A WAVE OF CHANGE

VSA FLORIDA + JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTED BY THE USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
The VSA Florida (VSAFL) My Art My Way artist in residence program is one of our hallmark programs for its positive impact on all participants including students, teachers, parents, administrators and staff. This residency partnered VSA Florida teaching artist Michelle Ramirez and the Contemporary Art Museum at the University of South Florida, with students with and without disabilities from Jefferson High School. During the residency, students were introduced to the work of Cuban artists Glexis Novoa, Celia y Yunior, Antonio Eligio Fernández “Tonel,” and Javier Castro in the exhibition Climate Change: Cuba/USA during a field trip to the Contemporary Art Museum. Students then created their own artwork inspired by the show for this exhibition, A Wave of Change.

VSA Florida offers artist in residence programs in drama, movement, music and visual arts. The teaching artist works directly with the participants providing hands-on activities that are sequential and developmentally appropriate for eight 1-hour sessions. The artist provides numerous adaptive materials and alternative solutions, which enable all participants to benefit from the arts experiences.

The goals of the artist in residence program are to engage students in various art forms, introduce new skills, and use the arts as a means of self-growth. The teaching artist also demonstrates strategies that lead to academic success for all students in and through the arts for the classroom teacher. Careful planning and communication between the teacher, teaching artist and administration is necessary for the success of the residency program.

The My Art My Way artist in residence program is funded in part by the Florida Department of Education – Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, the Florida Department of State – Division of Cultural Affairs, and through various contracts, grants and private donations.