



## **Ron Billings Emerging Artist Award for Artists with Disabilities**

VSA Kentucky is pleased to announce the Annual Ron Billings Award for Emerging Artists with Disabilities for Kentucky residents who are age 18 or older. Awards up to \$500 will be provided to help “emerging” artists further their artistic career in the visual or performing arts.

**Purpose:** To provide funds to encourage “emerging” artists with disabilities to further develop their artistic abilities and/or careers.

### **How can this opportunity help you?**

Take your artistic career to the next level by improving your artistic or technical skills or learn how to market your work. For instance, you can:

- Hire a mentor in your art discipline to work with you
- Attend a class or series of workshops to refine your skills
- Develop a portfolio in order to pursue exhibiting your art
- Buy materials you need to work in your arts discipline
- Pay for transportation to and from classes or learning opportunities

### **Am I eligible?**

You must meet the following guidelines to be eligible for this award:

- You must be a VSA Kentucky Registry Artists
- You must be an emerging artist
- You must be age 18 or older
- You must be a resident of Kentucky
- You must have a disability (ANY disability; depression, learning disabilities, visual loss or blindness, hearing impairment, dyslexia, physical or developmental disability.)
- Complete the enclosed application and return it with all supporting materials to VSA Kentucky **postmarked no later than April 5.**

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**When will I hear if I receive an award?**

- Award selections should be announced no later than April 30.

**If I receive an award, what must I do?**

- We will pay for class fees, supplies purchased, classes, etc. when you submit your request with copies of all receipts and invoices from vendors, educational organizations, etc. You will need to work closely with the VSA Kentucky in order to expedite all payments.
- Awardees will submit an expense report to the VSA Kentucky Bowling Green office by **June 15**.
- Document this with photos (jpeg), CD/DVD/audio/video.
- Provide artwork for an exhibit for VSAKY or a performance at a possible future VSA Kentucky event.

**Questions?**

Contact Delaire Rowe at VSA Kentucky

Phone: 270-904-7019

Email: vsartsky@icloud.com

**Good Luck!**

Please make sure you have completed it fully and included the required attachments. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

*See the next page for the application.*



**NARRATIVE: On a separate sheet, please answer the following questions. Number each section, and use 12 pt. Font size type. Please do not exceed one 8 1/2 x 11 size sheet.**

**A.** Tell us about your past artistic activity and interest in your particular area.

**B.** Tell us how you would use this funding for your professional development as an artist? (*i.e.: classes, portfolio development, supplies for new works, etc.*)

## **SUPPORT MATERIALS**

**1.** Enclose samples of your work that includes the following:

**Visual artists:** Five to ten photographs or digital files (jpg or tiff) of your work.

**Performance Artists:** A sample of your work on CD, DVD, or VIDEO

**Literary Arts:** Two different samples of your writing (poetry, prose or both).

**2.** Respond to A, B or C. You may respond to more than one if applicable.

**A.** If funds will be used to compensate a mentor or teacher, enclose a statement from that individual stating their interest in that arrangement.

**B.** If funds will be used to attend classes, workshops, conferences or similar activities, enclose a copy of the course, workshops or conference brochure/description and any required fees.

**C.** If funds will be used to purchase materials, (art supplies, adaptive materials, etc), enclose a list of those materials and the costs.

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**I verify that my responses to the above questions are true and that I am a person with a disability as outlined in VSA Kentucky's definition. If I receive an award, I will allow VSA Kentucky to include my name, photograph of myself or my work in published materials and will submit a report stating how I benefited from the experience.**

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Artist Signature

Date

### **How Does VSA Kentucky Define Disability?**

People with disabilities are the primary constituents of VSA. VSA and VSA Kentucky use the definition of disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to define that group. Therefore, a person of any age is considered to have a disability if the following applies:

A person has a physical or mental impairment that limits or presents challenges for one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working. If the individuals meet the definition of disability, he or she is eligible to participate in the programs of VSA Kentucky. These definitions are not intended to label people, rather, they are intended only to define eligibility in the various programs of VSA Kentucky.

### **APPLICATION CHECKLIST:** Have you enclosed?

- Narrative page (this page and extra sheet if necessary)
- Application page (Name/Address/etc). - SIGNED
- Support item #2A, #2B, or #2C: stating why you need funds and list of expenses

### **Supplementary items:** *(optional)*

- Supporting materials, such as resumes/bios, artists' promotional materials, letters of support, etc. Supporting materials will not be returned.