

Planning for access in the Arts

Equal access is one of the responsibilities of publicly funded art. Ensuring this access is provided is integral to receiving funding through the City of Madison. This document will help identify needs and solutions to incorporating physical access into your event.

No matter what type of art you make there are steps you can take to ensure that it is accessible to everyone. The first step is budgeting for access as a part of your exhibit, performance, or event. Most accommodations will not cost a lot, and are very simple to provide.

Best Practices in providing Accommodations

Follow ADA Accessibility Guidelines to ensure your performance space is accessible to everyone. Grantees, not individual theaters, are responsible for ensuring physical access to publicly funded performances.

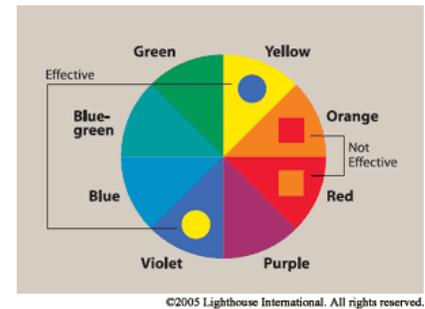
http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm

Outreach Materials

Ensure materials are available in alternate formats this includes physical materials as well as digital materials. Use ALT tags with descriptions for pictures on the internet. Screen readers on computers cannot read pictures it is up to you to provide the description.

Use contrasting colors for outreach materials. This will improve the readability for people with low vision.

Exaggerate lightness differences between foreground and background colors, use dark colors against light colors, and avoid using similar colors.



Paintings Photography and Sculptures

If your art is visual and not tactile, include audio descriptions so people with visual impairments can enjoy it as well, if possible offer opportunities to touch and physically interact with art.

Ensure that you provide large print/Braille title cards with your exhibit

Live performances

Grantees should plan to hire an ASL Interpreter for at least one performance. Plan to allocate approximately \$100/hour/interpreter including travel time. Most Interpreters work in teams of two and this will almost always be a requirement for any event over an hour. You will need a specific section of the audience space set aside near the interpreter with a clear line of sight that includes the interpreter and the staging. The Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing service fund may be available to assist with some cost for interpreters. More information can be found at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/ServiceFund/index.htm>

Ensuring access for individuals who are blind is also important. This can be accomplished by developing audio descriptions for sets, blocking, and action occurring that compliments the dialogue.

Video

If you have video as a part of your art ensure that captions are provided.

Technical assistance can be provided by the Department of Civil Rights, contact Jason Glozier, the Disability Rights and Services Specialist for more information at (608)266-4910 or JGlozier@cityofmadison.com.