

Accessibility and Accommodations Plan

Outdoor Events

Introduction

This plan outlines the accessibility and accommodation measures for Outdoor events, ensuring an inclusive experience for all visitors. We are committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Illinois Human Rights Act, and all other relevant disability laws. All staff and volunteers will receive comprehensive training on these laws and best practices for accommodating individuals with disabilities.

Service Animals

Designated Zones: Clearly marked areas will be designated where Pets are clearly separated from Service Animals to protect the safety of the handler and Service Animal. These zones will be equipped with waste disposal bags and hand sanitizer. Designated Service Animal relief areas with signage will be provided. Types of Service Animals which require zoned areas are: cardiac, seizure detection, diabetes, guide dogs, hearing dogs and others

- **Water Stations:** Accessible water stations will be located near the service animal relief zones.
- **Signage:** Prominent signage will indicate the location of service animal relief areas.

Sound Considerations

Reducing Auditory Overload: We will implement strategies to minimize excessive noise and create a more comfortable environment for individuals with autism and other sensory sensitivities. A decibel meter will be used to measure the sound output to make sure it's comfortable, safe and legal for everyone. State and local laws apply to nuisance noise and maximum decibel levels.

- **Designated Quiet Areas:** A designated quiet area will be available, providing a respite from the market's sensory stimuli.
- **Volume Control:** Vendors will be asked to keep music and amplified sound at a reasonable level.
- **Noise Reduction:** We will limit the use of loudspeakers and other potentially disruptive sounds. Vertical sound absorption/dampening curtains will be used to maintain quiet areas and reduce

excessive noise.

Photosensitive Epilepsy, Autism, Migraines & TBI

Minimizing Visual Triggers: We will take steps to reduce potential visual triggers that may affect individuals with photosensitive epilepsy, autism, migraines & TBI.

- **Lighting:** Strobe lights, blinking and rapidly flashing lights in vendor displays or market decorations will not be allowed without mitigations in place. All lighting will be in accordance with the Epilepsy Foundation guidelines.
- **Signage:** Warning signs will be posted if any potential visual triggers are present and mitigations will be provided.

Accommodations for the Hearing Impaired

- **Information Booth:** Staff at the information booth will be trained in basic sign language and have access to written communication tools.
- **Vendor Communication:** Vendors will be encouraged to use written communication methods (e.g., notepads, digital tablets) to facilitate transactions with hearing-impaired customers.
- **Visual Aids:** Visual aids, such as maps and schedules, will be prominently displayed throughout the market.

Parking and Accessibility

Ensuring Accessible Parking: We will provide adequate accessible parking spaces close to the market entrance.

- **Handicap Parking:** Additional handicap parking spaces are required based on attendance beyond street parking will be designated within 200 feet or less of the event entrance.
- **Wheelchair Van Parking:** Designated wheelchair van parking spaces will be provided, with appropriate access aisles. One in six handicap spaces will be double width as required by the ADA. See chart.
- **Signage:** Clear signage will direct visitors to accessible parking areas.

Provisions for the Blind

- **Tactile Maps:** Tactile maps of the market layout will be available at the information booth.
- **Vendor Assistance:** Vendors will be trained to provide verbal descriptions of their products and assist blind customers with purchases.
- **Clear Pathways:** Clear, unobstructed pathways will be maintained throughout the market.

Provisions for the Deaf

- **Visual Information:** Important announcements and information will be displayed visually on screens or boards.
- **Written Communication:** Staff and volunteers will be equipped with notepads or tablets for written communication.
- **Vendor Awareness:** Vendors will be made aware of strategies for communicating with deaf customers, such as using gestures and visual aids.

Staff and Volunteer Training

- **Comprehensive Training:** All staff and volunteers will receive mandatory training on the ADA, the Illinois Human Rights Act, White Cane law, Illinois Accessibility Code, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and all other related disability laws.
- **Accommodation Best Practices:** Training will cover best practices for accommodating individuals with various disabilities, including communication techniques and assistance methods.
- **Sensitivity Training:** The training will also include sensitivity training to promote respectful and inclusive interactions.
- Sensory Friendly is NOT Sensory Accessible. Why?
- Pet Friendly is NOT Service Animal Friendly. Why and what are the legal ramifications? Why doesn't insurance cover pets for events or businesses?