



**The State Organization
on Arts and Disability**

VSA Michigan solicits artwork created by artists with disabilities of all ages for *I Am The*

Future, the 2015-2016 Emerging Artists' Touring Exhibition. Artwork received by VSA Michigan by the deadline of Friday, April 24, 2015, will be juried to create an exhibit of 40 works that includes a full range of ages and disabilities and geographical representation. There will also be an alternative show of 20 works that will travel to conferences.

VSA Michigan promotes creative power in people with disabilities, and works to create a society where people with disabilities participate in, learn through, excel in and enjoy the arts. VSA Michigan has advocated for arts in education and increased opportunities for experiences and training within educational and community-based programs since 1977.

VSA Michigan has expanded its programs and services to engage people through a statewide network of local affiliate committees and partner organizations. Activities include artist residencies, in-school, after-school and weekend classes, professional development, technical services and opportunities for individuals to learn through the arts and showcase their work.

VSA Michigan is an affiliate of the VSA and Accessibility Department of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. VSA was founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith. Each year millions of people participate in VSA programs throughout the United States and in countries around the world.

VSA Michigan arts programs focus on engaging people with disabilities in learning skills, expressing themselves more fully, promoting access and inclusion, and engaging people in dance, drama, music, literary, media and visual arts.

I Am The Future **Call for Art**

The arts remain beyond the reach of many people with disabilities. VSA Michigan removes these barriers by providing opportunities for creative talents to be nurtured and developed.

Exhibition Plan

I Am The Future

Age categories are elementary and secondary school students and adults. Artwork in these categories may be made available for display together or individually. This will provide for one large exhibit or three smaller exhibits, which can be displayed in different locations at the same time.

The 2015-2016 exhibition calendar is currently being planned. Sites interested in hosting all or part of the exhibit are encouraged to contact the VSA Michigan office at 313-870-9624.

The exhibit will travel to VSA festivals, arts centers and galleries, libraries, and other public and private venues from May 2015 through April 2016. Works created by high school students will be exhibited at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival at Western Michigan University, May 7-9, 2015. Participating high school students will be invited to attend the festival and share arts classes, rehearsals and performances with about 800 of their artistically talented peers. They will experience "college life" on the WMU campus.

Two works of art that have been donated by students, ages 3 to 22, who are in inclusionary or self-contained special education classrooms or from alternative educational settings, will be forwarded to VSA at The Kennedy Center to be considered for a national exhibit entitled "**Yo Soy....Je Suis....I Am...The Future**". Students wishing to be considered for this exhibit are encouraged to create a work of art that depicts who they will be in the future, their hopes and dreams and how they will change the world.

A selection of artwork from the entries received by The Kennedy Center will be chosen for a live exhibition at the United States Department of education in Washington, D.C.

Guidelines for Submitting Artwork

All art must be of durable material able to withstand transporting and the normal daily exposure of a public setting. Size, scale and media guidelines are outlined below. Artwork must be original and produced within the last three (3) years. Art reproduced from other artists' work from advertisements or from widely-circulated photographs of offset prints is not considered original work and may not be displayed. All works must be attributable to the applicant artists.

Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form, signed by the artist and parent or guardian, if the artist is a minor. Labels must be attached to the back of the work.

Artists may enter up to three (3) works. Photocopies of the entry form, properly completed and signed, are acceptable. No laminated art will be accepted. Two-dimensional artwork submitted may be matted, but should not be framed. Craft work submitted must be properly protected – e.g. fabric in plastic bags, ceramics carefully wrapped and sent in a sturdy box. It is recommended that artwork NOT be mounted on construction paper.

Art must be shipped to VSA Michigan and insured at the risk and expense of the shipper. Every precaution will be taken to assure protection of the work; however, VSA Michigan is not responsible for loss or damage.

Materials and Size Requirements

The following are recommended media for art submissions: pencil, crayon, tempera (poster) paint, felt tipped pen, ink, oils (on stretched canvas only), acrylic and finger paint. Quilts, embroidery and other traditional American craft techniques are also acceptable. The following are acceptable under certain conditions but not recommended media: clay, egg tempera, glass, charcoal, pastel, tissue paper, paper maché and collages. Note that ceramic pieces easily chip and break during shipment.

Standard paper sizes for two-dimensional works are 16 x 12 inches and 18 x 24 inches. Art submissions, however, may vary from these standards to as small as 5 x 3 inches. Three dimensional objects should not exceed 18 x 18 x 18 inches.

Entry Deadline and Process

All artwork must be received by VSA Michigan by **April 24, 2015** to be considered for the exhibit.

Please complete the appropriate forms and submit them with the required support materials and the artwork by the deadline. Duplicate the forms, as needed. Ship artwork and forms to:

**Emerging Artists' Exhibit
VSA Michigan
111 East Kirby Street
Detroit, Michigan 48202**

For further information, call **313-870-9624**, or send an email to lora@vsami.org.

Label for Artwork

Must be attached to the back of all submissions.
(Duplicate as needed)

Artist: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of Parent: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Title of Work: _____

Medium: _____

Donated: _____ Yes _____ No