

Noteworthy Non-profits

BOOMVT Drum Festival

VSA Vermont, the state organization on arts and disability, will hold their third annual BOOMVT Drum Festival Sunday, October 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. This free drum festival brings together people with and without disabilities through the joy of music and the arts. This year's program includes workshops, demonstrations, lessons, and hands-on art and drum making projects. The afternoon's events will culminate in a community drum circle led by local professional drummers including South Burlington's Peter Kriff.

In addition to the BOOM Festival's drumming circle, Kriff will lead a workshop titled Making Music with Disabilities. Since 1982, Kriff has been a jazz performer and Vermont Jazz Ensemble drummer for over 31 years. He serves as creative director of his own marketing and design agency and as executive director of the State-wide Independent Living Council (SILC), a citizens' council that

funnels federal and state money to programs and services for people with disabilities. In his workshop, Kriff will share insights into drum adaptations that make it possible to play with a disability.

Newly elected VSA VT Board President Sarah Kulig remarks, "VSA VT truly accomplishes the work they set out to do, to use the magic of the arts to engage capabilities and enhance confidence of children and adults with disabilities. This work strengthens communities



Peter Kriff

in deeply felt ways."

Kulig began her association with the organization as a volunteer



Sarah Kulig

in 2009, which developed into an opportunity to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, part of a national service program originated by President John F. Kennedy. Following a brief stint in Boston, Kulig returned to Vermont eager to resume her connection with VSAVT. She adds, "I have now been a South Burlington resident

for five glorious months."

The BOOM Festival also includes percussion and shaker workshops, Taiko and conga drum demonstrations, and a lecture titled Drumming in Community. Other activities for the day are the making and decorating of bucket drums, painting to the sounds of drums, and exploring VSA VT's new sound-adapted drum tables designed for people with sound sensitivities.

American Sign Language interpretation will be provided, assistive listening devices will be available, and a verbal describer will be on hand for those with visual disabilities. VSA VT invites everyone to come make noise in the library saying, "Art beats for all." Kulig adds, "I hope people of all abilities will attend BOOMVT and discover how the arts truly are a catalyst for joy and accomplishment." For more information about BOOMVT, visit www.vsavt.org/cultural-access/boomvt.