

VISUAL ARTS RESOURCES

Suggestions for Creating a Visual Arts Access Checklist

Visual arts activities may involve exhibits, residencies, classes, workshops, lectures, and/or artist and teacher training. These activities may take place in a wide variety of locations including galleries, studios, classrooms and office spaces.

All programs should be accessible to artists, participants, 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 Visual Arts Access Checklist may combine the following sections of *the Arts and Humanities Accessibility Checklist* (Step 6):

- **Exhibitions** includes the maximum height for display cases so that objects may be viewed comfortably by a person in a seated position; audio describing paintings and artifacts for people who are partially sighted or blind; and open or closed captioning video displays.
- **Exhibition Labeling** provides guidance on print size, fonts and placement of labels.
- **Presentations and Programs** includes the full range of communication techniques to make programs accessible--including audio description and sign interpretation.
- **Print Materials** includes ways to make catalogues, publicity brochures, programs, and other print materials available to people who cannot use traditional print.
- **Food Service Areas** includes access requirements for bars and buffet tables; for example, at openings and receptions.
- **Gift Shops** includes the requirements for displaying merchandise so it is accessible to wheelchair users.
- **Assembly Areas** includes how to set up integrated and dispersed seating for lectures and other programs so wheelchair users sit within the regular seating area and have a choice of seating.

In addition, all organizations are strongly encouraged to complete the following sections of the Arts and Humanities Accessibility Checklist:

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

Outdoor Settings

For visual arts activities that take place in outdoor settings, see the following publications published by [MIG](http://www.migcom.com/products/index.html) (<http://www.migcom.com/products/index.html>)

Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide (1993) by PLAE, Inc. in conjunction with other public and private partners. This book provides the latest in universal design concepts and guidelines for outdoor environments, establishing a framework for determining the appropriate level of access in outdoor sites. It presents detailed design guidelines for the systems and elements necessary for ensuring accessibility to recreational trails, campsites, picnic areas, group meeting areas, and more. Examples demonstrate how the guidelines can be applied in typical outdoor settings to achieve a range of recreational opportunities for individuals of varying abilities.

The Accessibility Checklist: An Evaluation System for Buildings and Outdoor Settings Vol.1. (1993) by Goltsman, Susan, Gilbert, Timothy A. and Steven D. Wohlford. A comprehensive checklist based on the ADA Guidelines, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and California's Title 24 building codes for use in evaluating office buildings, parks and playgrounds, community centers, retail areas, recreational facilities, restaurants, banks, parking and site design, and transportation facilities.

Visual Arts Resource Directory

Access Studio, Center for Accessible Technology

2525 8th Street # 13C

Berkeley, CA 94710

Phone: (510) 841-3224

Fax: (510) 841-7956

Email: info1@cforat.org

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

Description: The mission of the Access Studio, Center for Accessible Technology is to promote arts participation, representation, and integration by people of all abilities. The Center for Accessible Technology offers art programs to adults and children with disabilities. Its Access Studio is a place where people with and without disabilities can work side by side to create art projects. Participants learn art-making and computer

skills as desired. Staff members are skilled at creating accessible tools for art making, and at adapting art media for people with disabilities. The Center for Accessible Technology also sponsors the Arts Access Network (AAN), a coalition of Bay Area arts organizations that focus on arts access for people with disabilities. The AAN mission is to promote arts participation, representation, and integration by people of all abilities.

Access to the Arts, Inc.

304 East Kenwood Drive
Louisville, KY 40214-2842
Phone: (502) 367-9569
Email: disacool@aol.com
Internet: <http://www.accesstothearts.org>

Description: Access to the Arts, Inc., works with people with disabilities and arts organizations to assure accessibility to arts experience by developing financial resources to let people with disabilities participate fully in the arts experience. Access to the Arts provides educational tools concerning disability and arts issues to individuals with disabilities, arts organizations, disability groups, and the general public.

Accessible Arts, Inc.

1100 State Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66102
Phone: (913) 281-1133
Fax: (913) 281-1515
Email: accarts@accessiblearts.org
Internet: <http://accessiblearts.org>

Description: Accessible Arts, Inc., is a non-profit organization that works with educators and other caregivers, organizations, and institutions such as museums and galleries to facilitate making all the arts accessible to and participatory for persons with disabilities especially children.

