



FISCAL YEAR 2013
ANNUAL REPORT

VOLUNTEER
LAWYERS AND
ACCOUNTANTS
**FOR THE
ARTS**
ST. LOUIS

Greetings



Steve Korenblat
BOARD PRESIDENT



Sue Greenberg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our quiet way, working case by case, St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) connects the creative community with lawyers and accountants who share our belief that success in the arts should depend on creative energy and talent, not on the ability to afford professional services.

Because familiarity with arts law and business practices can help avoid legal and accounting problems, we offer workshops, publish free guides, operate a speakers' bureau and maintain a content-rich website. The goal is to ensure artists and arts administrators understand their legal rights and responsibilities and the importance of sound business practices.

We are grateful to the foundations, corporations, law and accounting firms, law students, individuals and other government funding agencies who support our work. Above all, we thank the Regional Arts Commission (RAC), our landlord and most generous funder. RAC's loyalty sustains us.

As you will see in reviewing this report, which (mostly) covers our recently completed fiscal year, July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, we make a significant impact on Missouri and Southwestern Illinois artists and arts organizations. We hope that you will enjoy learning from the recipients themselves how we make a difference.



OUR MISSION

St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) supports the creative community by providing free legal and accounting assistance and a wide variety of affordable educational programs. We serve artists of every discipline and career level, nonprofit cultural organizations and small arts-related businesses. Our organization enhances the region's cultural fabric and offers rewarding volunteer opportunities.

SATOSHI KAMOSHITA



ON THE COVER: ST. LOUIS OSUWA TAIKO

St. Louis Osuwa Taiko members Kiyomi Hames, left, and Theresa Reck, right, perform at the Japanese Fall Festival in Springfield, Mo.
Photo: Dustin Holmes

"Thank you! St. Louis Osuwa Taiko has used your services on three separate occasions. I think it's great that St. Louis has this organization. I hope you can continue to help others far into the future."

— Andrew Thalheimer
President, St. Louis Osuwa Taiko

New Initiatives

TAX PREPARATION CLINIC

Thanks to a new partnership with Gateway EITC Community Coalition, we offered free tax preparation services to the residents of Metropolitan Artist Lofts and Leather Trades Artist Lofts in 2013. Both properties provide affordable housing for artists. “Everything was quick and painless,” said artist Matt Bloomberg. “Best tax experience ever.” Gateway EITC volunteer Lucas Gredell is a portfolio financial analyst at U.S. Bank.

STREET PERFORMERS

In 2012, following numerous complaints about a drum line that was performing in several locations in the City of St. Louis, the cost of an annual street performer permit was raised from \$25 to \$100. In addition, performers seeking permits were required to audition. With the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, Nick Pence and Frederick Walker filed suit in federal court in May 2013. Citing the First Amendment, Judge Catherine D. Perry granted a preliminary injunction indicating that she believed the musicians were likely to succeed on the merits of their case. Rather than pursue further legal action, the Board of Aldermen repealed the city’s street performer ordinance in October. We supported the musicians’ lawsuit, organized an open meeting for street performers and are helping them draft voluntary best practices guidelines.

EVERY ARTIST INSURED

For artists, like Andra and Hudson Harkins, the challenges of obtaining and maintaining health insurance coverage often are exacerbated by their relatively low incomes, episodic work and high rates of self- and part-time employment. The couple (and many others) attended one of our lectures explaining the Affordable Care Act. Then they received one-on-one enrollment assistance provided by certified enrollment counselor James Bellamy. Since October 2013, we’ve sponsored six free info sessions, co-hosted four enrollment sessions with the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, provided access to easy-to-understand online information, produced short videos highlighting artist stories and distributed an artist-friendly infographic. Our Every Artist Insured campaign is made possible by grant support from the Regional Arts Commission.



Gateway EITC Community Coalition volunteer Lucas Gredell, left, prepares artist Matt Bloomberg’s tax return.

LARA HEAD



Nick Pence



Fred Walker



Andra and Hudson Harkins, left and center, purchasing affordable health care coverage with the assistance of James Bellamy, right, a certified enrollment counselor.

