

Artists' Pipeline – October 2017 – distributed by VSA Minnesota

VSA Minnesota, the state organization on arts and disability, provides these monthly news updates for artists with disabilities and arts organizations. To adjust your subscription, contact access@vsamn.org or 612-332-3888. Thanks for your interest – and send us YOUR news!

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NEWS:

- **Artists in the News: Martha Bird, Hunter Gullickson**

Martha Bird's basket-weaving has brought her many new opportunities, including traveling to Ireland and exhibiting across the U.S. Her new solo exhibit, "Finding Focus: Returning to a First Love," features her work with willow from her travels. It runs through October 1 at First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis. A closing reception that final Sunday will follow the 9:30 and 11:15 AM services, which are part of **Mental Health Awareness Sunday** and launch its Mental Health Connect Collaborative. A "collage of voices" will present various mental health topics, Martha will share a reading she performed last year at History Theatre, and resource tables will feature information for NAMI, Vail Place, and Mental Health Connect. Normal exhibition viewing hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM to 8 PM and Sunday 8 AM to 1 PM. Enter off the parking lot. The building is locked during the week, so press the buzzer and ask church staff in room 205 to guide you to the exhibit, which opened August 15.

Hunter Gullickson, the accessibility manager of the Guthrie Theater, will receive a Sally Ordway Irvine Award, at the Ordway on Monday, October 16 at 7:00. The annual awards honor "individuals and institutions that... enrich the state through their commitment to the arts." Hunter was honored in the **Arts Access** category for his work spearheading the theater's access programs, including American Sign Language interpretation, audio description, open captioning and Braille publications. He's one of five winners of the Sally, named for the founder of the Ordway. To attend the program at the Ordway, 345 Washington Street, St. Paul, hosted by former broadcaster and arts champion Robyne Robinson, visit: <https://ordway.org/support/special-events/sally-awards/>.

- **Artability is October 26-28**

The annual Artability Show & Sale sponsored by People Inc. will be **October 26-28** at the Great Hall, 180 E. 5th St., St. Paul. Artability received a Cultural STAR grant of \$10,000 to help support this activity by adults (18+) who have a mental health diagnosis. Exhibit hours are Thursday 10-8 (reception at 6:00), Friday 10-8, Saturday, 10-4. Info: 651-288-3532, 651-774-0011, email Artability@peopleincorporated.org or go to <http://www.peopleincorporated.org/get-involved/artability/>.

- **Chanhassen Woman Crowned Miss Wheelchair America**

Sheri Melander-Smith of Chanhassen was crowned Miss Wheelchair America 2018 on August 19 in Erie, Pennsylvania. This national competition, begun in 1972, uses criteria of advocacy, achievement, communication and presentation to select the most accomplished and articulate spokeswoman for 54 million Americans living with disabilities. Melander-Smith says, "I hope to promote wellness within the disability community, but not exclusively. I think everyone should live their very best life possible, regardless of what happens in their life. There's always hope and with hope, we can make changes." In Minnesota she is a past host of the "Living Forward" segment of "Disability Viewpoints" on [North Suburban Access Corp.](#) cable TV.

- **Emerging Artist Grant applications due December 1**

The 2018 Emerging Artist Grant applications for Minnesota artists with disabilities are now available from VSA Minnesota. These \$2,000 grants, awarded with funds from the Jerome Foundation, are to enable artists to create new work in 2018. Artist applications must include an art sample (visual art, music CD, video, performance sample...) and can include an artist resume and artist statement of why you do your art. The deadline is **December 1**, and grants will be awarded in late February 2018. Informational meetings will be held, and details including past recipients will be on the VSA Minnesota website, <http://vsamn.org/artists-disabilities/emerging-artist-grant/>. For more info, email emerginggrant@vsamn.org, or call 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883. Recipients of 2016-17 Emerging Artist grants are not eligible. Applications will be mailed to artists who have applied before, but can also be mailed or emailed to any Minnesota artist with a disability. Artists may be nominated or receive help in applying or sending samples of their art.

- **ADA Access Improvement Grant applications due Dec. 1, 2017, or May 1, 2018**

The 2018 ADA Access Improvement Grant applications for Twin Cities nonprofit arts organizations are now available from VSA Minnesota. The grants of up to \$15,000 each are intended to make significant or long-term improvements with potential to involve more people with disabilities as participants or patrons in arts programs. Shorter-term projects may also be funded up to \$7,500. Application deadlines are December 8, 2017, and May 1, 2018. Several information meetings and workshops on accessibility subjects will be offered, or groups can direct questions to or make an appointment with VSA Minnesota at 612-332-3888 or access@vsamn.org. Grant guidelines can be downloaded at <http://vsamn.org/arts-organizations/resources-organizations/>. Over the past eight years \$1,468,000 has been awarded to 126 projects conducted by 66 Twin Cities organizations.

