space was obtained in ArtSpace on Pierpont Avenue in Salt Lake City. The ability to offer gallery exhibits as one of our programs was transformative, and led to the Art Access name that is so perfectly indicative of what our organization is all about. The philosophy of inclusion was developed and fine-tuned at this time, and has remained our guiding principle ever since.

By 2005, after fifteen years of growth and friendship on Pierpont Avenue, we began searching for a new venue as we had outgrown our Pierpont space. We moved into a new arts community at 230 South and 500 West, nearly doubling the size of our space. We are now positioned for future growth in a newly renovated warehouse, which still has the ambiance and friendliness of our former venue.

The gallery continues to be our public face, as we spotlight artists with shows each month and attract new supporters with every Gallery Stroll. But there is so much more that we do outside of the spotlight. Our programs are many and varied, as we provide quality arts programs for those with disabilities and others with limited access to the arts. And in doing so, the lives of all of us are changed in a powerful way as we share the artistic experience together.

Julie Berreth  
*Board President*
I’m delighted to introduce our organization’s first formal Annual Report, highlighting the accomplishments of Art Access/VSA arts of Utah. Our fiscal year 2008 has been fruitful, resulting in quality arts services for over 18,000 persons with and without disabilities throughout Utah.

In reading this report, we hope that you will better understand the impact that Art Access has had and continues to have on people’s lives. Workshops, artist residencies, gallery showings, poetry salons, and mentoring opportunities all provide our participants with opportunities to stretch and grow. Our venue on 500 West has aided us in providing these services by fostering an ambiance of friendliness and professionalism, and we have also been fortunate to have a thoughtful and talented board of trustees working on our behalf.

Artists with disabilities in Utah have had many unique opportunities for recognition this year through our affiliation with VSA arts in Washington D.C., an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For example, Gwendolyn Lane, a young teen from Salt Lake City, was invited to read her poetry at the Kennedy Center; eight-year-old Isaac Bell (SLC) represented Utah in an exhibit at Washington’s Union Station and Art Access/VSA arts of Utah was awarded the 2008 Award of Excellence for Excellence in professional development and technical assistance. This last award was specifically for our Partners Mentoring Program.

With your support, we are poised to continue providing vital services to children and adults with disabilities, and those who are underserved in other ways, through the arts.

Ruth Lubbers
Executive Director
Financial Report 2008*

Assets
Cash $13,887
Investments $253,046
Furniture and Equipment $35,572
Art Collection $45,740
Accounts Receivable $15,074
$363,319

Liabilities and Net Assets
Accrued Liabilities $6,223
Net Assets/Unrestricted $315,731
Net Assets/Temporarily Restricted $33,699
Net Assets/Permanently Restricted $7,665
$363,318

*All figures are audited. Audited financial statements issued by Lloyd and Swain, LLC are available from Art Access/VSA arts of Utah.

Revenue and Expenses 2008

Revenue
Gallery Sales $108,997
VSA arts (Federal) $80,000
Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund $75,000
State of Utah $47,061
Interest and Gain on Investments $13,370
Grants, Bequests, and Donations $90,126
Other $5,471
$420,025

Expenses
Program Services $201,674
Artist Payments and Contracted Services $143,799
Management and General $40,644
Fundraising $20,322
$406,439

*All figures are audited. Audited financial statements issued by Lloyd and Swain, LLC are available from Art Access/VSA arts of Utah.
Art Access Gallery

Art Access Gallery provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to access the mainstream of the arts community. Showing stimulating art in an inclusive setting, artists from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and points-of-view are welcomed. The Gallery accepts proposals in all media from emerging and established artists, artists with and without disabilities, and artists representing other disenfranchised communities. The Art Access Gallery committee, made up of representatives from the board of directors, juries proposals. The Gallery, a member of the Salt Lake Gallery Association, participates in the gallery strolls held the third Friday of each month.

