



June 2016

VSA Vermont uses the magic of the arts to engage the capabilities and enhance the confidence of children and adults with disabilities.



Greetings from our new Development Director: Katie Miller

I am so pleased to join the staff of VSA Vermont as the new Development Director! For as long as I can remember I've wanted and worked towards a career that married my love of the arts with my desire to do good, and VSA VT is the perfect spot for that.

A native Vermonter originally from Castleton, I know what makes our state special. Some would say it's the Green Mountains, Ben & Jerry's, or Lake Champlain, while I believe it's the people. Vermonters, whether born here or transplanted, all have a unique spirit and sense of community I've not found elsewhere. While I've only been with VSA VT a short time, I can already tell it's bursting with great people, those with joy and a true sense of collaboration, and that's something I'm grateful to be a part of.

I come to VSA Vermont from almost a decade in the nonprofit world, with a large focus on youth development. After finishing a BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology in photography and a MA from Savannah College of Art & Design in Arts Administration, I returned to Vermont to work at a variety of organizations including Frog Hollow Vermont State Craft Center, the School of Creative and Performing Arts, and Milton Community Youth Coalition.



Outside of my day to day work at the office, I am a photographer, crafter, and really enjoy spending time with my dog and cooking. My favorite thing in the world is to make others laugh, and I look forward to making magic at VSA Vermont with all of you.

Contact Katie: katie@vsavt.org - 802.781.5043

Upcoming Event: Adult Arts Education Photography Exhibit

***The Way We See Things: An Awesome
Photography Show*** by VSA Vermont and
Champlain Community Services

- **Where:** Fletcher Free Library
 - Pickering Room
 - 235 College Street, Burlington
- **When:** June 22 - August 31
- **Opening Reception:** June 22, 2016
 - 1:30 - 2:30 pm



The Way We See Things features a collection of digital photographs by students of the VSA Vermont Adult Arts Education Photography Class, with a variety of photographic approaches, styles, and subjects.

The exhibit will be open from June 22nd through the end of August at the Fletcher Free Library. Visitors are welcome to attend the opening reception on Wednesday, June 22nd from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Verbal descriptions of images will be available at the opening reception.

For more information contact Heidi Swevens - heidi@vsavt.org

VSA Vermont Pilots Family & Community Engagement Program



This spring VSA Vermont launched a pilot of its new Family & Community Engagement Program, an addition to Start With the Arts. Start With The Arts delivers arts-based literacy activities to children in home or small center-based childcare facilities, while providing essential professional development to providers.

In this new program, VSA Vermont works with childcare providers to provide second-tier professional development that can be attributed towards meeting increasingly high state standards for early childhood education. The goal of the program is for providers to gain new skills in engaging families in arts-based literacy activities at home and in the community.

Here's what some of the participants had to say:

"I'm closer to my families. The trust is on a different level. I moved out of my comfort zone and I'm flourishing...problem solving with parents."

"I may have been doing some leadership things before, but I wouldn't have recognized it. Now I think, 'you're doing it right, stop worrying so much.' I feel more confident helping families."

Each family engagement site engages in 12 arts-based literacy activities and culminates in a public celebration at a local library. Learn more about the Start With The Arts Exhibits in [this video](#) from PEG TV and [an article](#) in the Caledonia Record.



Thank you to everyone who made the first year of Start With The Arts Family & Community Engagement such a success. We look forward to continuing this work in the fall!

Integrated Arts Academy Literacy Video



At Burlington's Integrated Arts Academy (IAA), VSA VT provides inclusive arts-based literacy for the most recently arrived New American students. Through our program, students continue to develop language and literacy skills via live puppetry and the creation of e-books. This year, for the first time, we created a second class at IAA when faced with an increase in new children.

[Check out the video](#) from this spring's program from the classes Lynda Siegal, Melinda White-Bronson, and Kim Desjardins.

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*The mission of VSA Vermont is to use the magic of the arts to engage the capabilities
and enhance the confidence of children and adults with disabilities.*

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