

## PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCES

### Suggestions for Creating a Performing Arts Access Checklist

Performing arts activities may involve presenting, touring, residencies, classes, workshops and artist and teacher training. All programs should be accessible to performers, audience members, and staff. While many organizations may claim accessibility, each facility and activity should be carefully evaluated with a checklist and knowledgeable individuals **prior** to being opened to the public.

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

- **Assembly areas** includes integrated and dispersed wheelchair seating that is required throughout regular seating areas, as well as wheelchair accessible performance space, backstage, dressing rooms/restrooms, and orchestra pit.
- **Presentations and Programs** includes the full range of communication techniques to make programs accessible--including audio description and sign interpretation.
- **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.
- **Print Materials** includes ways to make publicity, brochures, programs and other print materials available to people who cannot use traditional print.

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

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.**

For performing arts activities that take place in outdoor settings, see the publications *Design Guide for Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation* and *The Accessibility Checklist: An Evaluation System for Buildings and Outdoor Settings* (included in the Performing Arts Resource List).

## **Performing Arts Resource Listing**

### **Actors Equity**

165 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 869-8530  
Fax: (212) 719-9815

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

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

**Description:** The Actors Equity Association is the union for Actors and Stage Managers who work on the legitimate stage on United States.

### **American Federation of Musicians**

1501 Broadway, Ste. 600  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 869-1330  
Fax: (212) 764-6134

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

**Description:** The American Federation of Musicians is a membership organization. They provide scholarships through the Lester Petrillo Fund for musicians with disabilities.

### **Art - Reach**

3721 Midvale Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  
Phone: (215) 951-0316  
Fax: (215) 951-0342

Email: [info@art-reach.org](mailto: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  
Tucson, AZ 85002

Phone: (602) 757-8118

Fax: (602) 258-9521

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

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, American Sign Language interpretation, 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](mailto:info@artsaccessinc.org)

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

**Description:** Arts Access 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 theatres at select performances so that patrons who are visually impaired can "see" a play. Arts Access 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.

### **Association of Performing Arts Presenters**

1112 16th Street, NW, Ste. 400

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 833-2787

Fax: (202) 833-1543

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

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

**Description:** The mission of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters is to lead a full exploration of the roles, responsibilities and opportunities for presenters, artist

managers, and artists in order to enable and celebrate the rich and diverse presenting field in its service to the public. The association produced an accessibility issue of Inside Arts (February 1994) relating to performing arts presenters. Articles include providing barrier-free facilities and programs for artists and audiences, marketing accessible programs, sign language interpreted performing arts events, and ADA basics.

### **Community Access to the Arts, Inc. (CATA)**

40 Railroad Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Phone: (413) 528-5485  
Fax: (413) 528-3286  
Email: [cata@bcn.net](mailto: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 developmental, physical, mental and 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. CATA is an Affiliate of VSA arts of Massachusetts.

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **The Coalition for Disabled Musicians (CDM)**

P.O. Box 1002M

Bay Shore, NY 11706-0533

Phone: (631) 586-0366

Email: [CDMNews@aol.com](mailto:CDMNews@aol.com)

Internet: <http://www.disabled-musicians.org/>

**Description:** CDM is a nonprofit organization of musicians with disabilities. CDM produces and performs music, conducts workshops, promotes community awareness, develops adaptive techniques to address physical limitations, and maintains a national referral service connecting disabled musicians around the nation and the world.

### **The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

Accessibility Office

2700 F. Street, NW

Washington, DC 20566-0001

Phone: (202) 416-8727

TTY: (202) 416-8728

Fax: (202) 416-8802

Email: [access@kennedy-center.org](mailto:access@kennedy-center.org)

Internet: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility>

**Description:** The Kennedy Center Accessibility Office supports the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of the performing and cultural arts. The staff are available to: provide technical assistance via phone or email on issues specific to making the cultural arts accessible; provide referrals to resources on a national, regional and state level; and conduct training. In addition, the Accessibility Office makes available "TipSheets" on a variety of topics such as "Captioning/CART in Live Theater", "Formatting Large Print", "Accommodating patrons with Ventilators and Oxygen Tanks", and more. Annually the Kennedy Center hosts the, "The Leadership Exchange in Arts

and Disability for ADA/504 Coordinators Conference”, which provides training on legal issues, universal design, programmatic access, employment, etc.

