



## COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS

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[cataarts.org](http://cataarts.org)

### MISSION

*Community Access to the Arts (CATA) nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.*

*CATA is about creating the community we all believe in: one that recognizes the value of ALL of its members.*

### HUMANITIES EXPERTISE

CATA's vision of inclusion takes work. Arts workshops take place weekly so that our artists have the chance to build on their talents, class after class. CATA forges strong **partnerships** with other organizations — social service agencies, day-habilitation programs, residences, and schools — so they can reach as many people with disabilities as possible. CATA hires **professional faculty**—all working artists themselves—to lead programs. CATA also works closely with prominent cultural organizations to **showcase** the talents of CATA artists for our whole community, in art exhibits, performances, and poetry readings.

CATA features 13 artistic genres, has 49 program partners, serves 1300 artists with disabilities, and hosts workshops annually.

### CONTACT

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## HUMANITIES RESOURCES & PROJECTS

### PROGRAMS

- [Arts In / Arts Out](#): In CATA's core program, people with disabilities tap into their creativity, discover new talents, and connect with a wider community. Each series explores a particular art form—singing, drumming, modern dance, tap, theater, improv, creative writing, yoga, and juggling—with workshops offered across Berkshire and Columbia counties.
- [CATA in the Schools](#): CATA in the Schools brings CATA's core workshop model to students in special education programs in seven school districts. Students explore new areas of interest, discover new talents, and find their creative voice.
- [A.R.T. Workshops](#): CATA offers innovative painting workshops for people with significant physical disabilities using [Artistic Realization Technologies](#) (A.R.T.), an adaptive painting technique developed by Tim Lefens.
- [CATAdirect Crafts Cooperative](#): CATAdirect brings together individuals with disabilities and community volunteers to create beautiful, handcrafted products, which are sold to provide commissions to artists and share CATA's mission wherever products are sold.
- [The Art Cart](#): Rooted in a strong respect for elders and their history, The Art Cart uses the power of the arts to inspire nursing home residents to express their life stories and talents. A CATA faculty artist leads group workshops in music or works one-on-one with elders to share songs, poems, and stories.
- [Cultural Access Passport Program](#): CATA partners with leading cultural organizations such as the [Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center](#), [Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival](#), [Shakespeare & Company](#), and [Berkshire Theatre Group](#) to give CATA artists the chance to attend their performances.

### EVENTS

- [Art on Tour](#): Visual art created by CATA artists is exhibited at museums, galleries, businesses, and other cultural and community sites throughout Berkshire County and beyond.
- [Annual Art Show, I Am a Part of Art](#): A celebration of creativity and inclusion, I Am a Part of Art features vibrant paintings, drawings, and sculpture created by CATA artists with disabilities. Exhibits are held at the Clark Art Institute and the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts.
- [Gala and Annual Performance](#): "One of the most joyous and inspiring events of the year," CATA's Gala and Annual Performance is the culmination of hundreds of performing arts workshops and a celebration of the artistry of people with disabilities.
- [Poetry Reading](#): CATA's annual Poetry Reading spotlights the revelatory work of writers with disabilities who hone their skills throughout the year in CATA's Writer's Workshop.

\* Additional events listed [online](#).