Referral Service

PAUL NEWTON, THE SOUTHERN

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

July 1, 2012- June 30, 2013

LAWYERS

Laura Krebs A-Shatir, *Capes Sokol Goodman Sarachan*

Laura Bentele, *Armstrong Teasdale*

Martha Charepoo

Chris Daming, *Wuestling & James*

Danielle DuRousseau, *Armstrong Teasdale*

Andrew Eastman, *Brinker & Doyen*

Garrett Fischer, *Thompson Coburn*

Stephanie Grise, *US Bank*

Ryan Hardy

Allison Hymel

Katherine James, *Armstrong Teasdale*

Anne Jump, *Bryan Cave*

John Klobass, *Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum*

Dessa Kopp, *Edward Jones*

Thad Leach, *Leach Firm*

Allison Lee, *Paule Camazine & Blumenthal*

Oliver Olsen

Kristin Petersen, *Bryan Cave*

Brian Salmo, *Polsinelli*

Blake Shier, *Cook Vetter Doerhoff & Landwehr*

Scott Sievers

Kelly Simon, *Thompson Coburn*

Christopher Thornton

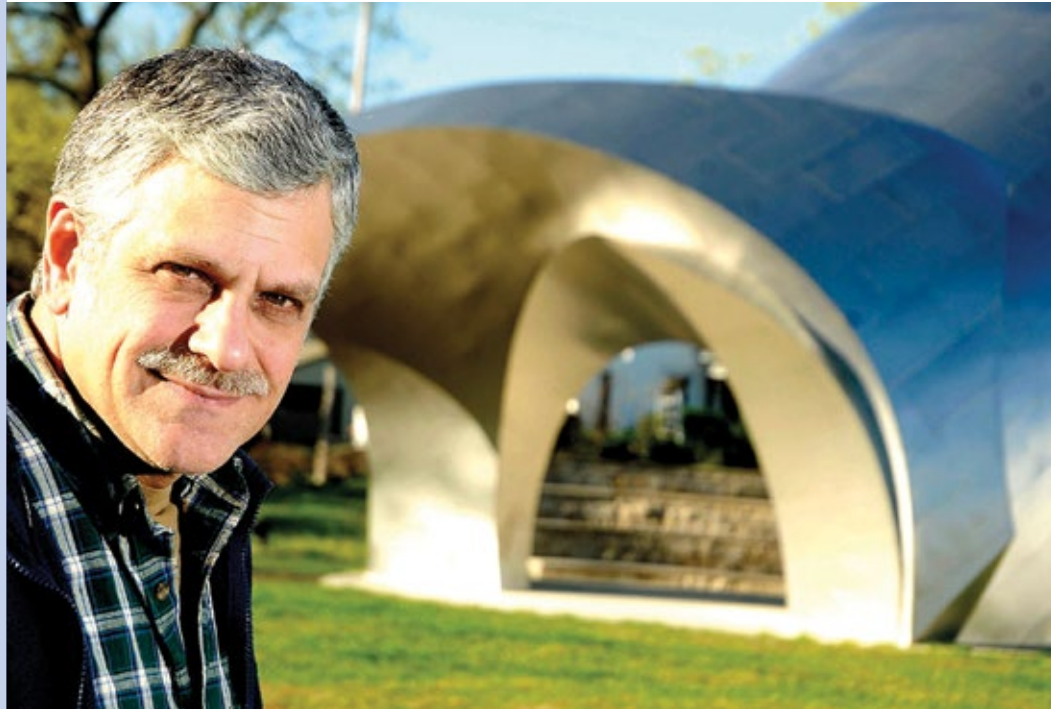
ACCOUNTANTS

Jessi Bays, *UHY*

Elizabeth Issitt

Sarah McPike, *Kerber, Eck & Braeckel*

Samantha Mueller, *KPMG*



Sculptor John Medwedeff of Murphysboro, Ill., was embroiled in an ugly dispute with the city of Murphysboro over his design of a park, including the band shell, above, when he called us in 2012. Thanks to the assistance of a team of Bryan Cave volunteers, he recently received a \$50,000 settlement. "Getting excellent legal representation in a complicated case that would have ended my studio business felt like winning the lottery," said Medwedeff. "The lawyers at Bryan Cave are dedicated and awesome."

Accountants and attorneys volunteer their time for many reasons: to deepen their experience in an area of law or business that interests them, because of their own artistic experience or aspirations, because an artist friend or family member has exposed them to the legal and accounting needs of the artistic community, or simply because they enjoy the arts and appreciate the richness arts adds to our lives. Last year, our volunteers donated more than \$100,000 in pro bono services to Missouri and Southwestern Illinois clients.



