



NOTICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

The Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission's ("KCAIC") goal is to foster and promote access to the arts for all Kansans. According to data obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 13.1% of Kansans live with some type of disability.[1] KCAIC believes that all Kansans have an equal right to access the arts regardless of the degree, type, or duration of their disability. As a recipient of Federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts ("NEA"), KCAIC is required to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended ("Section 504"), and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA").

Section 504 requires KCAIC programs and activities to be physically accessible to individuals with disabilities. Section 504 also requires the informational content of KCAIC programs and activities be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The ADA was passed in 1990 and prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. Because we receive Federal funding from the NEA, KCAIC grantees are expected to be in, or working towards the goal of, compliance with Section 504 and the ADA.

KCAIC's designated Section 504 Coordinator is Ms. Jordan Bickford; please contact her for questions, concerns, or information related to the accessibility compliance of arts programs or services.

KCAIC's Accessibility Program Specialist is Christie Dobson; please contact her for consultation on program proposals and best practices.

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NATIONAL/REGIONAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

National Endowment for the Arts/("NEA") Office for Accessibility – The National Endowment for the Arts' Office for 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 institutions. Information on Publications, Checklists and Resources; Laws and Compliance Standards; State and Regional Art Agencies Accessibility Coordinators; Arts and Healthcare; Creativity and Aging; and Careers in the Arts.

United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division/Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) – Information and technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Includes laws and regulations, design standards, technical assistance materials and enforcement.

Mid-America Arts Alliance (“MAAA”) – The MAAA is dedicated to making programs and services accessible to all individuals, while serving a wide array of constituents through arts technology tools. In addition, WESTAF encourages all grantees and member states to ensure all programming is fully accessible.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

American Foundation for the Blind (“AFB”) – The American Foundation for the Blind removes barriers, creates solutions and expands possibilities so people with vision loss can achieve their full potential. As a national nonprofit, AFB is a leader in expanding possibilities for the more than 20 million Americans living with vision loss. AFB champions access and equality and stands at the forefront of new technologies.

Art-Reach – Art Reach seeks to enrich lives by connecting underserved audiences with cultural experiences so that they may enjoy and benefit from the transformative power of the arts.

Community Access to the Arts – Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts. Our programs take place in healthcare, therapeutic, eldercare, educational, community, and cultural settings. We serve over 600 individuals with developmental, physical, emotional, and/or mental disabilities representing 38 different human service and educational organizations, as well as individuals living at home. Currently, the majority of our artists reside in Berkshire County, MA.

Cultural Access Network Project – The Cultural Access Network Project is a co-sponsored program of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The Project provides a wide range of services and programs to assist theatres and cultural organizations in making their programs and facilities accessible to seniors and people with disabilities. Programs include the technical assistance and training, ADA planning; and a resource library.

Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disabilities (“LEAD”) – A professional network focused on expanding the breadth and scope of accessibility services and programming across the country and around the world. LEAD accomplishes its objectives through an annual conference, an active communications network and resources generated by the LEAD network and maintained by the Kennedy Center.

National Arts and Disability Center (“NADC”) – The National Arts and Disability Center (NADC) promotes the full inclusion of audiences and artists with disabilities into all facets of the arts community. The NADC is a leading consultant in the arts and disability community, and the only center of its kind. Information is aimed at artists with disabilities, arts organizations, arts administrators, disability organizations, performing arts organizations, art centers, universities and arts educators.

VSA/Department of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded more than 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and increase access to the arts for all. With 52 international affiliates and a network of nationwide

affiliates, VSA is providing arts and education programming for youth and adults with disabilities around the world.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (“KCDC”) – KCDC provides policy guidance to the government of Kansas and disability-related information to the people of Kansas. Key resources include Disability Service Maps, ADA information, Legislative Information and more.

Kansas Rehabilitation Services (“KRS”) – KRS is a collection of programs ran by the Kansas Department for Children and Families that meet the variety of needs of Kansans with disabilities. Programs include: vocational rehabilitation services; services for people who are blind or visually impaired; Centers for Independent Living; the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and Disability Determination Services.

Great Plains Americans with Disabilities Act Center – This one stop resource for technical assistance, information and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act serves Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Kansas Working Healthy – Working Healthy is a Medicaid program providing coverage to individuals with disabilities while on the job.

Kansas Transit Provider Directory – This directory is hosted by the University of Kansas Transportation Center and provides a list of transit providers in each Kansas county.

Assistive Technology for Kansans (“ATK”) – ATK serves all 105 Kansas counties and serves individuals with disabilities by offering technology solutions in the areas of vision, hearing, speech communication, learning, cognition, mobility, seating, daily living, environmental adaptations, vehicle modifications, computer and related technology, recreation and sports adaptations.

K-Loan – K-Loan is a statewide assistive technology program coordinated by the University of Kansas which provide individuals with disabilities and their families access to financial resources to acquire assistive technology. The project is directed and guided by an Executive Advisory Board composed of individuals with disabilities, family members and representatives from Kansas agencies.

PUBLICATIONS

Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator’s Handbook – Designed to help organizations not only comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but to assist in making access an integral part of planning, mission, programs, outreach, meetings, budget and staffing. Copies of the book can be ordered through the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies web site or the publication can be downloaded at no charge in Portable Document Format (PDF).

Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators – An online companion to Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator’s Handbook (2003). The Guide provides guidance to cultural administrators on how to achieve accessible and inclusive programming for everyone including individuals with disabilities and older adults. It is designed to help organizations not only comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but also to assist in making access an integral part of an organization, including its staffing, mission, budget, education, meetings, programs and beyond.

This document takes these laws and principles and applies them to cultural service organizations and other arts and humanities groups in both the public and private sector.

