



Making the arts accessible
to all Mainers

PRESS RELEASE

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\$12k in grant funds awarded VSA arts of Maine and ArtVan

BRUNSWICK, ME – VSA arts of Maine (VSA ME) is a nonprofit program providing innovative and inclusive artistic, educational, and cultural opportunities to children and adults with disabilities living in Maine. VSA ME programs can be found in schools and neighborhoods stretching across the state. This spring, VSA ME will merge with ArtVan, an art therapy program that brings quality arts opportunities to low-income children and teens who do not have access to the arts. The VSA ME/ArtVan merger holds many advantages for both organizations. However, to help with the inevitable growing pains associated with such a merger, VSA ME has been awarded funds for capacity building and strategic planning in the amount of \$5000 from the Davis Family Foundation, and \$3500 from the Maine Community Foundation's Regional Community Building Fund. Thanks to these grants, VSA ME will have the resources necessary to support the transitioning staff and means by which to hire consultation and develop resources key to an efficient merger.

Funds were also received by VSA ME in support of ArtVan. The Davenport Trust Fund awarded \$3,500 to support ArtVan's summer programming at the Maritime Apartments and the Hyde Park neighborhood of Bath, ME. To find out more about VSA ME and ArtVan, please visit their websites: www.vsartsmaine.org and www.artvanprogram.org.

VSA arts of Maine
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ArtVan
101 Centre St, Bath, ME 04530
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The **ArtVan** program centers around an actual, brightly colored van which brings artists, art therapists, volunteers and equipment to public housing developments, day care and Head Start centers, schools and group homes in Bath, Brunswick, Biddeford and Lewiston/Auburn. **ArtVan's** website is www.artvanprogram.org. **ArtVan** is currently in the process of merging with **VSA arts of Maine**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing innovative and inclusive arts, educational and cultural opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in Maine. For more information on ArtVan go to www.artvanprogram.org, or for VSA Arts of Maine, go to www.vsartsmaine.org.

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