- **Open Flow offers support for metro artists with disabilities**

Artists with disabilities and supporters are invited to monthly Open Flow meetings to share art, writing, performances and support. They are held the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Walker Church, 3104 16th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Facilitators are Dan Reiva, dprw@yahoo.com; Tara Innmon, 612-376-7779, tarainnmon@gmail.com; Kip Shane, kipshane@gmail.com; or Jon Skaalen at VSA Minnesota, 612-332-3888, jon@vsamn.org.

- **FUND-RAISERS: Parkinson's**

Saturday, October 14: Optimism Walk Minnesota – The American Parkinson Disease Association Optimism Walk Minnesota is Saturday, October 14 at Roseville Central Park (Jaycees Shelter), 2540 Lexington Ave. N. Check-in at 9:00 AM, with the Walk (1.1 mile wheelchair-accessible route around Lake Bennett) at 10:00 AM. Register at <http://www.apdaparkinson.org/MNwalk>. Info: 651-241-8297 or apdamn@apdaparkinson.org.

- **Exhibit: Art of Possibilities Showcase in Robbinsdale**

An Art of Possibilities Showcase featuring eight visual artists with disabilities is at the Robbin Gallery in Robbinsdale through Oct. 21.

The eight artists, who have previously exhibited at Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, are: Linda Frankenstein, St. Louis Park; LouAnn Hoppe, White Bear Lake; Tina Kabage, Oak Grove;

Sandra Muzzy, Bloomington; Jill Ness, Coon Rapids; Jennifer Platter, Minneapolis; David Spohn, Lindstrom; Susan Warner, Brooklyn Center.

[Robbin Gallery](#) is open Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30-8:30 PM, and Friday and Saturday, 1:00-5:00. It is wheelchair accessible, and there is limited accessible parking in back of the gallery at 4915 42nd Ave. N. (near Robbinsdale Transit Center). It is sponsored by [Allina Health](#).

- **Exhibit: Interact 'Feast' at Birchwood Café until October 8**

Artists at Interact Center for Visual & Performing Arts explore the subject of food and the relationships and perceptions of food and art held by artists in their "Feast" exhibit at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E. 25th St., in South Minneapolis. Artists compared individual cultural traditions by exploring different ethnic foods and using a variety of media and styles to demonstrate both existing and new understandings of one of the most basic building blocks of life – food. Participating artists are: Angela Weller, Ashlea Karkula, Bonnie Thorne, Carol O, Daniel Metchnek, Ingrid Hansen, Janice Essick, John Riddle, Lucy Johnson, Mike Harris Jr., Renai (Volz) Drane, Rosemary Perroneteau, Sherry Bartholomew, Vance Diamond, W.S. Norton, Wendy Johnson.

The exhibit ends Oct. 8. For more info: Interact: 651-209-3575 or <http://www.interactcenter.org>; Birchwood Café: 612-722-4474, info@birchwoodcafe.com or <http://www.birchwoodcafe.com>.

- **Exhibit: As We Are showcase features artists with disabilities at State Arts Board**

As part of the fall [Saint Paul Art Crawl](#), **October 13-15**, the Minnesota State Arts Board is presenting **AS WE ARE**, a visual arts showcase featuring artists with disabilities. More than 35 Minnesota visual artists are represented who produced work with the support of an Arts Board grant, either as individual artist grantees or through organizations serving individuals with disabilities. Among the artists are five who participated in VSA Minnesota's statewide Mural Project in 2015: Mark Davison (Living an Inspired Life), Dunji Diego (Untitled), Cecile Bellamy (Dahlia Girl), Samantha Esguerra (Touch & See), Stacey O'Connell (Untitled). The art forms represented include photography, drawing, mixed media, and painting. The exhibit in the Arts Board offices, 400 Sibley Street, Suite 200, St. Paul, will be shown during Art Crawl hours on Friday 6 to 10 PM (opening reception from 6:00 to 8:00), Saturday noon to 8 PM, and Sunday noon to 5 PM. For accommodations, contact Natalie Kennedy: Natalie.Kennedy@arts.state.mn.us or 651-215-1617.

- **The Show offers art classes**

The **Show Gallery Lowertown**, a nonprofit cooperative art space promoting creative diversity and inclusion, offers a number of art classes this fall. Stephen Workman will host a Papermaking Workshop Sept. 30 (9-11) and Oct. 1(1-3), for \$66; Encaustic Painting Oct. 7 (1-3) and Oct. 8 (9-11 AM) for \$66; and Special Group Sessions Available. The [Show Gallery Lowertown](#) is at 346 N. Sibley Street, St. Paul, info@theshowgallerylowertown.org, 651-419-8022.

