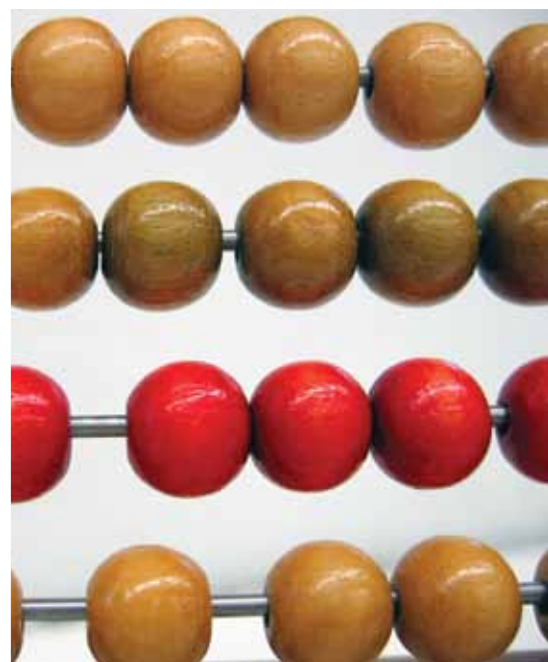




VOLUNTEER
LAWYERS AND
ACCOUNTANTS
FOR THE
ARTS

ST. LOUIS



FISCAL YEAR
2008

●

ANNUAL
REPORT



Thank You



Nancy S. Starnes



Sue Greenberg

OUR MISSION

The mission of the St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) is to contribute to the continued cultural enrichment of the greater metropolitan area by providing low-income artists and emerging arts organizations with free legal and accounting assistance. VLAA operates referral and mediation services, provides information about arts law and business matters through educational programming and supports the broader role of the arts in the community.

As we look back at our 25th anniversary, we want to thank our volunteers for giving their time and expertise to the arts community. Our volunteers are our greatest asset.

Why do our 320 volunteers offer their services? A few got involved while studying law, which is one reason we value our long-standing relationships with St. Louis University School of Law and Washington University School of Law. One of our volunteer accountants has five grown children who are artists. Several volunteers are musicians and writers themselves. Others want to gain valuable experience or develop new contacts. Without exception, they appreciate the richness the arts add to our lives and know that giving back often expresses what is most admirable about their profession.

Whatever their motivation, our volunteers say they welcome the change of pace from their regular practices and enjoy working with their grateful clients.

“It was really fun to work with an individual artist — that’s not my typical client,” said Carina Schoenberger, an associate at Bryan Cave LLP. “The assignment reminded me that our work is to problem solve, which can sometimes get lost in the legal filings and the paperwork. Working with Ilsye (see page 5) was the perfect example of a college student who had a dream, and we were able to help her.”

“It was nice to work on a project that with people who were not fighting with each other, which is typical in litigation,” added Stephen Casey, another Bryan Cave associate, who also worked on the case. “It was rewarding to facilitate something that was beneficial for everyone involved. In the end, everyone won. Sometimes lawyers can lose sight of that and this is a great way to remind ourselves why we do it in the first place.”

Our accountants frequently develop longstanding and rewarding relationships with their clients. For example, Robert B. Offerman, Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP, has prepared IRS Form 990 for the Missouri Citizens for the Arts since 2004. And, in addition to assisting the Kevin Kline Awards with bookkeeping, payroll and tax preparation, Peggy Caveness, Lindstrom & McKenney, Inc., tallies the ballots for the annual event that honors theatre artists and productions.

As you will see in reviewing this report, which covers our recently completed fiscal year, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008, our organization makes 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy".

Nancy S. Starnes
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue".

Sue Greenberg
Executive Director

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

And the winners are....On September 15, 2007, we presented cash prizes to the winners of our “Left Brain/Right Brain” short film contest. The contest helped us celebrate our 25th year of service to the arts community.

More than 125 supporters attended the festive event, which was held in the newly renovated Steinberg auditorium on the Washington University campus. Husch Blackwell Sanders was the major sponsor. Steven Dunn, Barbara A. Enneking, Jeff Pike and Nancy S. Starnes served on the event committee.