Alliance for Artists' Communities

255 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (401) 351-4320
Fax: (401) 351-4507
Email: aac@artistcommunities.org
Internet: <http://www.artistcommunities.org/>

Description: The Alliance of Artists Communities is the only national service organization for the field of artists' communities. Services include: networking to their members through conferences and regional meetings; conducting and publishing research; providing professional development to their members through consultations, workshops, and training seminars; providing information on artists communities to artists, students, and others through the publication of a Directory; and advocating on behalf of the field of artists' communities and creative environments.

American Association of Museums

1575 Eye Street, NW, Ste. 400

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 289-1818

TTY: (202) 289-8439

Fax: (202) 289-6578

Email: aaminfo@aam-us.org

Internet: <http://www.aam-us.org/>

Description: The American Association for Museums published *Everyone's Welcome: The Americans with Disabilities Act and Museums* (1998).

Art Education for the Blind (AEB)

589 Broadway 4th Floor

New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 334-8720

Email: artbeyondsight@aol.com

Internet: <http://artbeyondsight.org>

Description: AEB is a research, teaching, and disseminating organization that seeks to make art appreciation and history accessible to people who are blind or who have partial vision. AEB instructors and staff provide general guidance, training for docents and staff, and referrals to museums on mainstreaming programming. AEB produced *Art History Through Touch and Sound*, an eight-volume work that provides tactile education opportunities.

Art - Reach

3721 Midvale Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19129

Phone: (215) 951-0316

Fax: (215) 951-0342

Email: info@art-reach.org

Internet: <http://www.art-reach.org>

Description: Art -Reach provides access to the arts for people with disabilities and economic disadvantages by distributing donated or discounted tickets to performing arts events and museums, bringing artists into agencies whose clients or residents can not travel to cultural venues, coordinating in-depth arts workshops that address particular social issues, and maintaining an online Access Guide of structural and programmatic access information on their Web site.

ARTability, Accessing Arizona's Arts

P.O. Box 25159

Phoenix, AZ 85002

Phone: (520) 631-6253

Fax: (602) 258-9521

Email: Artabilityaz@hotmail.com

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

Description: ARTAbility acts as a bridge between arts organizations and the disability community by acting as a resource to arts and cultural organizations; providing technical assistance to organizations on accessibility; promoting accessible events; conducting customer service training for arts groups; distributing calendars of accessible programming; and by organizing, promoting and coordinating audio description, ASL, and other accessibility services.

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.

Arts Access, Inc.

P.O. Box 25044
Raleigh, NC 27611-5044
Phone: (919) 833-9919
Email: info@artsaccessinc.org
Internet: <http://www.artsaccessinc.org/>

Description: Arts Access, Inc., is an organization whose fundamental goal is to encourage and enable persons with disabilities to have full access to arts programs and facilities and participate fully in cultural and artistic activities. Arts Access provides trained audio describers to theaters at select performances so that patrons who are visually impaired can "see" a play. Arts Access, Inc., lends assistive listening system to local arts group for meetings and provides arts organizations with workshops, technical assistance, and consultations on how to develop accessibility plans for their programs and facilities.

Community Access to the Arts, Inc.

40 Railroad Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Phone: (413) 528-5485
Fax: (413) 528-3286
Email: cata@bcn.net
Internet: <http://communityaccesstothearts.org>

Description: Community Access to the Arts (CATA) uses the visual and performing arts as a vehicle to build relationships and facilitate interaction among artists, individuals in our community with physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities, and the community at large. CATA offers 800 workshops serving hundreds of individuals of all ages, collaborates with 28 educational, cultural, health and human service organizations, and

employs 22 visual and performing artists as CATA faculty artists and a dozen individuals with disabilities as CATA artist assistants.

Hospital Audiences, Inc. (HAI)

548 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10012-3950
Phone: (212) 575-7676
Fax: (212) 575-7669
Email: hai@hospaud.org
Internet: <http://www.hospaud.org>

Description: HAI has provided access to the arts to New Yorkers who are isolated from the cultural mainstream. HAI brings people with disabilities into cultural institutions for visual and performing arts experiences.

