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Local Arts Organization Receives VSA National Award of Excellence



WASHINGTON, D.C.) April 26, 2011 — VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, is proud to announce that VSA Nevada is receiving the 2011 “National Award of Excellence in Educational Programming” for its dedication to increasing access to the arts for all individuals by providing 3,000 arts workshops annually in special education and general education classrooms, after-school programs, nursing homes, residential facilities, hospitals including Renown Health and the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care Center, Project Restart and open to the public workshops at the Alf Sorensen Community Center in Sparks and at the Lake Mansion in Reno which VSA Nevada owns and operates.

This award honors VSA Nevada’s continued efforts at the state level to provide life-long learning opportunities and access to the arts for all Nevadans through hands-on arts programs in the visual and performing arts. VSA Nevada’s “Art Access Gallery” features work created by emerging and professional artists who have a disability in addition to special exhibits at the Lake Mansion.

VSA Nevada’s work consistently creates opportunities in the arts for both children and adults with and without disabilities,” said Carol McGrath, VSA director of affiliate services. “Out of all our 40 affiliates nationwide, VSA Nevada stood out for excelling in educational programming, and we are so pleased to congratulate them on their accomplishments!”

VSA affiliates coordinate comprehensive programming across their respective states, providing arts education opportunities in the classroom and in the community, as well as support and encouragement for professional artists with disabilities.

About VSA Nevada

VSA Nevada, a non-profit organization founded in 1986, strives to provide access to the arts for ALL Nevadans. VSA Nevada owns and operates the historic Lake Mansion built in 1877 and located on the corner of Court Street and Arlington Avenue in Reno.

About VSA

VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded more than 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and increase access to the arts for all. With 52 international affiliates and a network of nationwide affiliates, VSA is changing perceptions about people with disabilities around the world. Each year, 7 million people of all ages and abilities participate in VSA programs, which cover all artistic genres. VSA is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.vsarts.org.

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