A short program with speeches by Marvin J. Nodiff, a founding board member; Jill A. McGuire, executive director of the Regional Arts Commission; and Executive Director Sue Greenberg preceded the screening of the three-minute films.

FIRST PRIZE (\$1,000)

underwritten by Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP
88.1% by Tim Snider

SECOND PRIZE (\$750)

underwritten by Thompson Coburn, LLP
The Two Sons and Their Crogzookles by Dale Ward

THIRD PRIZE (\$500)

underwritten by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Processing a Memory by David Raymond

HONORABLE MENTIONS (\$250)

underwritten by RubinBrown LLP and Anders Minkler & Diehl LLP
Conflit d’Interet by Brian Spath
The Loss of the St. Louis Drive-In by Lynelle White



from 88.1% by Tim Snider

The film contest judges were: Zia Gipson, one of the founders of Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts when she was the program director for the St. Louis Arts and Humanities Commission; Art Holliday, KSDK-TV anchor and documentary filmmaker; and Mike Steinberg, filmmaker and director of the film series at Webster University.

After the awards were presented, Board President Emmett McAuliffe proposed a toast to the next 25 years. The Souldard Blues Band, perennially voted the Best Blues Band in St. Louis, entertained during the reception. The Wine Merchant, Ltd. generously donated the wine.



PETER NEWCOMB

Art Dwyer, Souldard Blues Band

Legal and Accounting Services

We connect 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. Last year, our 320 volunteers donated approximately \$100,000 in *pro bono* services.



“We had questions about changing someone from salary to hourly, which was further complicated because we were in the middle of workers’ compensation litigation. Our volunteer was helpful, knowledgeable and patient. His valuable professional input helped us immensely in a difficult situation.”

Jessica Hentoff, Circus Harmony



“I was feeling pretty helpless because I had this possible contract with a job that was pretty important to me and I had no idea how I was going to be able to pay a lawyer.”

Brad Podowski, Graphic Designer

NEW VOLUNTEERS

JULY 1, 2007-JUNE 30, 2008

ACCOUNTANTS

Terrence Peterson Isenhart | Tax & Financial Service
Christopher Sergeant | Deloitte LLP

LAWYERS

Jordan T. Ault | Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP
Heather J. Boelens | Bryan Cave LLP
Richard Brophy | Senniger Powers
Blythe Burkhardt
Marcellus A. Chase | Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal
Stephen Casey | Bryan Cave LLP
Joan Cohen | Armsrong Teasdale
Chad DeGroot | Bryan Cave LLP
Carine M. Doyle | Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, LC
Kevin Fairlie | Mission Care LLC
Jennifer Feldhaus | Polsinelli Shughart PC
Veronica A. Gioia | Bryan Cave LLP
Jeffrey Matthew Glogower | Edward Jones Trust Co.
Nicole Graham
Stephen H. Grimes
Kathryn E. Holt | Bryan Cave LLP
Nicholas Hendon | Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP
Teneil Kellerman
Andrew M. Lammert | McCarthy Leonard, Kummerer LC
Anna Lee
Dana M. Malkus | Lewis, Rice Fingersh, LC
Stephanie L. Moll | Bryan Cave LLP
Elizabeth A. Mushill | Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP
P. Michael Nugent | Citigroup
Carina H. Schoenberger | Bryan Cave LLP
Lacey R. Searfoss | Thompson Coburn LLP
Daniel E. Siegel
Matthew J. Smith | Polsinelli Shughart PC
Scott A. Smith | Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, LC
Douglas J. Stanley | Bryan Cave LLP
Daniel J. Welsh | Copeland, Thompson & Farris PC