"Through VLAA, I have had the opportunity to meet exceptionally talented artists. VLAA has also provided me with the privilege of sharing my knowledge and skills with these artists."

—Sarah McPike
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel

Who We Helped

VLAA connects right-brain artists and arts organizations of every discipline with left-brain accountants and lawyers who donate their time and expertise to help their appreciative clients navigate the complicated world of finance and law. Our volunteers prepare the reams of paperwork needed to establish new organizations. They help more established organizations comply with a labyrinth of employment laws, IRS regulations and nonprofit accounting practices. They answer questions about copyright and draft contracts and leases. They file tax returns and set up bookkeeping systems. Their work strengthens our vibrant arts community.

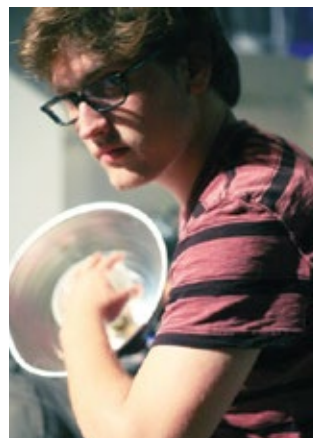
KAREN ELSHOUT, MISSOURI LAWYERS WEEKLY



David Langley, above left, a visual artist, received legal and accounting assistance last year. Susan Bindler, above right, Haar & Woods, settled a dispute concerning his live/work space. "Without her assistance, I would have been alone, trying to stand up for myself, against the other party's lawyer," said Langley. Longtime volunteer Joe Marchbein helped Langley bring his tax filings up to date. "VLAA is an incredibly valuable service," said Langley.

"It's been amazing. As an artist who has used your services a number of times, you've given me legal and financial peace of mind that I couldn't get otherwise. It's fantastic what you do for people like me."

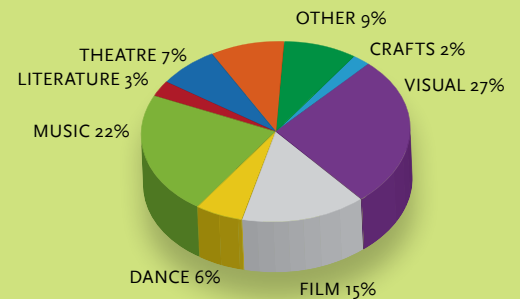
— Michael Powell
film, installation and new media artist



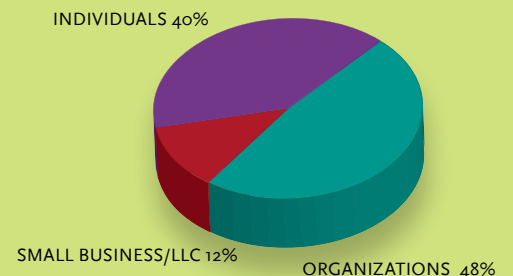
NEW CLIENTS

During FY13, 101 new clients received free, one-on-one assistance from our volunteers. Many more artists, arts administrators and board members received on-going assistance.

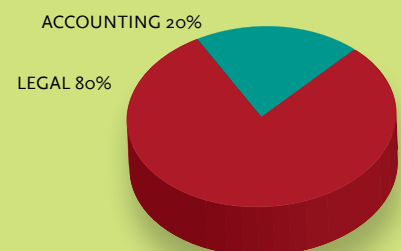
ARTS DISCIPLINE



TYPE OF CLIENT



TYPE OF SERVICE



Educational Programs

FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

We offered hands-on QuickBooks training, which was once again presented by Rebecca Gorski and Katie King, Anders CPAS + Advisors, at Webster University's downtown campus. Our ever-popular Accidental Arts Administrator was presented in the fall and spring. It provides basic training in arts management. Accidental Arts Administrator is team-taught by staff members from Arts and Education Council, Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission and VLAA.



Ameer Harper, St. Louis Black Repertory Company, left, and Fannie Lebby, CHIPS, right, got hands-on QuickBooks experience.

FOR ARTISTS

Our Business Edge seminar series assists the region's individual artists plan and sustain creative careers. In all, ten sessions were offered. Ten members of Saint Louis University's Intellectual Property Association attended our Copyright Clinic on April 8. The program began with a copyright basics lecture presented by 3L Andy Primm. Then nine volunteers, including David Koonce, met one-on-one with artists. "The copyright clinic was a great experience," said Ashley Sproull. "As an upcoming lawyer, I was able to observe actual intellectual property attorneys give real-world advice to local artists and business people and learn how to approach copyright issues when giving advice to clients. It was very exciting," she said.



