



# VILLAGE

2008

30

Fiscal Year  
**2012**  
Annual Report

# Greetings



*Steve Korenblat*  
BOARD PRESIDENT



*Sue Greenberg*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## 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.

St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts turned 30 in 2012.

It all began with Zia Gipson, who worked for the City's Arts & Humanities Commission (which later became the Regional Arts Commission). Zia knew artists and arts organizations needed access to legal services. She asked St. Louis University School of Law to help her establish our organization and, as they say, the rest is history.

We credit Jill McGuire and her colleagues past and present at the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) with our success. In 1986, their encouragement came with an invitation to be housed within the RAC office and increasing grant support that has allowed us to grow.

For their leadership, vision and pragmatism we thank all of our former board members and especially our former board presidents: G. Harley Blosser, Kim Allen Bozark, C.K. Casteel Jr., Angela Morton Conley, Barbara Enneking, Richard E. Haferkamp, Susan Hagen, Ruth E. Kim, Don G. Lents, H. Max Lummis IV, R. Emmett McAuliffe, Stan J. Mengwasser, Marvin J. Nodiff, Linda Paradis, Darwin Portman, John Rava, James R. Reeves, Mark Sableman, Robert B. Seiffert and Nancy Starnes.

Finally, we thank our clients for taking the business and legal side of the arts so seriously and for enriching our lives with their work.

Here's to the next 30 years!

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Steve' and the second is 'Sue'.

## ON THE COVER: THE FIRECRACKER PRESS

Founded in 2002 by Eric Woods, The Firecracker Press has grown into a healthy, full service letterpress studio, located in the thriving Cherokee-Lemp historic district. The Firecracker Press designed and printed souvenir note cards to help us celebrate our 30th anniversary. See the presses rolling and learn about the assistance Woods received by watching our video: YouTube STLVLAA.

Last year, Woods and Firecracker's shop manager, Matty Kleinberg, joined our No Artist Left Behind artist-speaker roster.





# Celebrating 30 Years

More than 130 guests celebrated our 30th anniversary at the Metropolitan Artist Lofts on December 6. Located in Grand Center, the newly-renovated building, which was developed by Dominion of Minneapolis, features 72 units specifically designed as affordable housing to suit the needs of artists. Ten tenants graciously opened their lofts for tours.

Executive Director Sue Greenberg's toast recognizing the Regional Arts Commission and Associate Director Ken Konchel was preceded by Board President Steven Korenblat's shout out to former board members and volunteers.

Co-founder Marvin Nodiff (below left) reminisced about our early days, and Rene Dimanche Jr. (below right), a recipient of legal pro bono assistance and a Metropolitan Artist Loft resident, thanked our organization for making the region more artist-friendly. The Thin Dimes, a blues/folk band led by Nick Pence, provided musical entertainment.

L.D. INGRUM GALLERY & STUDIO



RAY MARKLIN



L.D. INGRUM GALLERY & STUDIO



Artists toast VLAA: Kevin Hunter, Matt Bloomberg, Darius Hagens, Kate King, Sam Davis, David Hudson, Diana Cojocar, Deborah Dalton and Paul Sableman

## MILESTONES

- 1982** St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is incorporated
- 1984** Name changes to St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts
- 1986** Regional Arts Commission invites VLAA to be housed at RAC  
Sue Greenberg hired as part-time executive director
- 1988** Annual budget is \$20,500
- 1989** First edition of Nonprofit Incorporation Workbook
- 1990** VLAA incorporates in Illinois making it eligible for Illinois Arts Council funding
- 1991** VLAA leads effort to exempt artists from City business licenses
- 1993** VLAA hosts public forum featuring Dennis Barrie on the Mapplethorpe controversy
- 1997** VLAA launches mediation service
- 1998** VLAA launches its first website
- 2001** First edition of Guide to Board Duties and Liabilities  
VLAA moves west by recruiting volunteers in Columbia
- 2003** RAC opens new building on Delmar  
One thousandth client receives assistance
- 2005** VLAA wins Missouri Arts Award  
VLAA hosts national volunteer lawyers for the arts conference
- 2006** First edition of Guide to Financial Oversight  
Business Edge seminar series for individual artists introduced  
Ken Konchel joins staff
- 2007** 25th Anniversary Celebration and Short Film Competition
- 2008** First annual hands-on QuickBooks training for nonprofit organizations  
First annual CLE/CPE and rooftop reception co-hosted with the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation
- 2010** No Artist Left Behind outreach program for college students begins
- 2012** First annual Step Out for Pro Bono