Exhibitions featured during our 2008 fiscal year included:

**Generations:** A New Photography Exhibit by the Salt Lake Seven

**Folding Decay: Origami Works Set in Brown** by S. Matthew Jones

**The 13th Annual Holiday Exhibition**

Holly Williams with Recent Works in Prisma Color

**Gifts: An Exhibition of New Work** by Alice Perreault

**Bagging Birds: an Installation** by Carol Sogard

**The New Orleans Project** a multimedia exhibition by Melissa Bond (Poet), Alice McNamara (Photographer), and Beth Hoffman (Audiographer)

**The State Street Project: A Portrait of Utah** featuring Namon Bills, Steven Stradley, Justin Wheatley, Steph Johnson, Liz Wilson, Shawn Stradley, Sarah Bigelow, and Steve Hardman

**what i thought i saw** a book project by Kimberly Silcox, Peta Owens-Liston and Amy Albo

**Emerging Light** a glass installation by Sarinda Jones

**300 Plates** 6th Annual Art Access Fundraiser and Exhibition

The Bindu Art School project featuring art created by people affected by Leprosy from the Bharataporam Colony in India

Chadwick Tolley's new etchings and woodcuts

**Female Vernacular** featuring mixed media work by Amy Adams and Downy Doxey

**Note to Self** featuring trompe l’oeil paintings by Shilo Jackson

The 14th Annual Partners Exhibition

The 11th Annual Teen Workshops Exhibition featuring work by teens who participated in the 2008 teen workshops series

**Mujeres de Colores** paintings by V. Kim Martinez

**Intertwine** featuring sisters Aubrey and Jamaica Trinnaman
Integrated Arts in Utah Schools

Since 1993, VSA arts of Utah has contracted with the Utah State Office of Education—Special Education Services to provide arts services in all mediums for children ages three to 22, who receive special education services. Educators collaborate with professional artists to develop residencies, special projects, or festivals as requested by individual schools, teachers, or administrators from school districts and organizations statewide.

“My students grew each week. Not only did their movement skills increase, but it improved their social interactions! They became more aware of each other’s personal space and needs. They loved the experience and related it to other dance experiences they saw through the year. It was freeing to the kids, and their creativity was unleashed!”

– Edison Elementary

“Students responded enthusiastically to Sherwin Bitsui’s residency. They listened attentively and engaged deeply, allowing their creativity to surface in their writing. Then they overcame their reluctance to share their work. I was struck by the intensity many displayed and their well-mannered attention to and participation in the poetry reading assembly.”

– Monument Valley High School

“This was a tremendous experience. This project united students in a cause that they are proud of. Many students were involved with the design and applying design principles to the project, and learned to cooperate and work as a team. Three students took a leadership role and helped coordinate the project.”

– Whitehorse High School
Programs and Services

Artist Residencies for Adults with Disabilities

Artist residencies for groups of adults living in institutions—or using community social services, such as rehabilitation centers, care centers, senior centers, and other public or private services—are conducted statewide. Residencies are facilitated year-round based on requests from institutions serving adults with disabilities and can be conducted in any visual or performing arts medium that can be adapted to the needs of the adults being served.

“After offering art experiences the past two years with this population, we have observed that many clients began functioning at a higher level as a result of active engagement in group art experiences. During art, most become involved in working on their own project. In group discussions, individuals begin to socialize with their peers. They talk about what prompted their choice of motif for a piece of art, or they describe feelings that were evoked. They express awareness that they are a member of this unique group and that this belonging is valuable to them.”

– Southwest Behavioral Health Center

“The music residency was very interactive and involved all participants regardless of their abilities. Music is a universal language and many persons enjoyed singing the old folk songs that brought back happy memories. People seemed to enjoy singing in a group and sharing stories and memories of what they were doing when they used to sing some of these old songs. People shared with one another and enjoyed their time together with singing and laughter.”

– Tri-County Independent Living Center
Artwork created by adults with disabilities is collected by VSA arts of Utah year-round. Presently consisting of over 120 works of art, works from the Artists Unlimited Permanent Collection are available for loan and public display on a rotating basis to organizations, schools, and libraries statewide. Exhibitions from the permanent collection are also available on a short-term basis for display at disability organization conferences.
Desert Wanderings Literary Arts Programs

Art Access Literary Arts Programs are available for both adults and teens with disabilities, providing opportunities for both populations to polish writing skills and share their voices. Participants in these programs also have the opportunity to have their writing juried once a year into the adult and youth editions of the Desert Wanderings literary magazine. Workshops are held at venues where teens or adults with disabilities live or gather and are conducted by a professional writer.

Three magazines were published in 2008, including Desert Wanderings, Desert Wanderings Teen Edition, and Home (in observance of the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act). Additionally, three literary salons were held in the Art Access Gallery. These events were open to the public and included readings from those featured in the magazines and others in attendance.

