CAC Corner: Art is Essential

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The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a
distraction in the life of the nation, is very close to the
center of a nation’s purpose – and it is the test of the
quality of a nation’s civilization. –JOHN F. KENNEDY

I believe the arts are essential to the life of a nation. It is
therefore essential the arts are accessible to all. There are
many arts organization committed to welcoming everyone.
I am highlighting Art Access of Salt Lake City. Take a few
minutes to review their 12 programs dedicated to access
and inclusion. If you are inspired as I am by their work,
share this information with groups in your community.

Art Access conducts twelve mission-driven programs
yearly, which are described briefly below:

(1) Art Access Gallery is an access point through which
artists with disabilities can join the mainstream arts
community by exhibiting their artwork together with
artists without disabilities. It is also an important way for
patrons to further develop an understanding of people with
disabilities and disability issues in Utah.

Our visual arts workshops – (2) Kindred Spirits, (3) Teen,
(4) Adult, and (5) Veterans – are taught by professional
artists and enable participants of all ages and abilities to
create art in an inclusive and accessible environment.

(6) Our Partners professional artist mentoring program
matches emerging artists with disabilities or those with
limited access to the arts one-on-one with professional
artist mentors.

(7) Our Artist Residencies bring arts professionals to
facilities such as rehabilitation centers, care centers,
senior centers, and other service venues.

(8) Our Integrated Arts in Utah Schools program provides
arts education services to students, ages 3 to 22, who
receive special education services in Utah schools and in
other disability service venues.

(9) Our Literary Arts program provides creative writing
workshops in facilities where adults and teens with
disabilities live or gather, runs a community writing group,
produces an annual literary magazine, and conducts a
disability and literature book group.

(10) Our Theatre Arts program seeks to educate the public
to respect differences through plays produced by our
partner, PYGmalion Productions.

(11) We loan our Permanent Collection of artwork by Utah
artists with disabilities to community organizations.

(12) Finally, Everyone Welcome, a training program for
docents and staff at Utah cultural facilities, focuses on
accessibility and inclusion.

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