



## Art Mentoring Program: Call for students with special needs

Do you know a child with special needs who enjoys the visual arts and would like the opportunity to work one on one with a professional artist from their community?

In conjunction with VSA arts, The New York State Alliance for Arts Education (NYSAAE) would like to present, *Side by Side New York State!*

### What is Side By Side?

Inspired by VSA Kentucky's very successful *Side by Side* program, *Side by Side NYS* is an art mentoring program uniquely designed for children with special needs, ages 7-18, who are recommended by their school as having an interest in working with a professional artist from their community, and would benefit from one on one instruction.

Depending upon individual need and experience each student will be matched with one Teaching Artist (TA) from within their community who they will work with one on one for the entirety of the program. The student/TA pair will meet for an hour and ½, once a week for a period of 6 weeks. The course of study for each match will depend upon the individual artists' area of focus, and will be determined by the artist and NYSAAE.

At the end of the 6 week residency there will be a reception and exhibition of the work to celebrate the artwork created during the program. The Side by Side exhibition will also spend time traveling around the state, being exhibited at various galleries and art spaces.

### Who is the New York State Alliance for Arts Education (NYSAAE) and what do they do?

Founded in 1973, NYSAAE is located in the Cultural Education Center at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY. NYSAAE advocates for an education rich in all the arts for every student in New York State. With the support of VSAarts in Washington, D.C. NYSAAE provides support for arts programs, professional development, and cultural access for people with disabilities. You can support our efforts by enrolling your child in the Side by Side program today!

### Why should students apply to the Side by Side program?

NYSAAE believes that keeping art in our schools and community is very important and we strive to attain that by creating residency programs like Side by Side!

This program is different than any other because not only is it for students with special needs ONLY, but each student is matched with one artist who will mentor them in a specific art discipline.

It is a great way for students to experience art in entirely new way, it is completely free, and it conveniently takes place in an approved location within your community!

### When does Side by Side start and how long does it run for?

Side by Side will begin in January 2009, and will run for 6 weeks. The program is divided in half: weeks 1-3 will focus on art technique, and weeks 4-6 each match will collaborate on one piece of artwork which represents their six weeks spent together.

### How do I know my child will be safe?

For the safety and ease of the artists, students, and parents, NYSAAE requires that a parent or guardian be present each week the artist/student pair meets and assist if needed. Although the teaching artists will have professional development training it will be helpful to have a parent present.

### Will the work be exhibited?

Yes! At the end of the 6 week residency there will be a reception and exhibition of the work to celebrate the artwork created during the program. The Side by Side exhibition will also spend time traveling around the state, being exhibited at various galleries and art centers.

### Is there a registration fee to participate?

Side by Side is completely free! NYSAAE asks that a parent and/or guardian provide transportation for their child each week, and stay with their children during each session.

To learn more about this unique experience and to obtain a Side by Side *Student Application* please visit, [vsartsnys.org/sidebyside.htm](http://vsartsnys.org/sidebyside.htm), or contact Sharon Scarlata- [sharon@nysaae.org](mailto:sharon@nysaae.org)- 518-486-7328.

Student Application Deadline is November 30, 2008.

