Message of Appreciation from the Board of Trustees to Staff and the Community

Spring is here!

As VCA begins to emerge from the constraints of Covid, we on the Board of Trustees extend our heartfelt thanks to Allison Reid and her team for their extraordinary efforts and dedication since the beginning of the pandemic. In a challenging time that required painful layoffs, hard choices and courageous leadership, our staff and volunteers have risen to the occasion. From careful management of our finances, to innovative programming, to unwavering attention to artist, performer, instructor, and student safety, they have consistently performed above and beyond.

We offer our thanks as well to VCA’s loyal donors and supporters in the community for standing with us.

Throughout it all, our gallery remained open to Island viewers (and went online for others), arts education and dance classes were taken online and into the parking lot, and the Kay White Theater opened to limited, in-person audiences for the first time this March.

As we look ahead, we embrace our responsibility as stewards of VCA to continue to make VCA a more vital creative force for our community. We remain committed to our five core program areas – arts education, artists in the schools, dance, performing arts and visual arts – while looking to expand our reach in service to the growing diversity on Vashon.

We welcome your questions and comments. Please send them to president@vashoncenterforthearts.com. We read and respond to every message we receive.

Sincerely,
VCA Board of Trustees

From Surviving to Thriving

When I think of reopening, I picture flipping a CLOSED sign in a shop window to OPEN. A line of waiting customers eager to enter. The excitement is palpable. If only it were that simple. If we could flip a sign and be right back to where we were in January 2020 when I stepped into the Executive Director role at VCA. When all our program areas (Visual Arts, Arts Education, Dance, Vashon Artists in Schools, and Performing Arts) were alive with activities and events.

Unfortunately, it all came to a screeching halt with the arrival of Covid19 pandemic. There were moments when closing down completely and waiting it out seemed like the best solution. With no roadmap to follow, uncertainty everywhere, and revenue drying up, it could be argued that would have been the easier course.

It is not the course we took. Thanks to encouragement and support from our community, along with the perseverance and dedication of our staff and board, we rallied. We found new ways to bring the arts to you in the best ways we could, and across all programs. Over a year later, I am so glad we did. We made the choice to stay the course, to adapt and adjust as we went down an unknown path. There are no guidebooks for arts centers on how to survive a pandemic, but it certainly feels like we could write one now.

Despite all of it, I am very proud of what our team was able to accomplish, with fewer resources and significant restrictions. Their total commitment, creativity, flexibility, and ‘can do’ attitudes met the moment and made amazing things happen. Violin students kept playing. Dance students kept dancing. Artists kept creating and exhibiting their work. Performers kept acting and singing. Artists in Schools kept teaching island students. There is much to celebrate. It is bittersweet too, because we could not sustain their positions. VCA feels leaner in a lot of ways but also stronger too. We’ve had to step up and have each other’s backs as we learned new ways – livestream? Sure! Outdoor classes under tents in rainy weather? You bet! What a learning curve it has been.

And while none of us wants to continue in the current mode that still requires distancing, wearing masks, and online instruction and experiences, we aren’t out of the woods yet. So what does reopening look like at VCA? It’s different for every program we serve, and uncertainty still rules our waking moments. As we have from the beginning, we are following Governor Inslee’s guidelines. With Phase 3 reopening here, a successful vaccine rollout on the island (thanks to everyone at Vashon. Be Prepared and their Emergency Operations Center), we can begin to do things now that we couldn’t do a month ago.

This year’s Garden Tour is a go! Limited in-person seating for upcoming events in The Kay is available. And in-person instruction for students has just begun. Included in this edition of Island Arts is a snapshot of upcoming events. VCA’s website, vashoncenterforthearts.org, will continue to be the best place to find up to date information as well.

Before you turn the page, I’d like to take a moment to point out that in a non-Covid environment, we would be gathering this spring to celebrate the 5th anniversary of our new campus opening, including the splendid Katherine L White Hall. In normal times, we’d be commemorating this occasion and celebrating in grand fashion with you and all our partner groups. Instead, we must wait until every seat can be filled and the lobby can overflow with islanders. For now, we will celebrate the success of keeping the arts alive through sheer tenacity and spirit.

Fulfilling our bold vision to be a center for arts, culture and community on Vashon remains our driving purpose. We may have been unexpectedly thrown off track this past year, but I am confident that together, we can fulfill that vision - and more.

Sincerely,
Allison Halstead Reid, Executive Director

There are no guidebooks for arts centers on how to survive a pandemic, but it certainly feels like we could write one now.

