

MEDIA ARTS RESOURCES

Suggestions for Creating a Media Arts Access Checklist

Media arts programs involve many different activities in the production, distribution, exhibition, or broadcast of films, video programs, and radio programs. In addition, they may present workshops, conferences, seminars, and lectures, as well as support research, newsletters, and residencies or working space for independent artists.

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

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

- **Media** includes captioning and audio describing film, video and television.
- **Assembly Areas** includes integrated and dispersed seating that is required for wheelchair users so they have a selection of locations and ticket prices.
- **Print Materials** includes ways to make programs, publicity and other print materials available to people who cannot use traditional print.
- **Registration, Box Office and Reception** includes access considerations for information and ticket purchase such as the height of the box office window (service counter) and a TTY telephone.
- **Food Service** includes access requirements for food service counters and bars, vending machines areas and restaurants.

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.**

Media Arts Resource Directory

American Film Institute (AFI)

2021 North Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027-1657
Phone: (323) 856-7600
Fax: (323) 467-4578
Internet: <http://www.afi.com>

Description: The American Film Institute (AFI) is a national organization dedicated to advancing and preserving film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI's programs promote innovation and excellence through teaching, presenting, preserving and redefining this art form. AFI produces the *PERSPECTIVES*, an annual international film festival aimed to promote understanding and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities through sensitive and accurate portrayals in the media.

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.

Fanlight Productions

4196 Washington Street Ste. 2
Boston, MA 02131
Phone: (800) 937-4113
Email: info@fantlight.com
Internet: <http://www.fanlight.com/>

Description: Fanlight Productions is a leading distributor of innovative film and video works on social issues of our time, with a special focus on health care, disabilities, gender, and family issues.

Media Access Office North

363 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-1987
Phone: (925) 602-1542
Fax: (925) 689-3378
Email: dgordy@edd.ca.gov
Internet: <http://www.bapd.org/gme-th-1.html>

Description: Media Access is ran jointly by the State EDD in conjunction with the California Governor's Committee on Employment of Disabled Persons. Media Access helps find jobs in entertainment and other media related fields for people with disabilities

(both performers and others), and also helps assure accurate portrayals in the media of persons with disabilities.

Media Access Office South

4640 Lankershim Blvd. Ste. 305

North Hollywood, CA 91602

Phone: (818) 752-1196

TDD: (818) 753-3427

Fax: (818) 753-3426

Email: GCastane@edd.ca.gov

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

Description: The Media Access Office provides a liaison between performers with disabilities and the media and entertainment industry. It offers numerous services to the community, enabling media products to be produced and individuals to succeed at levels worthy of recognition by the Media Access Awards. The Media Access Office has on file over 900 actors and media professionals with disabilities. The office is supported in part by the Friends of the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities, Inc., and the State Employment Development Department.

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 artists and audiences with disabilities accessibility to the arts.

National Public Radio

635 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 513-2000

Fax: (202) 513-3329

Email: nprhelp@npr.org

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

Description: The National Public Radio provides programming by satellite to public audiences nationwide including older adults and people with disabilities

Non Traditional Casting Project (NTCP)

1560 Broadway Ste. 1600

New York, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 730-4750

Fax: (212) 730-4820

Email: info@ntcp.org

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

Description: Established in 1986, NTCP is a not-for-profit advocacy organization that seeks solutions to the problems of racism, and exclusion in theatre, film and television. Today, its mission is to serve as an expert advocate and educational resource for full inclusion in the industry. The current focus is to increase the participation of artists who are African American, Asian, Pacific American, Caribbean Black, South Asian, Latino, Native American, Arab American, Persian America, Deaf and hard of hearing, blind and low vision, and artists who have mobility disabilities and other physical disabilities.

Performers with Disabilities/Tri- Union Committee

Screen Actors Guild

Affirmative Action Department

5757 Wilshire Blvd., 7th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90036-3600

Phone: (323) 549-6644

Fax: (323) 549-6647

TTY: (323) 549-6648

Description: The Performers with Disabilities/Tri-Union Committee seeks to increase audition and casting opportunities for performers with disabilities. The committee strives to mainstream these performers into all areas of the entertainment industry by fostering an understanding and better working standards to track employment of performers with disabilities.

