



Festival Overview:

SHOW OF HANDS Puppet Festival debuts in Cincinnati, September-October 2023. The festival features workshops, performances, and an exhibition to inspire our community to make their own puppet shows and experience the many forms of puppetry. SHOW OF HANDS Puppet Festival has paired ten teaching artists with Visionaries + Voices artists to lead workshops hosted at art hubs across our city. The 6-week workshop series will culminate in the SHOW OF HANDS Puppet Slam and a weekend of raucous music, puppetry performances, and a pageant parade October 11th -14th! Come to one workshop, come to all, you will have the opportunity to share your creation in the SHOW OF HANDS Puppet Slam or the Puppet Cabaret.

About Us:

VISIONARIES + VOICES

The festival is presented by Visionaries + Voices, an inclusive arts organization providing creative, professional, and educational opportunities for adults with disabilities. Visionaries + Voices (V+V) began in 2003 when a dedicated group of social workers and artists dreamed of a place where artists with disabilities could be encouraged and supported. They eventually leased studio space in Cincinnati's Northside neighborhood to accommodate a growing number of artists – from 3 to 30 within two years. Since that time V+V has continued to expand, and today supports over 120 artists with disabilities each year at two locations (Northside and Tri-County) and takes a message of disability inclusion to over 5,000 community members through exhibitions, school and public education programs. V+V artists actively contribute to the greater arts community through creative, educational, and strategic partnerships with local and regional artists, schools, and business leaders. Collectively, we are growing a more inclusive arts community in Greater Cincinnati.

SHOW OF HANDS Puppet Festival is a product of the dreams of the V+V Puppet Committee, made up of Visionaries + Voices current and former staff, V+V artists and community artists: Lizzy DuQuette, Courtney Combs-Mock, Seana Higgins, Karen Boyhen, Julia Lipovsky, Robyn Winkler, Morgan McKnight, Sophie Harrison, and Linda Kunick. This committee took every connection, used every resource, and secured funding through grants to eliminate cost for participation at all puppet festival events.

Our Mission:

We are committed to accessible and intergenerational learning, compensating artists fairly, and creative reuse whenever possible. To expand our reach to our community we have removed all costs from participation, strategically spread workshops through different Cincinnati Neighborhoods, partnered with 11 art hubs to host workshops and performances, and partnered with community puppet events including the Little Amal walk. Through puppetry, we will unleash the uninhibited artist inside all of us. A puppet show is like a hearth; people gathered for warmth and connection. In the darkness, a warm light illuminates the audience's faces. Together, we share an experience of wonder, imaginations wild, and hearts full.

Social Links:

<https://www.visionariesandvoices.com/show-of-hands-puppet-festival>

<https://www.instagram.com/showofhandspuppetfestival/>

<https://www.facebook.com/visionariesandvoices/>



Above: Linda Kunick, V+V artist and TAP Teacher, with a triple butterfly puppet



Shadow Puppets by Christine Lanford



Above: Crankie: Scrolling Puppet Show by Abby Palen

Below: Visionaries + Voices fundraiser Double Vision at Memorial Hall. A giant puppet hugs the entire room





Above: Sofía Sáenz, south american teaching artist, performs sand shadow puppetry



Above: Visionaries + Voices visitors at the Bird Show opening interact with a rolling penguin puppet.