



The Skillman Foundation Presents

YAKTIVITIES FOR HELPING KIDS

VSA arts of Michigan

Creating Opportunities for Those Who Love the Arts and a Challenge

VSA arts of Michigan is a member of the international VSA arts network, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

VSA arts promotes arts, education and creative expression involving children and adults with disabilities, with a goal of strengthening the human spirit and improving the quality of life for all.

The VSA in the name stands for

- Vision of an inclusive community
- Strength through shared resources
- Artistic expression that unites us all.

The national VSA arts program was founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to enable people with disabilities to learn through, participate in and enjoy the arts.

VSA arts of Michigan (VSAMI) was established in 1977 to meet the need for arts education and to increase experiences and training for individuals with disabilities within educational and community programs.

Today in Michigan, more than 70,000 individuals per year benefit from VSAMI programs and events that take place in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, arts centers and community centers throughout the state.

VSA arts of Michigan has been nationally recognized for Excellence in Organizational Management by the national VSA arts program. VSA arts of Michigan is a recipient of the Governors' Cultural Organization Award, sponsored by ArtServe Michigan.

Local Initiatives

VSA arts of Michigan promotes creative power in people with disabilities through a variety of programs.

The artsJAM Detroit Gallery and Studio Project, for example, is an innovative jobs and mentoring program.

After-school classes are held at the VSAMI



VSA arts of Michigan serves more than 70,000 individuals a year.

office in heart of midtown Detroit's Cultural Center. In these classes professional artists mentor youth and adults in creation, exhibition and promotion of artwork.

The artsJAM Detroit WAY (Work Alternatives for Youth) program hires 20 paid apprentices for the Work Alternatives for Youth summer program. Apprentices are trained in photography, African dance and drumming, journaling, creative writing and poetry, and painting. They also learn job and life skills through dramatic improvisation.

Recruiting of apprentices and mentors is ongoing. For information call the VSAMI office

at 313-832-3303.

ArtsJAM Osborn is an after-school program at Osborn High School made possible by a grant from the Skillman Foundation. In this program VSAMI works with educators to provide after-school programs with professional artists for young people in the Osborn Neighborhood.

VSA arts of Michigan seeks to create a society in which people with disabilities participate in, learn through, excel in and enjoy the arts.

The program believes all children, youth and adults with disabilities should have complete access to community cultural facilities and activities, and all individuals with disabilities

who aspire to careers in the arts should have the opportunity to develop skills.

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To learn more about VSA arts of Michigan, or to get involved:

VSA arts of Michigan Gallery Studio,
100 West Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48202-2805
313-832-3303, or visit www.vsami.org.

THINK ABOUT THE POWER OF ART

The creative arts can help people in many ways. They can be a way to learn new skills. They can lead to careers or job opportunities. They can help build up communities. And they can give individuals a way to express emotions, hopes and dreams. With family or friends, talk about programs like VSA arts of Michigan and how they can help people. Discuss how VSAMI programs give people with disabilities new opportunities. Then talk about ways that arts programs could help children or families grow and gain skills. What arts programs would members of your family like to try?