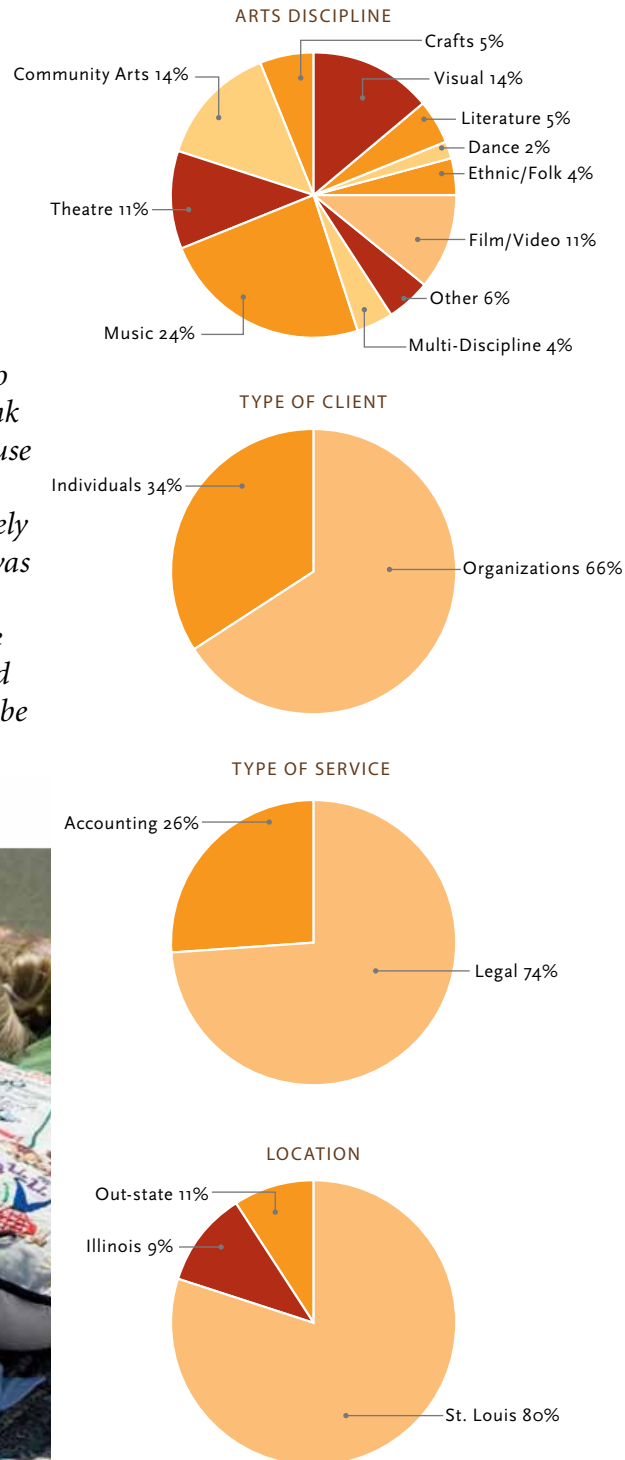
Who We Helped

Our volunteers prepare the reams of paperwork needed to establish new organizations. They help established organizations comply with a labyrinth of employment laws, IRS regulations and nonprofit accounting practices. They assist clients by answering questions about copyright, drafting contracts and reviewing leases. They file tax returns and set up bookkeeping systems. And through our mediation program, they help the arts community resolve disputes outside the court system in an informal and conciliatory atmosphere.

During FY08, 94 new clients received free, one-on-one assistance. Many more artists, arts administrators and board members received on-going assistance or had their questions answered over the phone or by e-mail.

“If there is any red tape to your project that you think you can’t surmount because you are ‘only an artist,’ contacting VLAA definitely makes the difference. It was an off the wall piece but they were very supportive and non-judgmental, and they really wanted me to be successful.”

Ilyse Magy, Artist



DANIEL BORENGASSER



Ilyse Magy’s Collective Nap was performed under the Arch on April 5, 2008. Her volunteers, Stephen Casey and Carina Schoenberger, helped get a permit.

Educational Programs

SEMINARS

Our affordable seminars feature nuts-and-bolts information, extensive handouts and opportunity for peer exchange. The ever-popular Accidental Arts Administrator provides a regular, low-cost opportunity for those running small and emerging arts organizations to obtain basic training in arts management. Other workshops for arts organizations included Brown Bag Financial Matters and Legal-Ease. New in FY08 was QuickBooks training, conducted by Anders Minkler & Diehl LLP.