“This workshop has made a difference in my life by giving me a new way to cope.”
– House of Hope participant.

“This workshop made a difference in my life by broadening my imagination.”
– House of Hope participant.
Partners Mentoring Program

This highly specialized program identifies talented artists with disabilities, or with other special needs, who desire assistance with their artistic development and matches them one-on-one with a professional mentor. Conducted since 1995, the Partners Mentoring Program provides opportunities for adult artists with disabilities to improve technique, try new media, or in many other ways realize their artistic potential. Artists are matched with a mentor through careful consideration of compatibility and skills. At the culmination of the program, the apprentice artist and mentor show their work, side-by-side, in the annual PARTNERS Exhibition.

“I love this program. It encourages all kinds of new learning and access.”
— Partners Apprentice

“The experience was wonderful for me. I would teach again, this time without hesitation.”
— Partners Mentor
Programs and Services

Teen Workshops

Taught in the Art Access Gallery by professional artists whose work is currently being exhibited, teen workshops are open to students with and without disabilities, as well as to teens representing other underserved communities. Teens benefit from working with an artist in a gallery setting, as well as from working with each other. The program culminates every year with a juried exhibition of student artwork in the Art Access Gallery.

Six eventful workshops were taught by the following professional artists: painter Erin W. Berrett; poet and writer Chauncey Secrist; potter Eruera “Ed” Napia; printmaker Chadwick Tolley; painter Steven Stradley; and photographer Rosalind Newmark.

“I have gone to these workshops every year since I’ve been old enough, and they are a great highlight for me. They’ve helped me to get to the goals I’ve set, and now I am able to go to college and major in art. I love these workshops so much!”
– Poetry participant

“I learned how to work better with people who are different.”
– Compositional Photography participant

“I have loved taking the Teen Workshops and am a little sad this will be my last year, but I look forward to coming back to Art Access for the Adult Workshops because of how welcoming the environment is.”
– Collograph Printmaking participant
Adult Workshops

Art Access conducts five professionally taught workshops for adults in our gallery this year. This program provides quality arts experiences, facilitated by professional artists, in an inclusive setting. Workshops encourage adults with and without disabilities to join together in developing new art skills and an appreciation for a variety of art mediums.

Five popular workshops were taught by the following professional artists: photographer Rosalind Newmark; painter Alice Perreault; poet Sara Caldiero-Oertli; artist Marina Alexandrescu; and potter Eruera “Ed” Napia.

Art Access/VSA arts of Utah also partnered with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) on three art workshops that were offered to NAMI’s clients in the Art Access Gallery workshop space. Professional artist teachers included: artist Roberta Glidden; printmaker Stephanie Dykes; and artist Linnie Brown.

“I feel like I have a life ahead of me due to Art Access and NAMI of Utah. These workshops are the first things in years that have gotten me out of my house. It is not easy for me to socialize. I find the atmosphere of these workshops to be so healing. They have given me confidence to try to lessen my medications.”

– Adult Workshops participant

“For the last three years I spent most of the time in bed due to depression and anxiety. These workshops and what I am learning are giving me a new lease on life. I cannot thank you enough!”

– Adult Workshops participant
Everyone Welcome
Cultural Access

In partnership with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Art Access/VSA arts of Utah has developed year-round accessibility/disability training for docents in Utah’s museums. Conducted by VSA arts of Utah and Utah Museum of Fine Arts staff, training consists of examining the language used regarding disability and explores the attitudes and strategies for making persons with disabilities welcome. Trainings highlight the importance of the arts for all peoples, including those with disabilities.

A survey respondent at an Everyone Welcome training reported, “Each time this subject is discussed, I try to focus on one more topic to integrate into my daily life and interactions!”