By Allison Halstead Reid, Executive Director

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**Re-Opening News**
Following the WA State guidelines, The Kay White Hall theatre is now open to the public for performances with limited capacity seating. Safety protocols will be strictly followed. Mask wearing and socially distanced seating will help ensure the audience, performers and VCA staff remain safe. Please visit our website to learn more about our safety protocols.

Some events will remain livestream only and are noted as such. All in-person ticketed events will continue to be livestreamed as well to bring the programming to you in the comfort of your own home.

**Livestream Viewing**
Until we can fully re-open, we will continue to livestream performances and events through our website at: vashoncenterforthearts.org

If you missed tuning in, you can still watch events through our VCA TV page at: vashoncenterforthearts.org/vca-tv/

We make every effort to upload events for later viewing within 48 hours of the broadcast. We encourage you to make a suggested donation to support VCA's livestream broadcasts so we can continue to bring the arts to you.

**We couldn't do it without you!**

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4.24.21  **Miller Campbell**
Presented by Debra Heesch and VCA
Named the “Next Woman of Country Music” by CMT in 2018, and one of the top 15 Country Artists to Watch in 2021!
Billboard Charting Americana Artist, Miller Campbell, highlights her southern roots (Miller is part of the legendary Glen Campbell family) with a special new song. Armed with a voice as clear and bright as high mountain air; round, warm, and rough in all the right places, Campbell sings with a natural assuredness usually only found in artists with decades of experience.
She brings a unique edge to the southern rock scene. From festivals and rodeos, to country bars and honky-tonks, fans are giving themselves over to an act that writes from the heart and sings from the soul.

**Saturday, April 24 at 7pm**
Live audience (limited capacity) and livestream

4.30.21  **Vyacheslav Gryaznov**
Russian pianist Vyacheslav Slava Gryaznov returns to The Kay White Hall to enthrall and engage classical music enthusiasts with his virtuosic skill and talent.

4.30.21  **“One of the great wonders of modern pianism.”**
...Vyacheslav Gryaznov...is a brilliant pianist and composer. The virtuosity and inventiveness of his transcriptions fascinate and enthrall.” — Musical Life magazine

Award-winning Russian classical pianist Vyacheslav Gryaznov (called Slava by his friends) has thrilled audiences and performed to great acclaim throughout the U.S., Russia and Europe, including Carnegie Hall and the Berlin Philharmonie. Gryaznov studied at the Moscow State Conservatory for his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and he earned the Yale School of Music’s Artist Diploma in 2018. He is on the teaching faculty of the Moscow Conservatory’s piano department.

On Saturday, April 30th Slava will grace the stage of The Kay White Hall. Prepare to be astounded.

**Saturday, April 30 at 7pm**
Live audience (limited capacity) and livestream

5.7.21  **Danny Newcomb**
Presented by Debra Heesch and VCA
There’s authentic goodwill knitted into the music Danny Newcomb releases. After more than three decades of writing and performing songs, releasing albums under different signatures and touring flashy cities and opening for big name acts such as Oasis and Pearl Jam, Newcomb embodies a lifelong rocker not chasing forgettable accolades.

**Friday, May 7 at 7pm**
Live audience (limited capacity) and livestream

5.15.21  **VCA + WHIM WHIM IRL**
VCA + WHIM WHIM IRL are offering the exclusive event we’ve all been waiting for: LIVE DANCE!

Whim WHIM’s first live performance at Vashon Center for the Arts includes world premieres by FLOCK, Joseph Hernandez, and Karl Watson.

With the exciting return of Ihsan Rustem’s “Of Then And Now”, and one of WHIM’s favorite pieces, the award winning “MONSTER”

**Saturday, May 15 at 7pm**
Live audience (limited capacity) and livestream

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**Talks on the Rock**
A series of stimulating programs for curious people

VCA’s TALKS ON THE ROCK lecture series returns with great speakers and topics galore - Art History, Science & Nature, Social Justice, Music History, Medicine, Journalism, and more!

Here’s what’s next in the line-up:

5.12.21  **John James Audubon and the Vashon Audubon Mural with Rebecca Albiani**
Fundraiser for Vashon Audubon and Vashon Nature Center
Born in Haiti and raised in France, Audubon came to the United States to escape conscription in the Napoleonic wars. He would single-mindedly pursue his passion of studying and depicting birds, ultimately resulting in his monumental publication Birds of America. Today, a mural of Vashon’s climate-threatened birds is being painted by island artist Brit Freda with the intent of inspiring activism through art.

