



The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
presents the

**16th Annual Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in
Arts and Disability Conference (LEAD[®])**
July 31–August 6, 2016

And

VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Conference
August 1–2, 2016

Conferences to take place in Pittsburgh, PA

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has long championed the idea that people of all abilities should be included in all aspects of the arts, whether in a participatory, performance, or education-based setting. Two Jean Kennedy Smith Arts and Disability programs of the Center’s Office of VSA & Accessibility, part of the Kennedy Center’s Education division, that embody this ideal will be presented from July 31 to August 6, 2016 at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This year, the Center is pleased to collaborate with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC), and the Andy Warhol Museum for the 16th annual Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD[®]). The VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Conference will be held August 1–2, 2016. In addition, the two conferences bring together arts, education, accessibility, and disability professionals and Pittsburgh’s robust arts, culture, and education communities will be featured and encouraged to participate.

The VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Conference provides professionals in the intersecting fields of arts education and special education the opportunity to share current information in research, practice, programs and policy, and serve as a leading catalyst for change. The first VSA Intersections took place in 2013, consciously bringing together those who work towards improving the education of students with disabilities in and through the arts. This is the first time VSA Intersections has traveled outside Washington, D.C. For more information about registration and schedule, please visit the Kennedy Center [website](#).

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The Kennedy Center's Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD[®]) conference includes workshops, panels, and discussions that focus on customer service, legal obligations, physical and programmatic accessibility, universal design, marketing, community engagement, and technology. Also presented during the conference, the LEAD[®] Awards recognize outstanding arts administrators and institutions whose leadership and work furthers the field of accessibility. Recipients will be announced at a later date.

In conjunction with LEAD[®], the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC), and City Theatre have created three unique public experiences highlighting the talents of artists with disabilities. Actor Regan Linton, dancer Baraka adè Soleil, and Hip Hop duo 4 Wheel City will present *Imminent Movement: Ability in Action* on August 4, 2016, 8 p.m., at the August Wilson Center. A free exhibit, curated by artist Fran Flaherty, entitled *We ART Here*, will be housed at 709 Pen Gallery from August 3-7, 2016. For tickets and more information, visit the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust [website](#). Actor Tobias Forrest will present the first public reading of his new script, *Forever Sunset* with a free performance on August 2, 2016, at 7 p.m., at the Hamburg Studio, City Theatre. To RSVP, visit the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council [website](#). Space for the conference is limited, and preference is given to paid staff at cultural arts organizations or cultural arts service and government agencies that are directly responsible for making programs and facilities accessible to people with disabilities. For information about registration and schedule, please visit the LEAD[®] Conference [website](#) and the Kennedy Center [website](#).

About LEAD[®] Partners

The **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** has overseen one of Pittsburgh's most historic transformations: turning a seedy red-light district into a magnet destination for arts lovers, residents, visitors, and business owners. Founded in 1984, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a non-profit arts organization whose mission is the cultural and economic revitalization of a 14-block arts and entertainment/residential neighborhood called the Cultural District. The District is one of the country's largest land masses "curated" by a single nonprofit arts organization. A major catalytic force in the city, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a unique model of how public-private partnerships can reinvent a city with authenticity, innovation and creativity. Using the arts as an economic catalyst, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has holistically created a world-renowned Cultural District that is revitalizing the city, improving the regional economy and enhancing Pittsburgh's quality of life. Thanks to the support of foundations, corporations, government agencies and thousands of private citizens, the Cultural Trust stands as a national model of urban redevelopment through the arts. For more information, visit TrustArts.org.

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is a place that delights and inspires children, where they can take off on fantastic flights of imagination daily, and return to earth to splash in a river, hammer a nail, and ink a silkscreen. With 80,000 square feet of space, the Museum welcomes over 275,000 visitors annually and provides tons of fun and loads of “real stuff” experiences for play and learning. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas at the Museum include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, Attic, Nursery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. The Museum’s award-winning, three-story, center building is screened by a shimmering wind Sculpture and connects two historic structures (Allegheny Post Office Building & the Buhl Building). In 2006, the Museum became a certified green building and was honored by the American Institute for Architects and the National Historic Preservation Trust. In 2011, the Museum was named as one of the nation’s top 10 children’s museums by *Parents Magazine*. For further information, call 412-322-5058 or visit pittsburghkids.org.

The **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) is the leading voice for arts and culture for the Greater Pittsburgh region, driving the political, financial, and professional support for the sector. As the region’s arts advocacy and service organization, GPAC offers expert programs, resources, and research that strengthen and ensure a thriving creative sector. GPAC is a membership organization comprised of over 300 diverse non-profits and artist members across several counties. GPAC supports its members and the creative community at large through grant funding, workshops, professional development, tools and technical assistance, pro bono legal/professional consulting, and a range of advocacy initiatives. Partnering with state and federal organizations on policy, GPAC positions the arts as an important part of community revitalization, education, tourism, business and economic development. We strive to define and serve the greater good as a guiding principle.

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the place of Andy Warhol’s birth, **The Andy Warhol Museum** holds the largest collection of Warhol’s artworks and archival materials and is one of the most comprehensive single-artist museums in the world. The Warhol is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Established 120 years ago by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach more than 1.3 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events. Additional information about The Warhol is available at warhol.org.

About Accessibility at the Kennedy Center

The award-winning Accessibility Office at the Kennedy Center strives to make the cultural arts accessible to people with disabilities by removing barriers and providing opportunities. The Office focuses its efforts on [accessibility services for patrons and visitors with disabilities](#); [professional development for cultural administrators](#); and [career opportunities](#) in the arts for people with disabilities. For more information, please visit kennedy-center.org/accessibility.

About VSA

Serving the international disability and arts community, VSA provides opportunities for people with disabilities, of all ages, across the globe to learn through, participate in and enjoy the arts. Founded 41 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, the VSA international network

supports and offers a wide array of accessible cultural, arts and education programs and experiences. Please visit VSA at: kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/.

About Education at the Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation's cultural center to educating and enlightening children and adults in Washington and around the country. The Center's national education programs include: *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child*, which works with 14 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEdge, a website that offers standards-based materials for use in and out of the classroom; Partners in Education, which forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, which works with 33 state organizations on arts education policy issues; Explore the Arts, which provides insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; and the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students.

In and around D.C., the Kennedy Center's programs include *Changing Education Through the Arts*, a program that works with 15 schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 20 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 events and performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged children.

In addition, the Center offers multiple skill development programs for young artists and professionals both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute at American University, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/ New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead; VSA's Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts Programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, which directly impacts thousands of university and college theater students and faculty.

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For more information, please visit the VSA [website](#).

Discover VSA on social media:



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