BEGINNERS GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

Welcome to the beginners introduction to accessible design in live events. The purpose of this document is to introduce you to key concepts and terminology of accessible design and give you the resources necessary to start your own research about accessibility.

Before you begin it is important to understand that accessible design is an artistic form in and of itself. Accessibility is an area of exploration and innovation that begins at the genesis of the artwork (Imagine access before the artistic creation is even started). This means there must be communication between both the production team and the artists.

In addition we must constantly interrogate how each person involved in the project thinks about disability and what their preconceptions are about disabled people, artists, and audiences before moving forward in the creation process authentically.

Now dive in, get excited, and let's do the work!

APPROACH

Catering the the Audience

accessibility is determined by market audience and/or audience self advocation

General Accessibility

providing a range of accessible design elements (harder to justify services being paid for)

The best way to provide accessible design for a show is to hire a **production accessibility designer**

This position can be expanded into an entire department depending on the scope of the event and the accessibility features being provided.

What is ADA?

The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

ADA guidelines are minimum requirements. Leave them behind before you even start.

- ADA requirements contain many loopholes for buildings and venue spaces so they do not have to comply with most recent requirements.
- ADA requirements address average accommodations (e.g. average wheelchair size is 36in wide, but wheelchair sizes can be a wide as 42in wide)

Want to learn more about ADA → ADA Checklist

All of these elements can be integrated into a live event in an artistic way that elevates the work.

Some Elements of Accessible Design

Venue Egress

Entrances and exits to your event space are wheelchair accessible - includes handicap parking, smooth pathways, ramps and elevators when needed. *accessible entrances should be *main entrances*

Captioning Access in Real Time (CART)

CART provides accurate captioning and with a real person involved - communication allows for mistakes to be caught and addressed. (Note: captions can be preset)

Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) Software

ASR is a software powered by AI that generates live captioning - frequent mistakes are made - consider having a person there to correct them in real time

Interpreters

Language interpreters (Sign Language, Spanish, etc.) are should not be interpreting for longer than 1 hour and thus should be booked in pairs. Note: not all people who are deaf know Sign Language - should be paired with captions.

Audio Descriptions

Audio descriptions are designed to make visual elements of a production accessible to sight impaired attendees. Can be recorded or transmitted live.

Haptics

Haptic technology transmits tactile information using sensations such as vibration, touch, and force feedback.

Audio Visualizer

Visualizers can be created with many different computer programs to create audio reactive or audio synchronized visuals that serve as a visual representation of the audio.

Tangible Access

Tangible access is a physical means of interaction with artwork. This may be in the form of 3D modeling or allowing direct contact with artwork.

Sensory Tools

Sensory tools are a great way to make an event inclusive to those with sensory sensitivities and people who are neurodivergent. (earplugs, noise canceling head phones, sensory stimulating toys, etc.)

Braille

Braille allows blind and low vision audience members access to written materials (programs, posters, visual art placards, etc.). Note: not all blind and low vision people read braille.

Mask and Vaccine Mandates

Covid-19 is still a barrier of entry to live events for people (and those with loved ones) who are more susceptible to its impacts. Requiring and providing KN95 masks prevents the spread.

MARKETING

Access is hospitality
Welcome people into a space → so much of access is just holding and making space for people

Audience

Accessibility is based on the audience. When you are marketing and promoting your event it is important to advertise to the people your accessibility is designed to serve

Accessibility Liaison

point person for people with accessibility needs have a person they can directly contact for questions and clairifications

To ensure you are meeting the accessibility needs of everyone attending your event, you must assume you have not met everyones needs and be prepared to make additional accommodations based on the individual. This is why you must have an accessibility liaison.

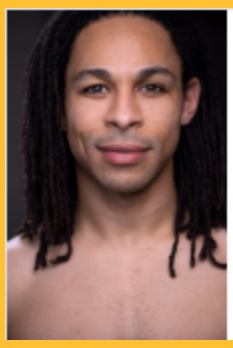
Thank you so much for wanting to learn more about accessibility

To continue your research please explore any of the links on the following pages or click on the link bellow to access a spreadsheet with a complete list

ARTISTS	ORGANIZATIONS
https://kineticlight.org/	https://reelabilities.org/
https://crisdediego.es/conclusiones/	https://www.notimpossible.com/pro
https://www.brandonkazen-maddox.com/	https://adp.acb.org/services.html
https://www.upuntilnowcollective.com/	https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing
https://chellaman.com/	https://www.totalcaption.com/
https://jerronherman.com/	https://streamtext.net/
https://linktr.ee/eejackson	https://www.disabledlist.org/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx7QK3ew3io	http://criticalaxis.org/
https://www.facebook.com/deafmusical/	https://rampd.org/
http://jayalanzimmerman.com/	https://www.cprnyc.org/
https://experiments.withgoogle.com/seeing-music	
https://www.youtube.com/musicbyjaz	

Resources

START YOUR RESEARCH



Thank you for following your intrigue.

ASL Artist - Director - Choreographer Dancer - Acrobat Filmmaker Brandon Kazen-Maddox Learn More REEL

brandonkazen-maddox.com

JH

Jerron Herman is a soulful, driven disabled artist committed to collaboration & joy as a performer/director

BLINDNESS AND ACCESSIBLE PAINTING: CONCLUSIONS /...

Cris portraits audio description at the Thyssen- Bornemisza National Museum (06/20/2019)/ Audio...

crisdediego.es

Center for Performance Research

CPR – Center for Performance Research is dedicated to supporting artists in the development of new work in

Home

ReelAbilities Film Festival is the largest festival in the world dedicated to showcasing ground-breaking films by and about people with disabilities, celebrating the...

UP UNTIL NOW

An artist collective developing radically inclusive work.

Recording Artists and Music Professionals with...

Recording Artists and Music...

rampd.org

CHELLA MAN

Chella Man

Cargo

chellaman.com

Customized CART Services | Remote Captioning

Onsite and Remote Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), ASL Interpreting, and Transcription.

Seeing Music by Jay Alan Zimmerman - Experiments with Google

Since 2009, coders have created thousands of amazing experiments using Chrome, Android, AI, WebVR, AR and more. We're showcasing projects here, along with help...

Commercial and Non-Profit USA AD Service Providers

adp.acb.org

Project: Music Not Impossible

Music: Not Impossible is a Vibrotextile™ wearable technology...

notimpossible.com

musicbyJAZ

JAZ = Jay Alan Zimmerman — the Deaf composer, author, artist, performer,...

youtube.com

Live Transcribe & Notification - Apps on Google Play

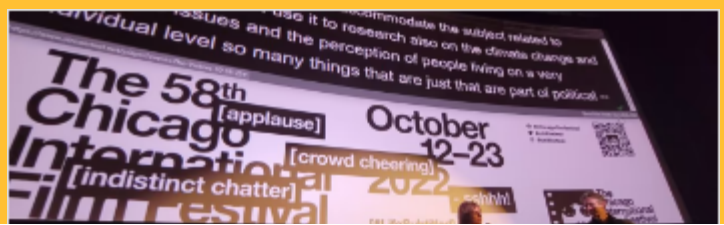
Real-time transcriptions of your conversations and

The Disabled List

When a website is down, when access has been revoked, or when a feature is not working, we are told 'This website is disabled.' The internet seems to think...

Make It Big

Type a message and Make It BIG! The message will be ENLARGED to fill the entire screen. FAST & EASY TO USE Tap screen to edit text, Tap screen again to hide...

A Disabled List project

Critical Axis collects and analyzes disability representation in the media.