Screen Actors Guild

5757 Wilshire Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90036-3600

Phone: (323) 954-1600

TTY: (323) 549-6648

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

Description: The Screen Actors Guild (SAG) is the labor union representing film actors in the United States. The Guild works to advocate for the hiring of underrepresented groups including performers with disabilities. Through workshops, symposiums and panel discussions they educate the industry and discuss issues related to diversity. One of their diversity committees is the Tri-Guild Performers with Disabilities Committee. The Screen Actors Guild is in the process of updating its directory of performers with disabilities. To find a performer with a disability call the Guild directly to access the Guild's database of contacts.

Sprout

893 Amsterdam Ave.
New York, NY 10025
Phone: (212) 222-9575
Fax: (212) 222-9768
Internet: <http://www.gosprouit.org>

Description: Sprout's Make-A-Movie Program offers people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to star in and be part of the production process of creative video making. Producing videos since 1994, Sprout's Make-A-Movie program is an exciting way for participants to explore their creative side. Participants' videos have been shown at several festivals and at public screenings throughout the United States.

The Corporation on Disabilities and Telecommunication (CDT)

P.O. Box 1107
Berkeley, CA 94701
Phone:(510) 845-5576
Email: cdtinfo@aol.com
Internet: <http://www.madknight.com/cdt>

Description: CDT is a non-profit organization that works to improve the representation and participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of media by promoting performers, artists, and media makers with disabilities. One part of CDT is their annual SUPERFEST International Media Festival. The film festival exhibits works by both amateurs and professionals. These films and videotapes have offered a forum for the examination of ideas, myths, fears and attitudes about people with disabilities.

The National Captioning Institute (NCI)

California Office
303 North Glenoaks Blvd., Ste. 200
Burbank, CA 91502
Phone: (818) 238-0068
Fax: (818) 238-4266
Email: esarna@ncicap.org
Internet: <http://www.ncicap.org/>

Description: NCI is a nonprofit company that introduced closed captioning on network television in 1980 and remains the global captioning leader. Services include closed captioning for prerecorded and live video programming; subtitling and language translation services for videos and DVDs; and described video service to make television programming accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. NCI now offers a help desk that is designed to provide information on topics such as the availability of captioned programming, how to resolve problems with displaying captions, accessibility of closed captions in Spanish and on DVD's and home videos. For their National Help Desk go to <http://www.ncihelpdesk.org/>

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.

WGBH Educational Foundation

The National Center for Accessible Media
125 Western Ave.
Boston, MA 02134
Phone: (617) 300-3400
Fax: (617) 300-1035
Email: ncam@wgbh.org
Internet: <http://www.wgbh.org/wgbh/access/>

Description: WGBH has several media projects designed to reach out to under-served audiences excluded from mass media due to language, geographic or physical barriers. Projects include the CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM), Captioning, and Descriptive Video Services.

Writers Guild of America, West

Employment Access Department
7000 West Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Phone: (800) 548-4532
Fax: (323) 782-4800
Internet: <http://www.wga.org/manuals/access.html>

Description: The Writers Guild of America, West assists with scripts and screenplays, including those about characters with disabilities. The Guild works with producers, studio and network heads and writers to increase their employment and the availability of writing assignments for writers who are Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian and people with disabilities.

See also:

- **Films Involving Disabilities**

(<http://www.disabilityfilms.co.uk/>)

This site contains a film catalog with a detailed list of 2,500 feature films, which involves issues regarding various disabilities. It is directed towards teachers, students and anyone who has an interest in how disability is represented in films.

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>)
- **Services and Supports for Performers with Disabilities in the Greater Los Angeles Area** (<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/perform.cfm>)
- **Art Service Organizations** (<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/ARTSERVICE.htm>)
- **Web Tour of Artists with Disabilities** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/links.htm>)