Ashley Sproull, left, Saint Louis University School of Law, observes David Koonce, right, volunteer attorney, counseling artists during our Copyright Clinic.

FOR STUDENTS

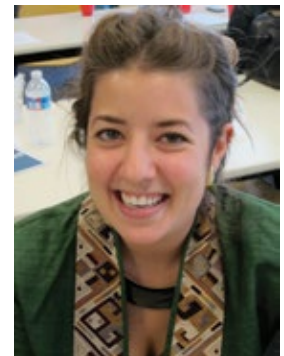
By providing guest speakers, including twelve working artists; free easy-to-understand guides on copyright, contracts and taxes; and workshops in negotiation skills (introduced last year), we're helping students make the transition from the academic environment to their artistic careers. During 2013, we made 42 presentations reaching 915 students.



Award-winning actor Michelle Hand teaches negotiation skills as part of our Upstart college outreach program.

"The presentation by Michelle Hand helped me look at negotiating in an entirely different light, and I now feel more confident at the prospect of speaking up for myself and standing by my standards."

— Chantal Strasburger
fashion design student, Washington University



Financial Highlights

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended 6/30/13

REVENUES

Public Funding	\$36,910
Private Funding	45,240
Program Revenue	13,715
Investments	3,018

Total	\$98,883
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EXPENSES

Program	\$65,432
Management & General	10,067
Fundraising	8,387

Total	\$83,886
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Net Income	\$14,997
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Assets 6/30/12	\$87,349
Total Assets 6/30/13	\$107,854



UMB SPONSORS NEW PROGRAM

Sponsored by UMB, ARTtalks combines networking opportunities for volunteers, donors and artists with engaging arts experiences. The new series kicked off on January 17, 2013, with a tour of UMB's extraordinary, but rarely seen, art collection. Above (left to right) Gene Brockland, Herzog Crebbs; Jan Leonard, UMB senior vice president-managing director, charitable trusts and foundations and fine arts services; and VLAA Board Member Arthur A. Clyne III, vice president and wealth advisor, UMB Investment & Wealth Management.

THANKS

We owe our success to the dedication of our volunteers. But to provide free legal and accounting services and affordable educational programs, we depend on government, foundation and corporate support.

FY13 SPONSORS

\$10,000+

Missouri Arts Council
Regional Arts Commission

\$2,500-\$5,000

Emerson Charitable Trust
Illinois Arts Council
Trio Foundation
UMB Bank - St. Louis
Wells Fargo Advisors

\$1,500

Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation

\$1,000

Armstrong Teasdale
Bryan Cave
Deloitte
Husch Blackwell
KPMG
Missouri Bar
PricewaterhouseCoopers
RubinBrown
Thompson Coburn

\$500

Anders CPAs + Advisors
Hochschild, Bloom & Company
Missouri Lawyers Media
Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal
Polsinelli
Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd

\$300

Marvin J. Nodiff

\$250

Caring & Sharing
Carmody MacDonald
Commerce Bancshares Foundation
Cunningham, Vogel & Rost
Ernst & Young
Kahn Gerber
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel
Klaris, Thomson & Schroeder
Lewis, Rice & Fingersh
The Lowenbaum Partnership
Musicians' Association of St. Louis
Senniger Powers
Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum
Tricorbraun, a division of Kranson Industries
Weiss Attorneys at Law



KAREN ELSHOUT

Step Out

Summer associates and interns from law and accounting firms across the region gathered on July 11 for our second annual Step Out networking event, which was sponsored by RubinBrown. U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Shirley Padmore Mensah was our keynote speaker. James Castellano, RubinBrown; Andrew Scavotto, Stinson Leonard Street; Rebecca Thomas, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Dee Coleman, Shock City Studios; and Jeff Winter, The Power of Three; also spoke.

Summer Associates

Five law students spent part of their summer vacation at VLAA. They worked on research and writing projects and met several volunteers for lunch.

“I enjoyed being a part of VLAA and will continue to support your organization throughout my school years and when I become an official attorney.”

— Jessica Toledano
Saint Louis University School of Law



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