**Wednesday, May 12 at 11:30am**
Live audience (limited capacity) and livestream

6.13.21  **Duke Ellington and the Rise of Jazz**
Music History with Michael Tracy, Jazz Pianist Dylan Hayes
In the 1920s out of segregated Washington DC, a self-taught Afro-American pianist, composer and band leader, Edward Kennedy Ellington, would embarked on a career that would last into the 1970s. Ellington often shared the stage with Billy Holliday, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzie Gillespie, and other jazz greats.

Dylan Hayes is a top jazz musician based in the Seattle and the SF Bay Area and teacher at Cornish College.

**Saturday, June 12 at 4pm**
Live audience (limited capacity) and livestream

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**5.12.21**
**John James Audubon**
**Duke Ellington**
**6.13.21**
**Duke Ellington**
Zooming and dancing has proved to be such a success for Vashon Center for Dance that we’ve been able to not only reach students on the island, but across the state, as well as out of state! During winter months, students showed up for 20 virtual classes. Our goal was to keep students engaged while safely training at home. We were also able to introduce several new classes such as Contemporary and Lyrical. Vashon’s very own Madeline Morser and Elise Erickson stepped up to the challenge and perfected online teaching over Zoom from the studios at the Blue Heron. In addition, VCA dance alumni Juliana Wright and Duncan Barlow joined us to offer students some team spirit, fresh perspective, and fun classes for advanced level dancers. We are immensely grateful for those who brought technique and talent to online instruction - you helped our students stay connected and encouraged their passion for dance during challenging times.

We kicked off 2021 with "Homage to Home," a special video project choreographed and performed by Madeline Morser. It was filmed during January when the gallery and atrium were filled with art from our Notable Collection. Madeline moves seamlessly through the art exhibit - blending dance with the visual arts. Not only is the video a beautiful dance performance, but the production experience gave us lots of practice for this year’s Original Works production! Original Works (OW21) was livestreamed on April 10th. (If you missed it, you can access it through our website.) Students gained a great deal of experience adapting their choreographed works for film. It’s been a wonderful opportunity to challenge their creative abilities along with their dance technique. Professional choreographers were engaged, setting their choreographed works for our advanced dancers, encouraging them and sharing insights. We owe big thanks to Crissy Baker for managing the production, and to our videographers, Michael Hayes and Jeff Dunnicliff, for their time and expertise in bringing OW21 to the screen.

We are looking forward to spring and summer plans with WA State’s phase 3 rollout providing an opportunity for classes to safely return to in-person instruction. Our outdoor stage is being re-assembled to serve as an additional studio through the summer. Tap students will finally get to make noise again and the little ones will finally be able to get those wiggles and giggles out!

Spring offerings include beginning and advanced levels for Ballet, Tap, Modern, and Contemporary, with additional offerings in Hip Hop, Lyrical, and Creative Movement. We’re also offering Studies in Choreography and a Classical Men’s Technique class. Spring instructors include Vadne White, Elise Ericksen, Madeline Morser, Duncan Barlow, Leah Terada, Joy Ghigleri, and Tiffany Adams.

VHS Student Volunteers Welcome
We love having Vashon High School students at VCA. If you would like to contribute your time and energy, acquire great work experience, and fulfill your graduation service learning requirements, please contact Ronly Blau at 206.259.3007 or email her at ronlyb@vashoncenterforthearts.org.
Join the Brooklyn Art Library’s Sketchbook Project. This class provides the 5x7 inch sketchbook, mini-tutorial, and time to fill your sketchbook with your own style. Students can choose between a standard book (which lives in the Brooklyn Art Library and will travel in the Bookmobile) or a digitized book (which does the same and is also photographed and added to their digital library). A list of suggested supplies will be provided upon registration.

**Spring Classes Begin! What’s Next in May?**

**Time to Create: Sketchbooks**

- **Spring into Nature-Based Art**
  - Ages: 7-11
  - Fridays, May 7-June 4 | 1:30-3 pm
  - Tuition: $90 (includes materials fee)
  - Instructor: Carolina Silva
  - Location: Heron Meadow
  - Create art based on your imagination and observation of the natural wonders blooming all around you. Each week will focus on a different project that includes observation of nature. Students will paint from observation, creating colors out of plants and natural pigments; build mobiles with “nature finds” using wax and paint; create birds and animals using collage techniques and have a good time making art together outdoors.