Section 504 Self-Evaluation Workbook – This workbook is designed to assist grant recipients in evaluating the current state of accessibility of their programs and activities to disabled visitors and employees. It is intended to assist organizations in their efforts to: (a) comply with the Endowment’s regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, including the preparation of a self-evaluation of all programs, activities, policies and practices to determine areas of noncompliance, and (b) better understand the relationship between 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is designed to be used in conjunction with Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator’s Handbook.

Tip Sheet on the 2010 Revised Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act – Revisions to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations in the Federal Register that update and amend some of the provisions in the original 1991 ADA regulations. These changes include revised accessibility standards, called the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (2010 Standards), which establish minimum criteria for accessibility in design and construction. They have a specific effect on cultural venues, such as theaters or museums. It is not intended to be comprehensive.

American Printing House for the Blind – The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is the world’s largest nonprofit organization creating educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are visually impaired. APH provides materials in a variety of accessible formats, including Braille, large print, audio recordings, computer-readable formats and tactile graphics and includes a searchable database of other providers of alternative-format publications.

New Mobility: Life Beyond Wheels – A colorful, award-winning lifestyle magazine, New Mobility encourages the integration of active wheelchair users into mainstream society with articles on health, advocacy, travel, employment, relationships, recreation, media, products and more. Ninety percent of its writers live with with disabilities, creating a vibrant culture of disability journalism, philosophy and advocacy within each monthly edition.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Disability Access Symbols – Download the twelve symbols to promote and publicize accessibility for people with disabilities. These symbols advertise your accessibility to employees, customers, audiences, and anyone else who needs access to your building or offices. Examples of places you’ll want to promote your accessibility include: advertisements, newsletters, conference and program brochures, membership forms, building signage, floor plans and maps.

National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) – NCAM’s mission is to expand access to present and future media for people with disabilities; to explore how existing access technologies may benefit other populations; to represent its constituents in industry, policy and legislative circles; and to provide access to educational and media technologies for special needs students.

gov – Usability.gov is the leading resource for user experience best practices and guidelines, serving practitioners and students in the government and private sectors. The site provides overviews of the

broad range of factors that go into web design and development. It also covers the related information on tools for making digital content more usable, useful and accessible.

Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) – Strategies, guidelines and resources to make the Web accessible to people with disabilities. WAI is part of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), an organization that helps keep the Web open, free and accessible to all. Readers can learn about accessibility initiatives and access user tools. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, which provide the basis for many accessibility tools available today.

MUSEUM AND FACILITIES

Art Beyond Sight: Handbook for Educators and Museums – A handbook takes about the process of creating accessible programming for people with visual impairments. These ideas can be applied to programs for people with a broad range of abilities to create as inclusive an environment as possible. Made possible by the MetLife Foundation and Institute of Museum and Library Services, NEC Foundation of America, The Renate, Hans & Maria Hofmann Trust and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Maintaining Accessibility in Museums – Regardless of size or income, most museums have legal obligations to provide and maintain accessibility for visitors with disabilities: Privately operated museums are covered as public accommodations under title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); museums operated by state or local governments are covered by the ADA's title II; and museums that receive Federal funding – whether they are covered by title II or title III – are also covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A fact sheet from the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section.

Smithsonian Accessibility Program Resources – The Smithsonian Institution offers a number of resources for museums to help them ensure that their collections and exhibitions are accessible and welcoming to all audiences.

THEATRE/PERFORMING ARTS

Enjoying Theater and Film When You Are Blind or Have Low Vision – As part of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, several of the most popular television networks have made certain prime-time and children's programs accessible to viewers with vision loss by adding video description. A wide range of cultural venues and activities now include adaptations for persons with disabilities, including blindness and low vision. Learn more about the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, which requires that smart phones, television programs, and other modern communications technologies be accessible to people with vision and/or hearing loss.

Making Broadway Accessible for the Disabled – The Theater Development Fund's accessibility program offers assistance to theatergoers with physical disabilities, including services for the blind or those with low vision, the deaf or hard of hearing and patrons who can't climb stairs or need wheelchair seating.

AXIS Dance Company – AXIS Dance Company, one of the world's most acclaimed and innovative ensembles of performers with and without disabilities, has paved the way for a powerful contemporary dance form called physically integrated dance. The Company has toured extensively throughout the US

and abroad. AXIS collaborates with world-class choreographers and composers; provides dance education for adults, youth and educators of all abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds; and brings its outreach programs into schools, community centers, independent living centers, and to countless organizations seeking to learn more about dance, disability, and collaboration.

Coalition for Disabled Musicians (CDM) – The CDM is a Bay Shore, NY-based group of musicians with various disabilities who have developed creative ways to make music together. Some of their strategies have been technical; an “Adaptive Equipment” link on their site shows various stands that allow musicians to play instruments without supporting the weight of them. Other strategies include a “tag team” approach that allows musicians to spell each other when they become fatigued. Sound samples and profiles of the musicians are included on the site.

The Physically Handicapped Actors & Musical Artists League (PHAMALy) – PHAMALy is a theatre group and touring company that performs throughout the greater Denver area. PHAMALy was formed in 1989 when a group of former students of the Boettcher School in Denver, Colorado, grew frustrated with the lack of theatrical opportunities for people living with disabilities, and decided to create a theatre company that would provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to perform. As a not-for-profit membership organization, PHAMALy is dedicated to producing traditional theatre in nontraditional ways.

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Resources for Accessible Teaching – Northern Illinois University (NIU) Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center has compiled information and resources for faculty regarding accessible instruction.

[1] Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2017). Disability Statistics from the American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Yang-Tan Institute (YTI). Retrieved from Cornell University Disability Statistics website: www.disabilitystatistics.org