



## 2010 INTERNATIONAL VSA ARTS FESTIVAL

### CALL FOR PERFORMERS

VSA arts is seeking performing artists/groups with disabilities who are interested in performing at the International VSA arts Festival in Washington, D.C. From **June 6-12, 2010**, VSA arts - **the premier arts and disability organization** - will bring together artists, educators, researchers, and policy makers with disabilities from around the world for a multicultural celebration of the arts and arts education. The festival will feature visual, performing, literary, and media artists from all corners of the globe.

### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for participation in the 2010 International VSA arts Festival, individual performers must have a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Groups of performers must either all have disabilities, or prominently feature performers with disabilities. A disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. For more information about disabilities that apply, please review the *VSA arts Disability Awareness Guide*, located at <http://www.vsarts.org/x523.xml>.

This call is open to performing artists of all ages.

The principal language of the Festival is English. While the ability to perform in English is not a requirement, the performer/group should provide accommodations to make the presentation accessible for English speakers where appropriate (i.e., providing a synopsis of the performance in English).

Performers will receive a nominal performance fee. Travel and hotel expenses are the responsibility of the performing artist/group.

## **JURY PROCESS**

A panel of distinguished jurors from the performing arts community will convene to review all submissions. The jury will initially review three (3) minutes of a recording. Performers should note a specific three (3)-minute segment to be reviewed, noting the segment times within their submission. The jury may opt to review the entire recording for a final decision based on this segment. Selections will be made based on artistic quality, interpretation of the art form, and availability of appropriate and accessible venues. All decisions of the jury are final.

Submission of a Festival Application Form does not guarantee selection to perform at the Festival. While there are limited performance opportunities, all artists are encouraged to participate in the Festival as an attendee.

## **ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS**

THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE.

Applicants are required to complete the attached application and to submit a recording of recent work. The preferred format is DVD or CD but VHS and audiotape will also be accepted. The recording should be of a work(s) that the artist expects to perform at the Festival. Do not submit promotional recordings or edited clips. The jury must see an entire work in performance. All media should be clearly labeled with the artist's name and the title of the work. Performers may also include up to five photographs of their work.

Applicants should also include a one-page artist/group statement and a current curriculum vitae or resume that highlights accomplishments. Artist statements NOT in English must be accompanied by an English translation. This information will be used to create an artist's biography.

Submitted materials will NOT be returned. Materials may be archived within the *VSA arts* Artists Registry, a comprehensive directory that is consulted when identifying artists with disabilities for professional opportunities. *VSA arts* is not responsible for submissions that are incomplete.

**August 3, 2009 DEADLINE – applications and materials must be received by this date**

## **PERFORMANCES**

*VSA arts* reserves the right to present a selected performing artist at any of the Festival venues throughout the Washington, D.C. area. By submitting an application, the performing artist agrees to perform at an assigned venue. *VSA arts* will ensure that the venue is accessible and appropriate for the performer.

## **WORKSHOPS AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

Interactive, hands-on workshops will give the performer an opportunity to lead visitors and participants step by step through the creative process and artistic experience. Demonstrations will take the audience through an art form by illustrating a particular technique and method. Please check the appropriate space on the application form if you are interested in presenting a workshop or demonstration at the Festival.

Performers chosen for a workshop or demonstration are required to bring their own materials. If materials are difficult to transport, a list of local vendors will be provided.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Performing artists will be notified about the results of the adjudication process by September 25, 2009. Results will also be posted online at [www.vsarts.org](http://www.vsarts.org).

*VSA arts* is an international nonprofit organization founded 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. *VSA arts* provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and the tools to support arts programming in schools and communities. *VSA arts* showcases the accomplishments of artists with disabilities and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Each year 7 million people participate in *VSA arts* programs through a nationwide network of affiliates and in 54 countries around the world. *VSA arts* is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more information about *VSA arts*, visit [www.vsarts.org](http://www.vsarts.org)