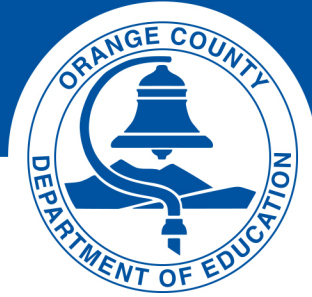


# NEWS RELEASE

Al Mijares, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools  
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



Contact: Ian Hanigan  
714-966-4008  
communications@ocde.us

## **VSA Festival to celebrate artistic accomplishments of individuals with disabilities** Now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the event will showcase writing, dance, music, theater and visual arts

COSTA MESA, Calif., APRIL 21, 2016 – The Orange County Department of Education and VSA Orange County will present the 40th annual VSA Festival hosted by MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana on Saturday, April 30.

Celebrating four decades, the festival will once again honor the artistic accomplishments of individuals with disabilities throughout Orange County, showcasing their creativity in writing, dance, music, theater and visual arts.

Following a 10:45 a.m. performance by local band Calle4Combo, actor William Allen Young will emcee the event's Opening Ceremonies beginning at 11 a.m. Young, who appears in the television series "Code Black," will introduce musicians, actors and dancers who will perform vignettes based on this year's theme, "Soaring to Greater Heights."

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

**WHAT:** 40<sup>th</sup> Annual VSA Festival

**WHEN:** 10:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2016

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

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

The VSA Festival is hosted by MainPlace Mall and is sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education, VSA California of Orange County, Arts Orange County, Imagination Celebration and the Council for Exceptional Children, Chapter No. 188 in Orange County. For additional information, or to volunteer, contact Colleen Hoffman at [cshoffman@ocde.us](mailto:cshoffman@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 40<sup>th</sup> annual VSA Festival.

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