# Referral Service

## WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012

### LAWYERS

Michael Annis, *Husch Blackwell LLP*

Anna Bonacorsi, *Paul J. Passanante & Associates*

Louis Bonacorsi, *Bryan Cave LLP*

Cathryn Chetek, *Bryan Cave LLP*

Peter Corsale, *Polsinelli PC*

Amy Faerber

Kimberly Force

John Griffin, *Bryan Cave LLP*

Jill Joerling, *Bryan Cave LLP*

Daniel Kasten, *Sigma-Aldrich*

David Koonce

Carson Maricle, *Mathis, Marifan & Richter Ltd.*

Lucinda McRoberts, *Bryan Cave LLP*

Maureen Miller, *Miller Law Group*

Thomas Mug, *Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, PC*

John Orbe, *Bryan Cave LLP*

Melina Pinilla, *Husch Blackwell LLP*

Jennifer Raymond, *Macy's*

Brian Sabin, *Capes, Sokol, Goodman & Sarachan, PC*

Margaret Wichmann, *Danna McKittrick, PC*

### ACCOUNTANTS

Sarah Bantz, *Baer & Edington LLC*

Amelia Beckmann, *CliftonLarsonAllen*

Zhaohui Wang, *Yuanton International Trading*

Last year, our volunteers donated more than \$100,000 in pro bono services to Missouri and Southwestern Illinois clients who are unable to afford professional services. 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 appreciate the arts.

PETER WOCHNIAK/PROPHOTOSTL.COM



Philip Boehm is the author of numerous translations of Polish and German literary works, including a new stage adaptation of Kazimierz Moczarski's post-World War II memoir, "Conversations with an Executioner." Boehm also is the founding artistic director of Upstream Theater. Like most arts administrators, he wears many hats. But his skill set does not include accounting. Enter Robert Offerman, managing partner at Hochschild, Bloom and Co. Last year, the longtime volunteer completed Upstream's IRS 990 form.

"We particularly appreciate Mr. Offerman's obvious engagement in supporting the arts, an engagement that goes beyond the valuable accounting help and is a model of civic-mindedness," Boehm said. "Thank you for connecting us."

### FATHER-DAUGHTER PRO BONO DUO

Lou Bonacorsi encouraged his daughter, Anna Bonacorsi, to register as a volunteer. Then he registered, too. "We're no strangers to pro bono," he said. Father and daughter also are active with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and the federal court's appellate pro bono program. Lou is a partner at Bryan Cave. Anna is an associate at Paul J. Passanante & Associates. The family of lawyers also includes her mother, Mary, a partner at Thompson Coburn, and sister, Kathryn, who is attending Fordham Law School.



# 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 law and business.

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. And through our mediation program, they help artists and arts organizations resolve their disputes outside the court system in an informal and conciliatory atmosphere.

Last year, 122 new clients received free, one-on-one assistance from our volunteers. Many more artists, arts administrators and board members received on-going assistance or had their questions answered over the phone or by e-mail.

LANCE TILFORD



Lindenwood University celebrated Halloween by screening the classic vampire silent film, “Nosferatu,” with original live music composed by alumnus Adam Tevlin (above), who graduated in 2012. The university’s symphonic orchestra and concert choir performed his 80-minute composition.