- **Fantastic Clay Creations**
  - Ages: 7-11
  - Fridays, May 7-June 4 | 3:30-5 pm
  - Tuition: $95 (includes $10 materials fee)
  - Instructor: Caroline Rockey
  - Location: Blue Heron Backyard (Zoom if it rains)
  - Use terracotta, self-hardening clay and acrylic paint to create fanciful creations from your imagination! Make fire-blowing dragons with wings, talons, and scales; carve fanciful felines with manes and whiskers; sculpt magic fairies in tiny houses; craft elfin creatures with large ears and a pack for potions.

**Watercolor Spaces**

- Ages: Adults
- Tuesdays, Apr 27-May 18 | 1:20-3:30 pm
- Tuition: $85
- Instructor: Carolina Silva
- Location: Blue Heron Education Center
- Create a painting or drawing representing an interior space, using multiple sketches to arrive at a thoughtful conclusion. Explore different watercolor techniques and look at the work of different artists for inspiration, focusing on depth, texture, color and emphasis. Carolina will provide live demonstrations and feedback to help students delve inward to discover their own personal style.

**Animal Large & Small**

- Ages: 9-14
- Tuesdays, May 4–June 1 | 3:30-5 pm
- Tuition: $100 (includes sketchbook) or $135 (includes digitized book)
- Instructor: Alisara Martin
- Location: Blue Heron Backyard
- Make a life-size sculpture of your dog, a giant dragon for your porch, a tiny elephant for your desk. Let your imagination run wild. Learn the foundations of sculpture using armatures, molds, and found-object supports, then use paper-mache, plaster, paper clay, cardboard, fabric, wire, and wood to make a variety of 3D creations.

**Compelling Photography: Settings and Composition**

- Ages: 10-15
- Fridays, May 7–June 4 | 3-5 pm
- Tuition: $115
- Instructor: Ray Pfotter
- Location: Online via Zoom and various outdoor locations on Vashon
- Strengthen your ability to take great photos by practicing at various island locations. Learn to use your camera’s settings and to explore new ways of seeing composition to develop your own personal style of photography. Field trip photo shoots include Fisher Pond, Point Robinson, Shinglemill Creek & Fern Cove and Vashon town.

**Summer Camps Preview**

We’re excited about our lineup of creative summer camps – all held outdoors and Covid-safe.

- Summer term will include Musical Theatre, Puppetmaking, Science & Art, Photography, Songwriting, Art & Spanish, Theatre Games and more. Check out our website for a full schedule. Registration opens May 1.

**Scholarships Available**

We are committed to making VCA classes affordable for any student interested, regardless of age or income. Applications are available online. For more information, visit our website or call us at 206.259.3005.

We will communicate quickly and openly to parents in the event of any suspected or confirmed exposure to COVID-19. In the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, we will contact local health officials and follow their guidance on next steps.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Crissy Baker at 206.259.3005 or by email at crissyb@vashoncenterforthearts.org.
I learned to make a puppet show.

2020–21 Artist Residencies by the Numbers

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Residencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chautauqua Elementary</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>McMurray Middle School</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vashon High School</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>VHS Art Teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Adams</td>
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While the pandemic has prevented students from gathering together in person, these terracotta faces will eventually join others from years past to hang in the Vashon High School hallway—gathered together as an installation that recognizes the distinct and distinctly wonderful differences in each student. And one that will be a welcome sight when the doors open again.

Socially Distanced, Part-Time, In-Person Learning Begins

After a year of online instruction, VAIS is thrilled to see our young artists begin returning to in-person learning—carefully and cautiously and not all at once. Student groups at Chautauqua Elementary will gather in morning and afternoon cohorts, with some students remoting-in for lessons, as well. As COVID restrictions ease and weather improves, teaching artists will have more opportunities to safely gather, whether outdoor or in-person distanced.

PHOTOS (left to right): Teaching artist Adam Ende preps materials at the HUB for student pick-up, student created terracotta face, and students sharing their puppet creations online.
It’s been a doozy of a year, to put it mildly. We seem to be slowly turning the corner on the COVID nightmare. But no one knows what will emerge as the next normal. I feel like I’m constantly catching my breath these days, putting a hand against the wall to steady me. Increasingly, counterintuitively, that wall isn’t in my kitchen, but just down the road, at VCA. It’s worth reflecting on just how this happened.

We’ve lived on the island, we like to say, since the late 20th century. Arriving with the rest of the UMO clan (well, two of us were already here, but that’s a longer story) in November 1999, we quickly realized Vashon was the perfect, and perfectly welcoming, place to start careers in the performing arts.

It was Vashon Allied Arts, and the Blue Heron (the forerunners, of course, of VCA) that provided us with our first performance venue, and opportunities for both teaching and community collaboration. Since day one, VCA has been our partner in professionally creating and presenting new work, both as UMO, and in our family’s 20-year old event company EnJoy Productions.

