

## LITERARY ARTS RESOURCES

### Suggestions for Creating a Literary Arts Access Checklist

Literary arts programs support the creation, publication, promotion, distribution, and presentation of literature. In addition, they may involve graphic arts production, printing, readings, workshops, exhibits, and book fairs, as well as writing, translation, and editing. These activities may take place in a variety of locations ranging from printing shops to classrooms to shopping malls.

All programs should be accessible to speakers, participants, audience members, and staff. While many organizations may claim accessibility, each facility and activity should be carefully evaluated in conjunction with a checklist and knowledgeable individuals **prior** to being opened to the public.

A Literary Arts Access Checklist may combine the following sections of the *Arts and Humanities Accessibility Checklist* (Step 6):

- **Print Materials** includes ways to make print available in alternate formats for individuals who cannot use traditional print.
- **Assembly Areas** includes how to set up integrated and dispersed seating for poetry readings and other programs that is required for wheelchair users so they may sit within the regular seating area and have a choice of seating.
- **Presentations and Programs** includes communication techniques such as sign language to make readings and other programs accessible.

If you have a gallery or exhibition space, see the “**Exhibition and Labeling**” sections of the checklist.

In addition, all organizations are strongly encouraged to complete the following sections:

- **Policies and Practices;**
- **Employment;**
- **Checklist for Existing Facilities;**
- **Interior Signage;**
- **Emergency Evacuation; and**
- **Marketing and Publicity.**

### Literary Arts Resource Directory

**Advocado Press**

P.O. Box 145

Louisville, KY 40201

Phone: (502) 894-9492

Fax: (502) 899-9562

Email: [office@advocadopress.org](mailto:office@advocadopress.org)

Internet: <http://www.advocadopress.org/>

**Description:** The Advocado Press, Inc. was founded in 1981 to publish books and periodicals devoted to disability rights and the disability experience. The Advocado Press also produces [Ragged Edge magazine](#). *Ragged Edge* is the successor to the award-winning periodical, *The Disability Rag*. *Ragged Edge* features current writing about society's "ragged edge" issues: medical rationing, genetic discrimination, assisted suicide, long-term care, attendant services. The on-line magazine covers the disability experience in America -- what it means to be a person with a disability at the start of the 21st century.

**Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center**

The Actors' Fund

National Headquarters

729 Seventh Ave., 10th floor

New York, NY 10019

Internet: <http://www.actorsfund.org/ahirc/>

**Description:** The Actors' Fund is a comprehensive national resource of health insurance and health access information for artists, people in the entertainment industry, self-employed, low-income workers, the under-insured, the uninsured who require medical care and many other groups.

**National Arts and Disability Center (NADC)**

300 UCLA Medical Plaza, Ste. 3310

Los Angeles, CA 90095-6967

Phone: (310) 794-1141

Fax: (310) 794-1143

Email: [oraynor@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:oraynor@mednet.ucla.edu)

Internet: <http://nadc.ucla.edu>

**Description:** The NADC is the national information dissemination, technical assistance and referral center specializing in the field of arts and disability. The NADC is dedicated to promoting the full inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into the visual-, performing-, media, and literary-arts communities. Its online help desk, resource directories, annotated bibliographies, related links and conferences serve to advance accessibility to the arts for artists and audiences with disabilities.

**Poets & Writers, Inc. (P&W)**

72 Spring Street, Ste. 301

New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 226-3586

Fax: (212) 226-3963

Email: [ryan@pw.org](mailto:ryan@pw.org)

Internet: <http://www.pw.org/>

**Description:** Nationally, Poets & Writers Inc. outreaches to older Americans and people in institutions. They offer on-line workshops for people who are not able to leave their homes. Community readings programs currently exist in New York, Chicago, Detroit and California. P&W pays fees to writers giving readings or conducting workshops in New York State, Chicago, and Detroit. The programs encourage community-based groups, including libraries, youth centers, colleges, bookstores, correctional facilities and senior centers to apply for funding; nonprofit status is not required.

The Senior Collaborative Project places writers into senior day care Centers in Marin. The California Readings/Workshops Program provides direct support to writers by helping to sponsor organizations match writers' fees. P&W will match between \$50 and \$300 in fee money; applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and must be received eight weeks in advance of an event. In the past year, over 400 writers were funded by the program, 3/4 of them from California.

Poets & Writers Magazine is a bi-monthly, nationally circulated magazine for amateur and professional writers, which includes profiles, interviews, how-to articles, and an extensive list of grants and awards. For more information please see the Web site or call the New York office.

### **Survivors Art Foundation**

P.O. Box 383

Westhampton, NY 11977

Email: [safe@survivorsartfoundation.org](mailto:safe@survivorsartfoundation.org)

Internet: <http://www.survivorsartfoundation.org>

**Description:** Survivors Art Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to empowering visual, literary and performing artists with effective expressive outlets, via a Web Gallery, National Exhibitions, Outreach Programs and Publications. Their goal is to provide entertainment, education, exposure to the arts, and public awareness, while mainstreaming trauma survivors with physical and mental disabilities into the arts.

### **VSA arts Playwright Discovery Award**

1300 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Ste. 700

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 628-2800

TTY: (202) 737-0645

Fax: (202) 737-0725

Email: [info@vsarts.org](mailto:info@vsarts.org)

Internet: <http://www.vsarts.org>

**Description:** The VSA arts Playwright Discovery Award challenges 6th - 12th grade students of all abilities to express their views about disability by writing a one-act play. Two plays will be produced at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Recipients receive a scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. The Playwright Discovery Teacher

Award honors teachers who bring disability awareness to the classroom through the art of playwriting. Recipient receives funds for playwriting resources, a trip to Washington, D.C., and national recognition.

The following state VSA affiliates run their own Playwright programs:

Connecticut

Florida

Minnesota

Missouri

New Mexico

Texas

You can download their contact information at <http://www.vsarts.org/affiliates/index.html>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Ability Magazine

<http://www.abilitymagazine.com/>

Kaleidoscope Magazine

<http://www.udsakron.org/kaleidoscope.htm>

New Mobility Magazine

<http://www.newmobility.com/>

Ragged Edge

<http://www.ragged-edge-mag.com/>

**See also:** The following resource directories are from the National Arts and Disability Center at UCLA.

- **[Assistive Devices, Services and Products for Physical and Program Accessibility](http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/ACCESSIBLESERVICES.cfm)** (<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/ACCESSIBLESERVICES.cfm>)  
The NADC has created a resource directory on available services and providers for developing accessible facilities and programs in the arts. Resources for assistive listening, audio description, Braille, captioning, communication services, signage, and sign language interpreters are included.