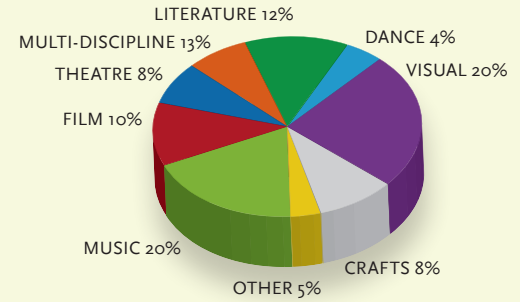
“Scoring a film for a major university was a difficult task,” Tevlin said. “Working out the business end of it — dealing with contracts is even more difficult. Thanks to attorney Elizabeth Gosney and VLAA for helping artists like myself achieve my dreams while protecting my assets and rights as a composer.”



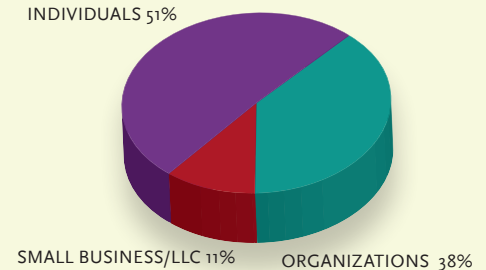
*“I am a VLAA volunteer because the arts have given so much to me; I want to give something back!”*

— Sarah Bantz, staff accountant  
Baer and Edington, Columbia, Mo.

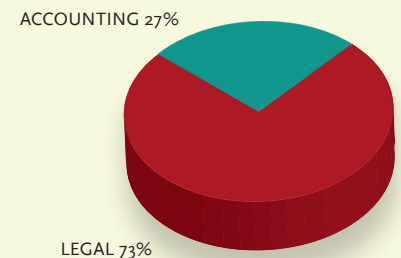
## ARTS DISCIPLINE



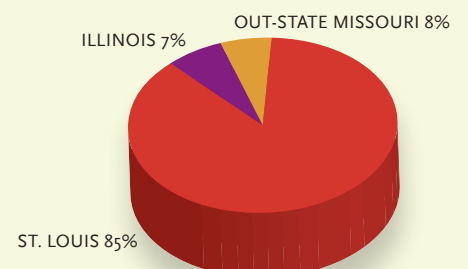
## TYPE OF CLIENT



## TYPE OF SERVICE



## LOCATION





# Educational Programs

## FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Our annual hands-on QuickBooks for Nonprofit Arts Organizations was conducted by Rebecca Gorski and Katie King, Anders CPAs + Advisors, at Webster University's downtown campus on January 25 and February 1. "Thank you for starting at the beginning," said Dorothy Chabeda. "The two sessions were very well done."

Our ever-popular Accidental Arts Administrator, presented in the fall and spring, provides basic training in arts management and now includes a bonus session on strategic planning. Accidental Arts Administrator is team-taught by staff members from the Arts and Education Council, Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission and VLAA.



Rebecca Gorski, Anders CPAs + Advisors, explains QuickBooks to Dorothy Chabeda.

## FOR ARTISTS

Our affordable seminars feature nuts-and-bolts information, extensive handouts and opportunities for peer exchange. Our Business Edge seminar series assists the region's individual artists plan and sustain creative careers. In addition to the ten sessions offered in St. Louis, Business Edge went on the road to Rolla on January 28. Twenty-eight (mostly visual) artists attended.

More than 175 people jammed into Regional Arts Commission's studio on March 19 to hear Stephanie Pereira, Kickstarter's director of art programs, and local panelists Nicole Hollway (Storycubes Sukkah), James McAnally (The Luminary Center for the Arts) and Bryan Walsh (The Screwed Arts Collective) explain how the growing crowd-funding platform is bringing creative ideas to life. The free program and reception were co-sponsored by VLAA, Regional Arts Commission and Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.



Hadi Al-Shathir, Thompson Coburn, met with several artists during our Copyright Clinic.

## FOR STUDENTS

By providing guest speakers and free easy-to-understand guides, No Artist Left Behind is helping students make the transition from the academic environment to their artistic careers and enrich the region's cultural fabric. This outreach program connects students with the skills, contacts, information and services they need to make a living and a life as artists. Ten working artists make most of the presentations.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, our speakers made 46 presentations reaching 932 students attending 14 higher education institutions in our region.