### **The New Jersey Theatre Alliance**

163 Madison Ave. Ste. 500

Morristown, NJ 07960

Phone: (973) 540-0515

Fax: (973) 540-9799

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

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

**Description:** The New Jersey Theatre Alliance is the alliance of not-for-profit professional theatres of New Jersey. The Alliance was established in 1981 to increase public awareness, appreciation, and support for theatres in New Jersey. The Alliance auditions and trains audio describers who then work in their member theatres. People who are blind or partially sighted are involved in the training of describers.

### **Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**

520 Eighth Ave. 24th Floor

New York, NY 10018-4156

Phone: (212) 609-5900

Fax (212) 609-5901

Email: [tcg@tcg.org](mailto:tcg@tcg.org)

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

**Description:** TCG is the national organization for the American theatre. Through its artistic, management, and international programs, advocacy activities, and publications, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field, and promote a larger public understanding of and appreciation for the theatre field. TCG has over 425 member theatres nationwide.

### **Theatre Development Fund**

1501 Broadway

New York, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 221-0885

TTY: (212) 719-4537

Fax: (212) 768-1563

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

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

**Description:** Theatre Development Fund is the largest nonprofit service agency for the performing arts in the nation. Its mission is to foster works of artistic merit by supporting new productions and to broaden audiences. The fund offers a discount ticket program to bring the theatre to those who ordinarily could not afford attendance. The following are some of the programs and services the Fund provides:

- A mailing list for low vision, blind, hard-of-hearing, and deaf patrons;

- Those using wheelchairs or who need aisle seats receive mail offers for discounted tickets;
- Sign language interpreted or open-captioned performance or select Broadway and Off-Broadway shows;
- Theatre education workshops for deaf or hard-of-hearing students with sign language interpreted performances and open-captioned performances; and
- Financial assistance to nonprofit arts group in New York State to make sure their events are more accessible.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Accessible Performing Arts Venues**

#### **American Musical Theatre of San Jose (AMTSJ)**

1717 Technology Drive

San Jose, CA 95110

Phone: (408) 453-1533

TTY: (408) 453-7154

Email: [lgilmore@amtsj.org](mailto:lgilmore@amtsj.org)

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

**Description:** AMTSJ for the past six years has produced Musicals in the Neighborhood, which has successfully reached people in San Jose, who have never experienced musical theatre. AMTSJ provides two ASL-interpreted performances and six captioned performances of every main stage production. The theatre also is equipped with an infrared Assistive Listening Device System. Headsets may be checked out at no charge

at the theatre the day of the performance.

**Arena Stage**

1101 6<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.

Washington, DC 20024

Phone: (202) 554-9066 x 234

TTY: (202) 484-0247

Fax: (202) 488-4056

Email: [access@arenastage.org](mailto:access@arenastage.org)

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

**Description:** Arena Stage has played a pioneering role in providing access to all productions for people with disabilities. Audio description was conceived and developed at Arena Stage in conjunction with the Metropolitan Washington Ear and has since been adopted by media, arts, and theatre organizations throughout the world. Access services and programs include wheelchair accessible seating; infrared assistive listening devices; Braille, large-print, audio description and sign interpretation at designated performances; and a dedicated box office TTY line. A script loan program and a unique sign master program is also part of the organization's sign interpreted series.

**Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities**

6901 Wadsworth Blvd.

Arvada, CO 80003

Phone: (720) 898-7200

Fax: (720) 898-7217

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

**Description:** Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities offers 14,000 half-price tickets to disadvantaged children, serves kids who are hard of hearing or deaf with one eight shadow-interpreted shows annually, has an ADA compliant Web site, and offers assisted listening devices and a wheelchair ramp to their theatre stage. Through a collaboration with VSA arts Colorado, SCFD and Denver Center Media, the Arvada Center helped to develop the Beyond Barrier Free video to assist in training their staff and volunteers in welcoming people of all abilities.

