

Plain Language Version

A Statement From The Board of Directors

Dear IAV Community,

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Inclusive Arts Vermont will close on **June 30, 2025**.

For 39 years, Inclusive Arts Vermont (IAV) has served thousands of Vermonters. IAV has sparked opportunities for expression, joy, and inclusion through creativity. The incredible impact IAV has had throughout this time is huge.

The Board and staff have tried very hard to recover from monetary challenges. Despite our best efforts, IAV does not have enough money to continue to do our important work. We have tried many different ways to secure the funds needed. Some of this includes a wide range of grants and fundraising, but it is not enough for us to continue.

While this decision fills us with grief, we know our positive impact will continue to live on.

We are grateful to the IAV community for your support and partnership over the years. We thank our:

- adult arts participants

- students at residencies
- child care providers and the children
- exhibiting artists
- funders
- donors
- contract partners
- community partners

You were a part of creative communities and magic-making. Together, we made Vermont more accessible.

We also want to express our infinite gratitude to the remarkable staff of IAV. Their dedication and passion have been the driving force behind our incredible impact. Each member, both present and past, has left a lasting mark on our state and community.

Our commitment to accessibility does not end here. We are determined to honor IAV's legacy. We will ensure that all our commitments for this program year are fulfilled. We know we will carry all that we have learned from this work into our lives and each role that we hold in the future.

For further details, please visit our FAQ below.

With care and appreciation,

The Inclusive Arts Vermont Board of Directors

Closure FAQ

Why is IAV closing?

IAV has worked very hard to recover from many years of monetary challenges. Despite our best efforts, IAV does not have enough money to continue our important work.

We felt this was the most caring path to take for our dedicated staff, our mission, and our community. June 30, 2025, has been selected as the closing date so IAV can finish its current programs with care.

Can IAV continue in another way?

We have explored many options for IAV to continue. This includes, but is not limited to, merging with other organizations. We found that these options would not work and have decided to proceed with closing by June 2025. However, we remain committed to ways this work can live on beyond the closing date.

What will happen to IAV's programs?

All scheduled IAV programming will continue through June 30, 2025. At that time, our programs will end.

How will IAV's closure impact current contracted partners?

We will complete all programs through June 30, 2025. All the organizations and people we work with have been told about IAV's closing. We are working with them one-on-one to ensure an organized transition.

What does this mean for me as a program participant?

All program participants can count on their programs to continue through June. Please find more details below based on the individual program:

Adult Arts Education

We value the creativity and connection with you! Classes will continue for adult arts through June 2025. If you participate with:

- Champlain Community Services
- Families First
- Howard Center

The leader from your organization has details about the spring schedule. You can also contact heidi@inclusiveartsvermont.org or call (802) 556-3668 for more info.

Collaborative Arts Integration Residencies (K-12)

Scheduled residencies will continue for Baird School, I.N.S.P.i.R.E. School for Autism, Missisquoi Valley Union School District, and Winooski School District students

through June (or whenever they are complete leading up to the end of the school year). If you are a school administrator or classroom teacher with questions about these residencies, please contact alexandra@inclusiveartsvermont.org or (802) 556-3668.

Exhibitions

The [CYCLES exhibition](#) will remain at [The University of Vermont Center on Disability and Community Inclusion](#) through early May. You may visit it at UVM's Mann Hall, 208 Colchester Ave, 3rd Floor, Burlington, VT. We will reach out about art pickup dates later this spring. We will also offer office hours on Zoom for CYCLES artists to connect with IAV staff. For questions not answered above, by Zoom, or in other email communications, please contact exhibitions@inclusiveartsvermont.org. You can also contact Heidi at (802) 556-3668. There is a section with community resources below. These may be of value for other art opportunities.

Professional Development

Scheduled professional development workshops and consulting hours will continue through June. We are considering ways in which some of IAV's curricula might live on beyond IAV's ending. If you have questions about remaining professional development work in progress,

please contact Heidi at heidi@inclusiveartsvermont.org or (802) 556-3668.

Start With the Arts (Early Childhood)

Scheduled instruction and professional development hours will continue at Start With the Arts sites across the state through June. If you are a participating provider, the Teaching Artist serving your site will continue to be in touch about this work, as will the Program Director (Peggy Rainville). For questions about Start With the Arts work in progress, please contact peggy@inclusiveartsvermont.org or (802) 556-3668.

Why wasn't this information shared sooner?

We have always tried to be open about our financial circumstances. Regular practices included:

- Publishing our annual reports
- Annual 990s
- Audited financial statements

to the Public Documents page of our website.

We also share this information in applications and reports to:

- Grant funders
- Donors
- and more

The decision to close was a difficult one, and there were times when the situation felt uncertain. We have done our best to balance being open about our financial situation and focusing on the work we are doing.

How can I help during this transition?

We welcome and appreciate your financial support. Please visit [this page](#) for more information on all of the ways you can make a gift.

I recently made a donation. How will my gift be used?

Thank you so much for your recent support! Your support will ensure our programs can continue between now and June. It will also help cover our operating expenses. Again, we are deeply grateful to you for making this possible. If you would like to make a final gift, you can do so at [this link](#) through June 15, 2025.

Who can I contact with questions?

- For grant, contract, financial, legal or press questions, please contact: sarah@inclusiveartsvermont.org
- For community partner, professional development, or adult arts class questions, please contact: heidi@inclusiveartsvermont.org
- For school-based residency questions, please contact: alexandra@inclusiveartsvermont.org

- For early childhood program questions, please contact: peggy@inclusiveartsvermont.org
- For exhibiting artist questions, please contact: exhibitions@inclusiveartsvermont.org
- For general questions not captured above, please contact: info@inclusiveartsvermont.org or 802-556-3668

What are some other places in the community that can serve as a resource in IAV's absence?

This list is by no means final, but is offered as a starting place:

Disability Service Organizations

- [ABLE Library](#)
- [All Brains Belong](#)
- [Brain Injury Alliance of Vermont](#)
- [Champlain Community Services](#)
- [Disability Rights Vermont](#)
- [EDD Adaptive Sports](#)
- [Green Mountain Self-Advocates](#)
- [Howard Center](#)
- [Kayla's Directory](#)
- [HireAbility Vermont](#)
- [NAMI Vermont](#)
- [New England ADA Center](#)

- [Special Olympics Vermont](#)
- [University of Vermont Center on Disability and Community Inclusion](#)
- [Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports](#)
- [Vermont Assistive Technology Program](#)
- [Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)
- [Vermont Association of the Deaf](#)
- [Vermont Center for Independent Living](#)
- [Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living](#)
- [Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
- [Vermont Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)
- [Vermont Family Network](#)
- [Vermont Legal Aid](#)

Arts and Humanities Organizations – Vermont

- [Burlington City Arts](#)
- [Catamount Arts](#)
- [Howard Center Arts Collective](#)
- [Theatre Adventure](#)
- [Vermont Abenaki Artists Association](#)
- [Vermont Arts Council](#)
- [Vermont Humanities](#)

Arts Organizations – New England, National and International

- [Disability Arts Online](#)
- [National Guild for Community Arts Education](#)
- [New England Foundation for the Arts](#)
- [Open Door Arts](#)