

# Performing Arts Exchange

The Insider: A Guide to South Arts Grant Programs for  
Presenters, Wednesday, September 30, 2015

**Beth Bienvenu, Accessibility Director**



# Who we are

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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.



# NEA Office of Accessibility

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**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.



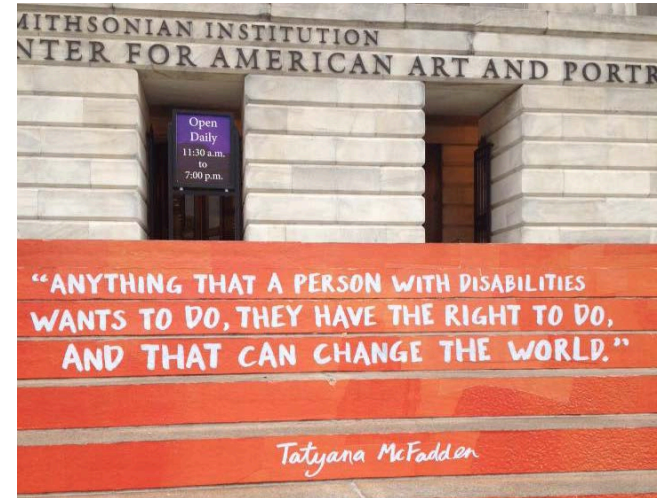
# Legal Framework for Accessibility

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- Federal agencies
- Federal funds

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

- Places of public accommodation
- State/local governments



**ADA**

**AMERICANS WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT**

**25**

**1990-2015**

# Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

Burlington, VT

NEA Grantee

Category: Art Works

FIELD/DISCIPLINE: Presenting &  
Multidisciplinary



To support a series of artist residencies, presentations, and commissioning projects, with accompanying outreach activities for artists with and without disabilities.



# Paper Mill Playhouse

Millburn, NJ

NEA Grant

Category: Art Works

Field/Discipline: Theater & Musical Theater

To support musical theater productions and classes for families of children with autism or other cognitive and developmental disabilities, partnering with New Jersey schools serving populations with disabilities to expand its class offerings.

**PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE**

THE BRIGHTEST LIGHTS. THE BIGGEST STAGE. THE BEST SHOWS.



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for the Arts  
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# Accessibility Basics: Mobility

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- People with physical disabilities
- Older adults

Assistive mobility devices

- Wheelchairs, scooters, segways

Access services & goals

- Create a barrier free environment
- Companion seating
- Effective communication (i.e. physical signage, website with transportation and arrival options)





# Accessibility Basics: Vision

- People who are blind
- People with vision loss or who have low vision

## Access services

- Large print (16- to 18-pt type)
- Braille
- Audio description
- Tactile opportunities
- Assistive listening devices
- Sighted guides



# Accessibility Basics: Hearing

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- People who are deaf
- People who are hard of hearing or have hearing loss

## Access services

- Assistive listening systems
- Real time captioning
- ASL interpretation



# Accessibility Basics: Cognitive/ Sensory

- People with cognitive or sensory-processing disabilities
- People on the autism spectrum
- People with PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury

## Access services

- Sensory-friendly programs
- Pre-visit preparation materials (i.e. Social Stories)
- Break spaces, staff training



# Resources

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NEA Website, [www.arts.gov/accessibility](http://www.arts.gov/accessibility)

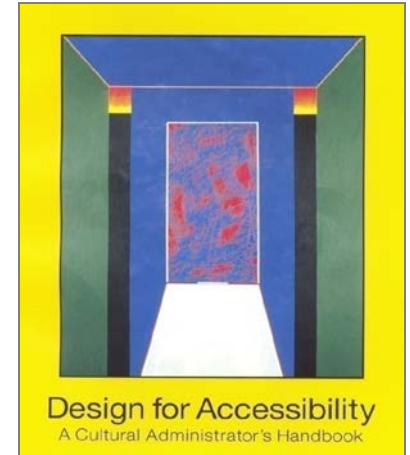
- *Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook*
- Section 504 Self-Evaluation Workbook

## National and State

- ADA Technical Assistance Centers, [www.adata.org](http://www.adata.org)

## VSA Affiliates

- [www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/)



# NEA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# Tell us your story!

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Go to [arts.gov/tell-us-your-story](https://arts.gov/tell-us-your-story)

September 29, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts. To celebrate the anniversary, we are collecting stories for our "Tell Us Your Story" campaign. The stories we collect from across the nation will, for the first time ever, demonstrate that we are all connected through the arts and that the arts are an essential component of our everyday lives.

Tell us how the arts are part of your day, how the arts have inspired you to do something unique, how they have made a difference among you and your family, as well as in the communities and neighborhoods in which you live. **Join with communities across the nation and help us collect as many stories as we can for the NEA's 50th anniversary!**



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# Contact

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**NEA Office of Accessibility**

**Beth Bienvenu, Accessibility Director**

**Lauren Tuzzolino, Accessibility Specialist**

**Phone: 202.682.5532**

**Email: [accessibility@arts.gov](mailto:accessibility@arts.gov)**

**Web: [www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/accessibility](http://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/accessibility)**