Imagine Art

3205 South First Street
Austin, TX 78704
Phone: (512) 448-1840
Fax: (512) 442-3366
Email: imagineartaustin@yahoo.com
Internet: <http://www.imagineart.net/>

Description: Imagine Art directly serves Austin artists with disabilities by providing financial and personal supports that reduce barriers to participation. They provide funds to purchase art supplies, arts education, membership fees, and photography services. They fund exhibit expenses in an effort to create opportunity for individual recognition and community awareness. They provide personal supports to ensure personal success upon entering the arts community.

Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, Inc.

2070 Peachtree Industrial Court Ste. 101
Atlanta, GA 30341
Phone: (770) 986-7764
Fax: (770) 986-8563
Email: mfpausa@pcom.net
Internet: <http://www.mfpausa.com>

Description: Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, Inc., is a for profit international corporation owned by artists. The association is composed of artists that have lost or never had use of their hands. The goal is for artists to earn a living through selling their artwork. They sell calendars, greeting cards, stationary and more.

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

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.

National Association of Artists' Organizations

c/o Space One Eleven
2409 Second Ave. North
Birmingham, AL 35203-3809
Email: info@naao.net

Internet: <http://www.naao.net/index.html>

Description: The National Association of Artists' Organizations is an artist-centered, membership-driven service organization that fosters communication and interaction among artists and artists' organizations at the local, regional and national level.

National Exhibits by Blind Artists

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
919 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 925-3213
Fax: (215) 683-3211
Email: info@nebaart.org

Internet: <http://nebaart.org/>

Description: National Exhibits by Blind Artists believes that talented blind artists deserve the same recognition as writers, musicians and other sighted artists. Its primary objectives are to 1) educate the public with the quality of work by blind artists, 2) to create a demand in the professional field of art, and 3) to further the careers of blind artists by introducing their work into the mainstream.

New York Foundation for the Arts

155 Ave. of the American, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10013-1507
Phone: (212) 366-6900 ext: 201
Fax: (212) 366-1778
Email: nyfaweb@nyfa.org

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

Description: The New York Foundation for the Arts enables contemporary artists of all disciplines to create and share their works and provides the broader public with opportunities to experience and understand the arts. The Foundation accomplishes this by providing responsive leadership and advocacy, offering financial and informational support and building collaborative relationships with others who are committed to the arts in New York State and throughout the United States.

Survivors Art Foundation

P.O. Box 383

Westhampton, NY 11977

Email: 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.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Office for AccessAbility

1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20506

Phone: (202) 682-5532

TDD: (202) 682-5496

Fax: (202) 682-5715

Internet: <http://www.arts.endow.gov/>

Description: The NEA works with grantees and other Federal and state agencies to make the arts fully accessible to people with disabilities, older adults, veterans and people living in institutions. The NEA provides grants to: accessible arts projects, promote arts education, supports cultural activities. The NEA partners with local, state, regional and federal arts organizations to make arts programs more available to all people with and without disabilities. For grant information and funding guidelines you can call (202) 682-5400, or download them from their Web site.

VSA arts

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

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

Description: VSA arts is an international, nonprofit organization that is creating a society where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Programs are implemented through a network by State affiliates in over 60 countries worldwide. VSA arts has produced many publications, including *Putting Creativity to Work: Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities* (2000) and a *Disability Awareness Guide* (1999.) The organization also offers award programs to cultural institutions in the area of arts access, as well as to emerging artists with disabilities in playwriting, music, and the visual arts. Specific focus is placed on training and research in the area of arts and learning for people with disabilities. Online resources include an Artist Registry, touring exhibitions and artists resources. VSA arts also

produces an International VSA arts Festival produced every 5 years. Contact VSA arts to learn more about the affiliate located in your area.

To locate a VSA in your state go to VSA arts Affiliates at:
<http://www.vsarts.org/affiliates/index.cfm>.

Visual Arts Programs

The following programs exemplify accessible practices in the visual arts,

Crocker Art Museum

216 "O" Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 264-5423

Fax: (916) 264-7372

Email: cama@cityofsacramento.org

Description: The Crocker Art Museum is a national historic landmark. The museum recently completed a rehabilitation of the building to ensure that it meets ADA compliance. As part of the museum's ArtAccess program to ensure the museum is barrier free, it will offer professional development for staff and training for docents focused on increasing accessibility for people with disabilities.