A \$7,500 grant from The Boeing Company supported No Artist Left Behind. During our holiday reception, Jim Bafaro, senior manager, global corporate citizenship, hand-delivered the check to Linda Paradis, VLAA board president, and Andy Cross, artist-speaker.

# Financial Highlights

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended 6/30/12

### REVENUES

Public Funding	\$40,885
Private Funding	39,233
Program Revenue	6,415
Investments	1,052

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$87,585</b>
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### EXPENSES

Program	\$59,919
Management & General	9,218
Fundraising	7,682

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$76,819</b>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$10,765</b>
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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Assets 6/30/11	\$71,992
Total Assets 6/30/12	\$87,349



## SOPHISTICATED CHARITABLE GIVING

More than 50 attorneys and accountants attended our fourth annual CLE/CPE and rooftop reception on May 15, which was co-sponsored by the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, led by Amelia Bond (above).

## 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.

## FY12 SPONSORS

### \$15,000 and Up

Missouri Arts Council  
Regional Arts Commission

### \$7,500

The Boeing Company

### \$3,000

Wells Fargo Advisors

### \$1,500

Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation

### \$1,000

Armstrong Teasdale LLP

Bryan Cave LLP

CALOP

Husch Blackwell LLP

KPMG LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Thompson Coburn LLP

### \$500

CliftonLarsonAllen

Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP

Missouri Lawyers Media Inc.

Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal PC

Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC

### \$251 to \$499

The Brickhouse Law Firm

Brown & James PC

Schmersahl Treloar & Co.

### \$250

Anders CPA + Advisors

Carmody MacDonald PC

Commerce Bancshares Foundation

Cunningham, Vogel & Rost PC

Deloitte

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP

Klaris, Thomson & Schroeder, Inc.

Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum LLP

Lashly & Baer, PC

Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, LC.

Lopata, Flegel & Co. LLP

Musicians' Association of St. Louis

Marvin J. Nodiff, PC

Polsinelli PC

RubinBrown LLP

Senniger Powers LLP

Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP

The Stolar Partnership Foundation

Stone Carlie & Company, LLC

TricorBraun, a division of Kranson Industries

Trio Printing

### \$100 to \$249

Artmart

Averture

BKD LLP

Blueberry Hill

Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard Charitable Foundation

United States Arbitration & Mediation

Weiss Attorneys at Law





KAREN ELSHOUT

## Step Out for Pro Bono

Our first annual “Step Out for Pro Bono” event, held on July 12, was a smashing success. A brief educational program was followed by a networking reception with live music by Jesse Gannon Truth. The venue was Steinberg auditorium and gallery on the Washington University campus. More than 125 summer associates and interns attended. Above, Katie Hellman and Linda Habibi of Phoenix Sandberg & von Gontard greet Missouri Supreme Court Justice Richard B. Teitelman. Missouri Lawyers Weekly was the event sponsor.

“We envision ‘Step Out for Pro Bono’ as the annual community-wide event for summer associates and interns,” said Executive Director Sue Greenberg. “It promotes pro bono and nonprofit board service, provides networking opportunities, introduces young professionals to the breadth and depth of culture in St. Louis, recruits new volunteers and raises a modest sum to help underwrite our operations.”

## Summer Associates

Ten highly motivated law students spent their summer vacation with us learning about how the law relates to the unique issues raised in the arts and by artists. Their time with us included several meetings with our volunteers. Kevin Webb, a rising Washington University 3L, was the program’s coordinator.



*“Without VLAA, I might never have had the chance to visit these attorneys, listen to their stories and see their different firm settings. It was valuable to see how they got to where they are now.”*

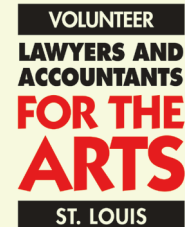
— Michael Murphy  
*Student, Saint Louis University School of Law*

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### STAFF

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Sue Greenberg
- ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
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