- **Disability and Progress shows coming up**

[Disability and Progress](#) is a local radio show that explores "insights into, ideas about and discussions on disability topics." The hour-long program is broadcast each Thursday at 6:00 PM on KFAI-FM (90.3 FM Minneapolis, or 106.7 FM St. Paul). Shows are archived for two weeks at <http://kfai.org/disabilityandprogress>. If you have an idea for a show, call program director Sam Jasmine 612-341-3144, or disabilityandprogress@tcq.net. Coming up are:

October 5. Tales of the ProAct Playhouse -- A major Twin Cities disability service provider brings its drama program director and three actors to share the challenges and benefits of theater for people with disabilities. ProAct Playhouse involves 15 to 20 individuals per semester in writing and performing. Created for individuals with a range of disabilities, it began with children's tales and comic sketches, graduating into more serious plays about work discrimination, dating and other topics.

October 12. Kelly Davio will talk about her book, *It's JUST NERVES: NOTES ON A DISABILITY*.

October 26. Paul Brubaker, president of The Alliance for Transportation Innovation, will speak about several aspects of self-driving cars.

Recent Disability and Progress shows included:

September 28. Pledge night.

September 21. Terry Cannon, director for the Minnesota chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, will talk about blood cancers and National Blood Cancer Awareness Month.

- **Rattle publishes poetry**

[Rattle](#) publishes unsolicited poetry, translations, and (rarely) essays in print and online. General submissions are open year-round and free. Rattle does not accept previously published work (print, online, blogs, message boards, Facebook if viewable publicly without login). Simultaneous submissions are encouraged.

Contributors to the print magazine receive \$100 and a complimentary one-year subscription. Poems for "Online Only" categories receive \$50. All submissions are automatically considered for the annual Neil Postman Award for Metaphor, a \$1,000 prize judged by the editors.

Separate from general and themed (and always free) submissions, Rattle also offers an annual \$10,000 Rattle Poetry Prize and the new Rattle Chapbook Prize; for each of those, a submission fee of \$20 includes a one-year subscription to the magazine. For guidelines, go to <http://www.rattle.com/submissions/guidelines/>.

- **DEED News on Employment, Metro Mobility, Eye-Link Grants, Blind Abilities Podcasts**

The Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) provides free email updates affecting Minnesotans with blindness and other disabilities. Contact DEED Communications, MNDEED@public.govdelivery.com, 332 Minnesota St., #E-200, St. Paul, MN 55101; 800-657-3858. Here are a few recent news notes:

Making the Case for Hiring Blind, DeafBlind and Low Vision Minnesotans – The most recent issue of *Minnesota Economic Trends magazine* features an [article](#) by Carlie Lykes Frostman, data analyst for State Services for the Blind (SSB). Job seekers who are blind, DeafBlind, or visually impaired, she argues, represent a great untapped labor pool for employers looking for qualified new employees in this tight market.

New Metro Mobility Task Force Seeks Members – The Metropolitan Council is seeking members to serve on a Metro Mobility Task Force that will begin meeting by September 1. The task force will identify options for reducing program costs and improving efficiency. It will also identify at least three potential service-level approaches that involve partnering with and incorporating transportation network companies, and/or taxi service providers. Learn more about the constituents sought to serve on the task force and find contact information [on the Met Council website](#).

Eye-Link Offers Grants for Technology – [Eye-Link of Minnesota](#) assists blind, DeafBlind and low vision individuals by helping pay for assistive tech. [This Blind Abilities podcast](#) features Eye-Link's Jim Justesen and Senior Services supervisor, Ed Lecher. Eye-Link works closely with SSB senior services team to help seniors get access to the tools they need to stay active and independent.

New Blind Abilities Podcasts – Recent Blind Abilities team podcasts cover the National Federation of the Blind national convention, interviews with sales reps from companies serving the blind community, iPhone tips and tricks, and more. [Find all these and more at blindabilities.com](#).

- **VSA Minnesota Accessible Arts Calendar, Facebook, Funding**

The **Accessible Arts Calendar** is available by monthly email or online from VSA Minnesota (<http://vsamn.org/community/calendar/>). The main version includes ALL performances and arts events that offer ASL interpreting, captioning, audio description, sensory-friendly adjustments, performances by artists with disabilities or other accommodations. Event listings include descriptions, locations, what services are available, prices and discounts and contact information. Individuals can request email of just audio described events, or just ASL, or just captioned, etc.

To request a monthly email, contact access@vsamn.org or 612-332-3888.

The mission of VSA Minnesota is to create a community where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in and access the arts. Send us information about YOUR arts activities!