Dayton Art Institute

456 Belmont Park North

Dayton, OH 45405

Phone: (937) 223-5277

Fax: (937) 223-3140

Internet: <http://tours.daytonartinstitute.org/accessart/>

Description: The Dayton Art Institute for Access Art offers an accessible internet museum tour of the institute's permanent collection presented through a variety of internet technologies for people of diverse abilities. Access Art provides all visitors with an informative and absorbing experience equal to or better than what they might offer in the museum's galleries. The museum is wheelchair accessible, they offer touch tours for sculpture exhibits, sign language for hearing impaired individuals (must be requested in advance), and "SMART" a cell phone-like device that visually impaired persons can use to hear an audio description of an art piece.

Legion of Honor Museum (The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco)

100 34th Ave. and Clement Street

Lincoln Park

San Francisco, CA 94121

Phone: (415) 750-7645

TDD: (415) 750-3509

Internet: <http://www.thinker.org/legion/index.asp>

Description: At the Legion of Honor Museum, visitors with disabilities can prearrange tours with experienced Access Docents. Tours include one which visitors who are blind

may touch approximately ten of the museum's works on exhibition. For popular exhibits, Access Days are designated for times when the museum is less crowded. The annual Access Advisors' Open House affirms day-to-day accessibility at the Museum and supports disability culture. Artist and teachers lead semiannual workshops for art lovers, teachers, and group leaders.

Access features include a large print edition of the museum floor plan; large print editions of the label text for most temporary exhibitions; free audio tours to permanent collection and temporary exhibitions for visitors who are visually impaired. Assistive listening devices are provided in the Gould Theater and are available for Docent Tours made by appointment. With advanced notice, sign language interpretation can be arranged. Other materials in alternate formats are also available on request. The museum is accessible to wheelchair users, and has several wheelchairs to borrow on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco was the 2002 winner of the AAM Accessibility Award.

Museum of Fine Arts

Ave. of the Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

Boston, MA 02115-5523

Phone: (617) 267-9300

TTY: (617) 267-9703

Internet: <http://www.mfa.org/education/accessinfo.html>

Description: The Museum of Fine Arts offers 'Feeling For Form,' a program that provides access for visitors of all ages who are blind or have low vision. Volunteers are trained to introduce participants to selected objects in the Museum's collections. Listening devices are available for lectures and films—no reservations are needed. Also available are tours followed by art-making workshops and painting tours with audio description. Presentations in American Sign Language are also available for a selection of gallery tours, performances, and demonstrations. The Museum of Fine Arts was the 1995 winner of the AAM Accessibility Award.

Museum of Modern Art

Programs for Visitors with Disabilities and Special Needs

11 West 53rd Street

New York, NY 10019

Phone: (212) 708-9864

TTY: (212) 247-1230

Fax: (212) 333-1118

Email: accessprograms@moma.org

Internet: http://www.moma.org/visit_moma/momaqns/access.html

Description: The Museum of Modern Art is committed to enabling all visitors to experience its unparalleled collection of modern art. We recognize the diversity of our general public's abilities and needs, and offer a variety of programs and services to

ensure the Museum and its collections are accessible to everyone. We hope to provide the most inclusive environment for every Museum Visitor. The Museum's Access Programs serve students, families, and adults with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, partial sight and blindness, emotional and behavioral disabilities, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's, as well as deaf and hard of hearing audiences.

The Museum of Modern Art won the 2000 Access Innovation in the Arts Award. This award was presented by the VSA Arts and Metropolitan Life Foundation in recognition of the Museum's innovations in the area of programming accessibility for people with disabilities.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

26th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Philadelphia, PA 19130

Phone: (215) 763-8100

Internet: http://www.philamuseum.org/education/form_art.shtml

Description: Following the Museum's mission statement, community request, and federal and state and local guidelines, the Philadelphia Museum of Arts has, since 1971, provided access for people with disabilities through a wide variety of accessible programs and museum services. The museum offers both guided and self-guided tours for people with disabilities, hands-on touchable interpretation of paintings and outreaches to groups who can no longer visit the museum due to aging or disability. The Philadelphia Museum of Art is the home of "Form in Art," an awarding-winning program for blind and visually impaired adults. "Form in Art" combines classes in sculpture and the study of art history for blind and partially sighted people. The museum works closely with area agencies for the blind to draw participants for the 26-week program.

