Accessibility for Artist Residencies

National Resources

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Office of Accessibility
National Endowment for the Arts
The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to advancing artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities.

The Endowment awards more than $115 million each year to arts organizations of all sizes in all 50 states and U.S. territories.
The **Office of Accessibility** is the advocacy-technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment to make the arts accessible for people with disabilities, older adults, veterans, and people living in institutional settings.
Accessibility Laws & Regulations

Overview - Federal accessibility laws:

• Non–discrimination

• Equal opportunity (and the provision of any reasonable modifications, auxiliary aids or services necessary to achieve it, such as sign interpretation, audio description, etc.)

• Basic standards of architectural access (such as entrances, restrooms, etc.)

• Equal access to employment, programs, activities, goods and services.
Accessibility Laws & Regulations

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

Prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities (amended in 2008)

**Title II** – State and local government services (State Arts Agencies)

**Title III** – Public accommodations & services, private organizations, commercial facilities, transportation (museums, historic sites, universities)
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs:

• Conducted by federal agencies (e.g., NEA events)

• Receiving federal financial assistance (e.g., NEA grantees, State Arts Agencies, etc.)
National Endowment for the Arts Funding

Arts Organizations
National Endowment for the Arts Funding

Regional Arts Orgs

State Arts Agencies

Local Arts Agencies

Local Arts Agencies

Arts Organizations

ADA Title II

ADA Title II

ADA Title II

ADA Title III
* Not all state arts agencies provide funds to local arts agencies for redistribution. ** Only local arts agencies that are government agencies are covered by ADA Title II.
Accessibility in Artist Residencies
Artist Spaces

Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM
Artist Spaces

• No-step entry for buildings
• Accessible upper floors when part of residency or communal space
• Ask artists what they may need to do their work – e.g., table/desk heights, types of seating, type of lighting, etc.
Artist Spaces

Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Residential Spaces

• No-step entry for buildings
• Accessible upper floors when part of residency or communal space
• Appropriate door widths, lower bed heights
• Compliant bathrooms and roll-in showers, compliant public restrooms
Residential Spaces

Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Communal Spaces

Anderson Center, Red Wing, MN
Communal spaces

• Examples
  - Kitchens, dining rooms, cafeterias, lounges,
  - Classrooms, shared workspaces and presenting spaces

• No-step entry for buildings, accessible upper floors, accessible restrooms, appropriate door widths
Public Spaces

Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM
Public Spaces

• Galleries, performing spaces, classrooms, gift shops, etc.
  - Ensure access to building, restrooms, stages/back stages
  - Be careful not to program activities in non-accessible spaces
  - Provide program accessibility (ASL interpreters, captioning, large print/Braille, assistive listening devices, audio description, etc.)
  - Ensure electronic accessibility for websites, videos, PDF documents, etc.
Resources for physical accessibility

2010 Standards for Accessible Design
https://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm

Regional ADA Centers
https://www.adata.org
Physical Accessibility – Outdoor Spaces

PLAYA, Summerlake, OR
Accessibility – Outdoor Spaces

• Paths – paved or otherwise accessible
• Parking
• Pavilions and performance spaces

Resource – National Park Service

https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/accessibility.htm
Accessibility – Historic Spaces

- Residencies in historic buildings must still be accessible
- Residencies must be integrated and inclusive
- Work with experienced architects to find solutions
Access Accommodations for Artists

• Ask artists what accommodations they may need
• Also ask artists what will help them do their work in the most comfortable and productive environment
• Consider adding funds to cover cost of accommodations, including bringing personal care attendants
• Many accommodations have zero cost

Resource: http://askjan.org
Programmatic Accessibility

• Public contact information for requesting accommodations
• Accessible electronic materials, application process
• Alternate formats request (large print, Braille)
• Accommodations (ASL interpreting, real-time captioning, tactile opportunities)
• Closed/open captioning
• Assistive listening devices
Accessibility Statement

“We welcome everyone to our Institute and are committed to making our programs and events accessible. Please inform us of accessibility needs (including limited mobility) to allow us to provide seamless access and a positive Institute experience. The Institute training sites are wheelchair-accessible. We will gladly make additional accommodations with advance notice by September 1st.”
“Nothing About Us Without Us”

Include people with disabilities in planning:

• Panels, boards, staff, etc.
• Community needs assessment
• Partnerships
• Artists with disabilities
Electronic Accessibility

- Screen-reader friendly structure
- Captioned videos
- Easily readable fonts
- Use of color (meaning and contrast)
- Alternative text for photos
Residencies for Artists with Disabilities

• The Anderson Center, Red Wing, MN
• 3Arts, Chicago, IL
The Anderson Center
Deaf Artist Residency

To support artist residencies for Deaf artists and writers. The artists selected will be native speakers of American Sign Language and will explore with their fellow artists what it means to be Deaf in a hearing culture. At the end of each residency, the Anderson Center will host a public forum where the resident artists will present their work and discuss the impact of the residency.

FY18 $10,000 Multidisciplinary & Presenting
“Sometimes the most effective, efficient, meaningful approach to full accessibility for members of the Deaf creative community is to create and support an environment where they are free to simply be together and be themselves.”

Cynthia Weitzel, Program Coordinator
3Arts, Residencies for Artists with Disabilities

3Arts
FY18 $15,000
Chicago, IL
Accessibility Questions

Federal regulations require that all projects funded by the National Endowment for the Arts be accessible to people with disabilities. Complete this form and submit it to NEA Staff with the Project Budget form.

1. Buildings and facilities (including projects held in historic facilities) are required to be physically accessible. This can include, but is not limited to:
   - ground-level/no-step entry, ramped access, and/or elevators to project facilities and outdoor spaces;
   - integrated and dispersed wheelchair seating in assembly areas;
   - wheelchair-accessible box office, stage/backstage, meeting, and dressing rooms;
   - wheelchair-accessible display cases, exhibit areas, and counters;
   - accessible studio, classroom, and work spaces;
   - accessible artist residency studios and living spaces;
   - wheelchair-accessible restrooms and water fountains; and
   - directional signage for accessible entrances, restrooms, and other facilities.

   **Explain how your project will meet this requirement:**

2. The programmatic aspects of the project are required to be accessible as either part of the planned activity or upon request, where relevant. This can include, but is not limited to:
   - public contact information for requesting accommodations;
   - accessible electronic materials and websites;
   - print materials in alternative formats, such as large-print brochures/labels/programs, Braille, and electronic/digital formats;
   - accommodations for performances, tours, and lectures, such as audio description, tactile opportunities, sign language interpretation, and real-time captioning;
   - closed/open captioning of video and film; and
   - Assistive listening devices

   **Explain how your project will meet this requirement:**
Resources

• NEA Office of Accessibility
  www.arts.gov/accessibility/accessibility-resources/nea-office-accessibility

• Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability
  https://education.kennedy-center.org/education/accessibility/lead/resources.html

• Regional ADA Centers https://adata.org
Resources

• Chicago Access Cultural Consortium  
  http://chicagoculturalaccess.org/resources (resources, networks & listserv)

• National Arts & Disability Center (NADC)  
  www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc

• Job Accommodation Network (JAN)  
  https://askjan.org/

• WebAIM Website Accessibility  
  https://webaim.org/

• Webaim WAVE Accessibility Tool  
  https://wave.webaim.org/

• NEA Grants Search  
  https://apps.nea.gov/GrantSearch/
Contact

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