When COVID arrived a year ago, EnJoy went from 70 clients a year to no clients. In 20-year old event company EnJoy Productions.

We literally wouldn’t be here without the innovations that were possible in our collaboration with VCA over the last year. And we know those innovations will just continue, even beyond COVID. VCA has managed to not only continue producing art, culture and experiences during this crisis, it has made it possible for other creators, businesses and island organizations to continue to thrive in the most challenging of times. That is community, and leadership, of the very best kind.

Strength in Partnership BY KEVIN JOYCE

VCA Gallery Goes Digital

Introduced in January, VCA’s new online gallery is for art enthusiasts adding a whole new dimension to our visual art offerings. Now you can experience a pleasurable and intuitive way of viewing and purchasing art from the comfort of your home.

Of special note is our new ‘Notable Collection’ which was also launched in January. This collection is founded on the desire to broaden the artist’s audience and continue to build relationships with art enthusiasts and collectors by representing art and artists for an extended period of time. It features the work of Vashon artists Victoria Adams, Morgan Brig, Brian Fisher, Pam Inglis, Kirsten Reitz-Green, Cathy Sarkowsky, and Erin Schulz and complements the monthly gallery shows. Visit https://gallery.vashoncenterforthearts.org to view and purchase art for our monthly in-gallery exhibitions and the Notable Collection.

We can’t wait! Vashon Center for the Arts’ 30th Annual Garden Tour is happening on June 5 and 6. After this past year, it will offer a welcome opportunity to safely visit a variety of stunning gardens on Vashon.

To provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all, VCA is taking measures to ensure that the 2021 tour meets or exceeds the Governor’s Covid19 safety guidelines. Therefore, we are limiting attendance and tickets will only be good for a single day.

We know this is a change from the past but it’s important that our staff and garden owners feel safe and that we ensure the safety of our visitors. With only 400 guests per day, there will be plenty of room at all our garden locations so guests can enjoy the experience and safely distance.

Masks will be required. Volunteer Garden Angels and VCA staff at each garden will be on hand to monitor safety and assist the flow of visitors.

Our gracious hosts and garden owners this year include: Julie Speidel & Joseph Henke, Leslie McIntosh, Todd & Sylvia Currie, Bob & Betty Hawkins, and Anita & Kelly Robinson.

In keeping with the original mission to celebrate the art of the garden, the tour will showcase the vision, mastery and joy of gardening at five sites across the island’s diverse ecosystem.

From the westside overlooking Colvos Passage to the heart of Burton and across to Maury Island’s Dockton neighborhood, this year promises a stunning array of eclectic gardens, Pacific Northwest landscape designs, an abundance of floral delight, and plenty of outdoor sculptural art and garden decor.

ADIRONDACK CHAIRS ARE BACK

Last year’s online Adirondack Art Auction was such a success, we are bringing it back! 2021 artists include: Kristen Reitz-Green, Lyle Harris, Erin Schulz, Jen-Eric Schafer, Eddy Radar, Vladimir Luna, Cyra Jane, Margo Tantau, Anna Brones, Chris Ballew, Kai Nulde, Mishia Zadeh Graham and West McLean. Their stunning creations will be on display at VCA in May. Be sure to stop by, check them out, and bid high! Bidding opens May 21st at the VCA gallery and online, and closes at 5pm on Sunday June 6th.

ART HANSEN WORKS ON DISPLAY

Stop by VCA during the tour and you’ll find framed and signed limited edition prints by Art Hansen for sale. Art was instrumental in the founding of Vashon Allied Arts and remained an active member of our artistic community until he passed away in 2017. Don’t miss this stunning collection of work!

DON’T MISS THE Dockton PLANT SALE

While you visit the tour’s Dockton gardens, be sure to check out the Plant Sale at the home of Anita & Kelly Robinson. Find a variety of local plants and northwest favorites along with unique and whimsical garden art! Your purchases will support this year’s Garden Tour.

TICKETS GO ON SALE ON APRIL 23RD

Don’t wait as limited tickets are available for this year’s Tour. Purchase tickets online or in-person at VCA during gallery hours.

GARDEN TOUR

June 5-6

Weashon 2021

Vashon Island

Sponsored by

Windermere

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Real Estate

Special thanks to VCA Online Gallery sponsor Beth de Groen.
We proudly sponsor and support Vashon Center for the Arts because art, and arts education, is part of what makes Vashon such a special and unique community to call home.

We thank those who share their gifts and talents.
To Vashon Island Residents