Eighty-eight percent of participants surveyed in Everyone Welcome trainings reported that they felt more confident in talking about disability issues and in interacting with people who have disabilities.
Programs and Services Map

Integrated Arts in Utah Schools: Residencies and Special Projects

1. Arrowhead Elementary School in Santa Clara
2. Bennion Elementary School in Salt Lake City
3. Bloomington Elementary School in St. George
4. City Academy in Salt Lake City
5. Coral Canyon Elementary School in Washington
6. Edison Elementary School in Salt Lake City
7. Enterprise Elementary School in Enterprise
8. Horizon Elementary School in Washington
9. Kimball Art Center in Park City
10. La Verkin Elementary School in La Verkin
11. Lincoln Elementary School in Salt Lake City
12. Little Valley Elementary School in St. George
13. Moab Charter School in Moab
14. Neighborhood House Day Care in Salt Lake City
15. Nizhoni Bridges, Inc. in Bluff
16. Panorama Elementary School in St. George
17. Primary Children’s Residential Treatment Center in Salt Lake City
18. Red Mountain Elementary School in Ivins
19. Salt Lake Arts Academy in Salt Lake City
20. Soldier Hollow Charter School in Midway
21. Summit High School in Kamas
22. Sunnyside Elementary School in St. George

23. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) Classrooms at Matheson Junior High School in Magna
24. Mill Creek Elementary School in Salt Lake City
25. USDB Campus Blind Unit in Ogden
26. USDB Campus Deaf Unit in Ogden
27. Plymouth Elementary School in Murray
28. Westmore Elementary School in Orem
29. Whitehorse High School in Monument Valley
30. Willow Canyon Elementary School in Sandy

Integrated Arts in Utah Schools: Arts Festivals

31. Bluff Arts Festival in Bluff
32. Davis School District Special Education Festival in Farmington
33. Jordan Valley School in Midvale
34. Moab Halloween Carnival in Moab
35. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Summer Camp in Ogden
36. Utah Arts Festival Art Yard Booth in Salt Lake City

Residencies for Adults with Disabilities

37. Gallery OneTen in Provo
38. Southwest Behavioral Health Center in Cedar City
39. Utah Independent Living Center in Salt Lake City
40. National Ability Center in Park City
41. Neighborhood House Adult Day Services in Murray
42. Columbus Community Center in Salt Lake City

Desert Wanderings Literary Arts Workshops

44. House of Hope in Salt Lake City
45. Liberty Senior Center in Salt Lake City
46. Odyssey House in Salt Lake City
47. NAMI Utah (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in Salt Lake City
48. Neighborhood House Adult Day Services in Murray
49. Wasatch Canyons in Salt Lake City

Partners Mentoring

49. Sasha Gorham
    Melissa Peck in Salt Lake City
50. JulieAnn Carter-Winward and Darryl Erdmann in Salt Lake City
51. Ben Diez and Kelli Loosli in Provo
52. Joe Carter and Douglas Tournay in Salt Lake City
53. Atem Thuch Aleu and Judith Romney Wolbach in Salt Lake City
54. Traci Carter and Kim Silcox in Salt Lake City
55. Philip Holahan and Rosalind Newmark in Salt Lake City
56. Kim Schneider and Craig Hone in Benjamin
57. Nicholas Johnson and Trent Thursby Alvey in Salt Lake City

Everyone Welcome Cultural Access

58. Community Legal Center in Salt Lake City
59. Utah Museum of Fine Arts in Salt Lake City

Artists Unlimited Permanent Collection Lending

60. Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Sugarhouse
61. Disability Law Center in Salt Lake City
62. Parent’s Disability Resource Center in Salt Lake City
Map Site Locations by Number:

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Art Access


Art Access would like to thank the following for their generous support. We apologize in advance for inadvertent omissions.

$50,000 and up
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Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts and Parks Program

$35,000 - $49,999
Utah State Office of Education: Special Education Services Unit

$10,000 - $34,999
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Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation
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Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Marriner S. Eccles Foundation
Utah Arts Council
Utah Arts Council: Arts Education Program
Utah Office of Museum Services: Special Education Services

$2,500 - $4,999
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Cassandra Barney
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Lane Bennion
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Marcee Blackerby
Sonja Blackham
Laura Boardman
Connie Borup
Doug Braithwaite
Linnie Brown
Trent Call
Royden Card
Joe Carter

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Mark England
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S. Matthew Jones
Brian Kershisnik
Patricia Kimball
Bob Kleinschmidt
Mark Knudsen
Zane Lancaster
Jacqui Biggs Larsen
Steven Larson
Kristina Lenz
Jimmy Lucero
Emily McPhie
David Meikle
Dottie Miles
Chris Miles

Erura "Ed" Napia
Lori Nelson
Jared Nielsen
Cat Palmer
Melissa Peck
Olivia "Holly" Mae Pendergast
Pilar Pobil
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