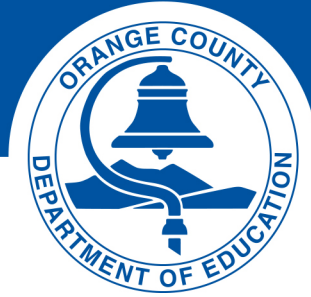


# NEWS RELEASE

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## **VSA Festival celebrates the artistic accomplishments of individuals with disabilities** 41<sup>st</sup> annual event will showcase creative writing, dance, music, theater and visual arts

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The Orange County Department of Education and VSA Orange County will present the 41st annual VSA Festival hosted by MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana on Saturday, April 29.

Spanning more than four decades, the daylong festival will once again honor the artistic accomplishments of individuals with disabilities throughout Orange County, showcasing creative writing, dance, music, theater and visual arts.

The event is set to begin with a 10:45 a.m. performance by the Darden Sisters, a group from Orange County presented by Segerstrom Center for the Arts. At 11 a.m., actor William Allen Young will emcee the event's Opening Ceremonies, introducing musicians, actors and dancers who will perform vignettes based on this year's theme, "Friends Forever."

The festival will feature additional performances through 4 p.m. There will also be free activities for children at stations throughout the mall, including kite construction, face painting, storytelling, jewelry making, bubble art, a photo booth and more. A large art exhibit is scheduled to remain on display at MainPlace through May 15.

**WHAT:** 41st Annual VSA Festival

**WHEN:** 10:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2017

**WHERE:** MainPlace Mall, 2800 N. Main St., Santa Ana, Calif.

**COST:** All activities are free and open to the public

The VSA Festival is sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education, VSA Orange County, Arts Orange County, Imagination Celebration, the California Arts Council, the National Arts and Disability Center, and the Council for Exceptional Children, Orange County Chapter, No. 188. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Linda Peterson at [lpeterson@ocde.us](mailto:lpeterson@ocde.us) or Phyllis Berenbeim, VSA Coordinator, at [pberenbeim@ocde.us](mailto:pberenbeim@ocde.us).

## **About VSA**

VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and to increase access to the arts for all. With 52 international affiliates and a network of nationwide affiliates, VSA is changing perceptions about people with disabilities around the world. Each year, 7 million people of all ages and abilities participate in VSA programs in every aspect of the arts, including visual, performing and literary arts. VSA Orange County began its program in 1976 and is now celebrating its 41<sup>st</sup> annual VSA Festival.

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