



Accessible Events Training

Learn about how to make your events more accessible and inclusive!

Presented by Accessible Festivals, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring live music, events, and recreational experiences are accessible to all abilities.

Learn more at www.accessiblefestivals.org



Inclusion Topics: ADA laws, relevant definitions and terminology, disability etiquette, understanding hidden disabilities, developing compassion and empathy for different disabilities

Accessibility Topics: Designing information that is accessible (in advance, day of event), getting around the venue, meeting basic health and safety needs, assistive technology, providing accommodations for specific disability categories, production considerations, designing and facilitating sensory-supportive spaces (Inclusion Zones), creating accessibility guides, general online accessibility, how to make livestreams accessible



Why create accessible events?

Safety, increase in attendance and revenue, limit legal liability, public relations opportunities, normalization, removal of stigma from disability, it's the right thing to do!

A great example! www.inclusionfestival.com

Legal ADA Requirements

The Americans with Disabilities Act says:

“A public accommodation shall afford goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations to an individual with a disability in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual.”

Relevant Terminology

ACCESSIBILITY

The provision of reasonable accommodations that enable an individual with a disability to conveniently access: physical structures, environments, programs, goods and services

INCLUSION

The practice of integrating and bringing together all individuals, regardless of ability, allowing them to fully participate and be valued equally within their: communities and neighborhoods, workplaces, classrooms, and social & recreational environments

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The practice of creating environments and structures that can be easily accessed, understood, and utilized by ALL PEOPLE regardless of: age, size, disability

Examples: Ramps, allergy-friendly / dietary-friendly menus, Inclusion Zones (sensory-supportive spaces to benefit anyone who needs a quiet break), charging stations, way-finding signs

NEURODIVERSITY

Challenges conventional thinking about ability and individuality with the idea that cognitive differences like autism and ADHD are the result of normal, natural variations in the vastly complex and diverse human genome. It provides a broader model for acceptance and understanding, which will ultimately help people with neurological differences more easily obtain the accommodations and supports they need in order to be the best versions of themselves.

HIDDEN DISABILITIES

Not all disabilities are apparent. (80% are not!) These are known as *hidden disabilities*. A person may make a request or act in a way that seems strange or different to you.

Hidden disabilities may include: autism, anxiety, epilepsy, sensory processing disorders, communication disorders, ADHD, and more.



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Etiquette

It is not our place to decide necessity, but to inform on what services we have to offer that may be helpful and accommodating.

Do not make judgements or assumptions.

Be patient, kind, and compassionate!

***Proof of disability is NEVER required!

Creating an Accessibility Program

ACCESS TO INFORMATION-

In advance: Accessibility guide on website, support and train staff and volunteers, accessibility coordinator (point of contact), social story (a story about what to expect)

Day of show: Access Center, trained staff, visual supports

GETTING AROUND THE VENUE-

Things to consider: Accessible parking, design accessible routes/pathways, drop-off points, maps, proper signage, ramps, accessible venue transportation

MEETING BASIC NEEDS-

Things to consider: Accessible bathrooms, dietary accommodations, emergency plans, access to electricity, personal care items

Provide Accommodations for Different Disabilities

MOBILITY/PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS

Accessible pathways, ramps, shuttles, accessible camping, reserved seating, accessible viewing platforms, powered mobility devices, drop-off points, charging stations

COMMUNICATION DIFFERENCES

Picture communication board, social story (information about what to expect), visual supports

SENSORY PROCESSING DIFFERENCES

Inclusion Zones, Silent Sound System technology, seating options away from crowds, layout designed to reduce crowding, no strobe lights, no fast changing lights, music played at a lower volume

BLIND / VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

All printed materials available in large print (18pt+), audio descriptions for visual arts, encourage MC's and performers to use self-descriptions, ramps, service dogs allowed, well-lit pathways

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING

ASL interpreters, live captioning, assisted listening devices, use of SUBPACS

Additional Considerations

PRODUCTION

Sensory-friendly environment, listening lounge, consider booking artists with disabilities (resource: RAMPD (www.rampd.org), consider livestreaming, consider partnering with local service providers

ONLINE

Make your website accessible (research WCAG 2.0 Compliance, look into AccessiBE overlay), creation of comprehensive accessibility guide, make sure all text is easy to read

SOCIAL MEDIA

Use of image descriptions, captions on videos/reels, sans serif fonts are most accessible

TRAININGS

Ask if anyone requires accommodations, provide transcripts by request

COVID CONSIDERATIONS

Ensure that any screening procedures or policies are considerate of different disability categories