Queens Museum of Art ArtAccess

New York City Building

Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Queens, NY 11368

Phone: (718) 592-9700 ext: 136

TTY: (718) 592-2847

Fax: (718) 592-5778

Email: kshapiro@queensmuseum.org

Internet: <http://queensmuseum.org>

Description: For more than a decade the Queens Museum of Art has welcomed visitors with special needs to join in museum activities. Through ArtAccess, the museum reaffirms its commitment to making its services accessible to all visitors including people with physical, visual, speech, hearing, learning, emotional, and developmental disabilities. ArtsAccess features guided gallery tours and art workshops that seek to maximize participation and make the museum experience more equitable for people with special needs.

To aid visitors with disabilities, tours and workshops utilize the following aids: Tactile drawings, photographic enlargements, Braille and large print information, tactile models of exhibition objects, close-up video camera and monitor, infrared assistive listening device system, light boxes, magnifiers, and Braille.

Smithsonian Accessibility Program

Arts and Industries Building

Room 1239 MRC 426

Washington, DC 20560

Phone: (202) 786-2942

TTY: (202) 786-2414

Fax: 202-786-2210

Email: ziebarth@OP.SI.EDU

Internet: <http://www.si.edu>

Description: The Smithsonian publishes *Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design* (1996). The Guidelines are geared toward the designer. The Guidelines offer information on color, lighting, fonts, and type size for exhibits. The Smithsonian also offers *Access: A Free Guide for Visitors with Disabilities* with information on access features in each individual museum. The Accessibility Program coordinates the Smithsonian's efforts to make its facilities, programs and activities accessible to people with disabilities. Accessibility Program staff are available to consult with people with disabilities and with advocacy organizations. The Sakler Gallery at the Smithsonian was the 1998 winner of the AAM Access Award.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave.

New York, NY 10028

Phone: (212) 879-5500 ext.3561 (Access Coordination Office)

TTY: (212) 570-3828

Fax: (212) 570-3972

Email: education@metmuseum.org

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

Description: The Metropolitan Museum is committed to making its collections, programs, information, premises, and services accessible to and inclusive of all audiences. For visitors with visual impairments, there are touch tours, verbal imaging tours, large print labels for some special exhibitions, Large print and Braille information. Touch and Explore is an offsite program bringing art education to schools with visually impaired children, using raw materials and reproductions. A range of programs, including gallery talks, lectures, and family programs, are Sign Language interpreted on a regular basis. Lectures with Real Time captioning are also offered regularly. Discoveries are a weekend family program for people of all ages with developmental disabilities. Offsite Discoveries takes art and hands-on art activities to group homes for adults with developmental disabilities. The Metropolitan Museum of Art won the 2003 Museum Accessibility Award from the American Association of Museums for its "Picture This!" workshop, a museum program designed for people with visual impairments. The workshops focus on part of the permanent collection or a special exhibition and include

a wide range of accessible and engaging elements, such as descriptive guided tours, handling artworks and artists' materials, tactile pictures and art activities. In 2003, the museum published the Children's Book Art and Alphabet: A Tactile Experience which includes Braille, large print, tactile pictures and color reproductions of works of art from the museum's collections.

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>)
- **[Arts Service Organizations](http://nadc.ucla.edu/ARTSERVICE.htm)** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/ARTSERVICE.htm>)
- **[Designing Accessible Programs for Museums](http://nadc.ucla.edu/DesigningAccessiblePrograms.htm)** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/DesigningAccessiblePrograms.htm>)
- **[Online Calendar of Arts and Disability Events](http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/database/searchnadc.cfm)** (<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/database/searchnadc.cfm>)
- **[Visual Art Centers for Persons with Disabilities](http://nadc.ucla.edu/VisualArtsCenters.htm)** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/VisualArtsCenters.htm>)
- **[Web Tour of Artists with Disabilities](http://nadc.ucla.edu/links.htm)** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/links.htm>)