Our Business Edge series is for individual artists of all disciplines and includes core seminars on career planning, marketing, recordkeeping/taxes, copyright and contracts. Other seminars change from year to year. In all, ten Business Edge seminars are offered each year.

During FY08, we were pleased to bring the series to Columbia. In St. Louis, we hosted two guest presenters, Chicago-based documentary filmmaker J.J. Hanley, who spoke about fair use, and Chris Osgood from Springboard for the Arts in St. Paul. Chris conducted the marketing workshop and also spent a day providing one-on-one consultations.

SPEAKERS

We provide speakers to educational and professional organizations, and our new House Calls program sends speakers to arts organization board meetings. Last year, our speakers made more than 25 presentations. Executive Director Sue Greenberg traveled to Columbia to present at the Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies annual conference. She also conducted three sessions for the Regional Arts Commission's Community Arts Training Institute and two for the downtown St. Louis public library. In addition, Greenberg was a frequent BoardLinkStL trainer. This "match.com" service links area nonprofits with individuals who would like to serve on boards.

INFORMATION

More than 2,000 visitors log on to our Web site each week. Extensive legal and business pages for filmmakers were added in FY08, thanks, in part, to our new partnership with University City's Commission for Access and Local Original Programming (CALOP). We also publish free publications including *Arts Law Memo* and user-friendly guides, such as *Guide to Board Duties and Liabilities*, now in its third edition. And we maintain a reference library for use by artists, arts administrators and volunteers.



"I want to express my appreciation for your lecture for our SIUE music business class. It was very helpful for me to understand what kind of issues might be involved when I look for business using my music. Also, I liked the way your presentation used beautiful photos, which I believe will cause me to keep it in my long-term memory. I wish your happiness and the prosperity of VLAA."

Jisu Kim, Music Student



J.J. Hanley



Chris Osgood

Finances

We owe the success of our educational programs and pro bono services to the dedication of our volunteers. But to provide these services we depend on government, foundation and corporate support.

FY08 SPONSORS

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 CSL Leasing
 Cunningham, Vogel & Rost, PC
 Ernst & Young
 Enterprise Bank & Trust
 Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP
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 Regional Arts Commission
 James W. Reeves d/b/a Conflict Management Systems
 RubinBrown LLP
 Sachs Properties, Inc.
 St. Louis Bar Foundation
 St. Louis Business Journal
 Senniger Powers
 Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
 Spencer Fane Britt & Brown LLP
 Steven J. Stogel
 The Stolar Partnership Foundation Fund of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis
 Stone, Leyton & Gershman
 Thompson Coburn, LLP
 USA&M
 Weiss & Associates, P.C.
 Whitaker Foundation

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 6/30/08

REVENUES	
Public Funding	\$36,450
Private Funding	32,697
Program Revenue	8,900
Investments	(475)
Total	\$77,573
EXPENSES	
Program	\$57,737
Management & General	7,259
Fundraising	8,514
Total	\$73,510
Net Income	\$4,063
Net Assets	\$49,132

PETER NEWCOMB



“The Voices of Joy, God’s Chosen would like to thank you again for all the support, love and kindness shown to us in the production and promotion our first CD. We could not make it without you.”

Minister Dr. Leanna Hill



Bleeding Heart, 2008

“Thank you for the Business Edge workshop you did in Columbia. I have to admit, I did not think I would personally come back with so much from the workshop. I’ve been a full-time professional artist for 10 years now and felt that the ‘career planning’ part was over. I was so pleased to learn that career planning is a never-ending opportunity to take stock of “what’s next.” I was also reminded that it’s important to periodically reassess one’s place in the art market and make adjustments. I left the workshop freshly inspired and recharged.”

Susan Taylor Glasgow, Artist

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Akshay Chakravarthy | Washington University School of Law

Brian Flavin | St. Louis University School of Law

Jung-Whan Kim | Washington University School of Law

Jessica Mills | Washington University School of Law

Aaron Morgan | University of Missouri-Kansas City

Amanda Norris | Washington University School of Law

Leonard Theborge | Washington University School of Law



During her three years at law school, Amanda Norris helped with a variety of administrative tasks and law-related projects.

VOLUNTEER

LAWYERS AND ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE ARTS

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