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

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

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
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.
Accessibility Basics: Mobility

- 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

- 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

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, [wwwadata.org](http://wwwadata.org)

VSA Affiliates
NEA 50th Anniversary

Tell us your story!

Go to 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!
Contact

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