**Deaf West Theatre Company (DWT)**

5112 Lankershim Blvd.

North Hollywood, CA 91601

Phone: (818) 762 -2998

TTY: (818) 508-8389

Fax: (818) 762 -2981

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

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

**Description:** DWT presents professional main stage productions in American Sign Language with simultaneous voice translation, thereby bridging the gap between deaf and hearing worlds.

**Guthrie Theater**

725 Vineland Place  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Phone: (612) 347-1100  
TTY: (612) 377-6626  
Fax: (612) 375-1188  
Internet: <http://www.guthrietheater.org>

**Description:** The Guthrie Theater is devoted to the traditional, classical, repertoire that has sustained its foundation and the exploration of new works from diverse cultures and tradition. The Guthrie Theater is wheelchair accessible and offers American Sign Language interpretation, assistive listening system, audio description, Braille and large print programs magazines and brochures, and 2.8X magnification sport glasses. The theater has trained audio describers and supplies smaller arts organizations with the technology needed to provide audio description to visually impaired patrons.

**Mark Taper Forum**

Music Center of Los Angeles County  
135 North Grand Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 972-7353  
Fax: (213) 972-7224  
Email: [marketing@ctqla.org](mailto:marketing@ctqla.org)  
Internet: <http://www.taperahmanson.com>

**Description:** The Mark Taper Forum is wheelchair accessible, offers audio described performances for patrons who are blind or who have low vision, as well as American sign language performances and Phonic Ear assistive listening devices for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing. .

**The John F. Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts**

2700 F. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20566-0001  
Phone: (202) 416-8727  
Fax: (202) 416-8802  
Email: [access@kennedy-center.org](mailto:access@kennedy-center.org)  
Internet: <http://www.kennedy-center.org>

**Description:** The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presents an unmatched variety of theater and musicals, dance and ballet, orchestral, chamber, jazz, popular, and folk music, and multi-media performances for all ages from around the nation and the world. It nurtures new works and young artists and has extensive education programs for people of all ages. The Kennedy Center is committed to including individuals with disabilities at all levels of participation in performances and events.

The Kennedy Center strives to be a performing arts center that provides arts for everyone and work is ongoing to ensure that programs, performances, events and facilities are fully accessible to people with disabilities. Basic accommodations such as wheelchair access, sign language interpreters, captioning, assistive listening devices, large print, Braille playbills, and audio description, are available.

**The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.**

270 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA 02116-5692  
Phone: (617) 482-9393  
TTY: (617) 488-5757  
Fax: (617) 451-1436  
Email: [info@wangcenter.com](mailto:info@wangcenter.com)  
Internet: <http://www.wangcenter.org>

**Description:** The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, Inc., continuously strives to make the arts accessible to all. Careful attention has been and continues to be given to ensure that all program areas of their theatre are accessible. Door entrances, restrooms and performance spaces have been modified for greater accessibility and alternate format programs, assistive listening devices and American Sign Language interpreted and audio described performances are available. Open captioned performances offered as well.

**Wheelock Family Theatre (WFT)**

Wheelock College  
200 The Riverway  
Boston, MA 02215-4176  
Phone: (617) 879-2147  
Fax: (617) 879-2021  
Email: [kelliott@wheelock.edu](mailto:kelliott@wheelock.edu)  
Internet: <http://www.wheelock.edu/wft/>

**Description:** WFT is a professional equity company in residence at Wheelock College. WFT mounts family -oriented productions - musicals, children's classics, modern dramas, and original works - and provides educational programs for the greater Boston community. WFT has a national reputation for its pioneering work in nontraditional casting and for its long-standing commitment to accessibility. All productions are interpreted in American Sign Language for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and audio-described for patrons who are blind or have difficulty seeing.

**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>)

- **[Art Service Organizations](http://nadc.ucla.edu/ARTSERVICE.htm)** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/ARTSERVICE.htm>)
- **[Calendar of Arts and Disability Events](http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/database/searchnadc.cfm)**  
(<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/database/searchnadc.cfm>)
- **[Mixed Ability Dance Companies](http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/Dance.htm)** (<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/Dance.htm>)
- **[Web Tour of Artists with Disabilities](http://nadc.ucla.edu/links.htm)** (<http://nadc.ucla.edu/links.htm>)
- **[US and International Theatre Companies for Performers with Disabilities](http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/theatre1.html)**  
(<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/theatre1.html>)