

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Supporting Deaf & Disabled Artists

Presented by

Judith Smith *Founder and Director Emerita AXIS Dance Company*

AXIS Dance Company



OVERVIEW

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in **1990** and yet people with disabilities **still do not have full access** to cultural institutions and events **today**.

You have to ramp the human mind before the rest of the ramps can work.

George Covington, White House Aide

One does not know a culture until one knows the perspective of its disabled citizens.

Kenzeburo Oe, Nobel Prize Winner

Disability is the mother of invention.

Bonnie Lewkowicz, Founding Member
AXIS Dance Company

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US



ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT

*Deaf and Disability Inclusion **NEEDS TO START AT THE TOP** with the Board and Executive Staff.*

Include the entire staff and all volunteers.

Without this buy-in from everyone in your organization your efforts will fall flat.

ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS

- Partner with a Disability Organization
- Engage deaf and disabled people as advisors
- Conduct Surveys & Focus Groups for deaf & disabled constituents
- Create a Deaf & Disability Advisory Council
- Conduct an Access and Inclusion Assessment
- Write an Equity Statement that Includes Deaf and Disabled People
- Create an Access and Inclusion Mission & Vision Statement
- Share this Statement with your Community through Multiple Channels
- Conduct Initial Staff Trainings & then Institute Regular Trainings
- Designate a Staff Member or Create an Access & Inclusion Position to Bolster Efforts
- Make a Budget Line Item for Accessibility Accommodation
- Collect demographic information on deaf and disabled constituents

BTW, WHO IS THIS MARKET?

56 million American's (1 in 5) age 5 and older have a disability.

The disability market represents an annual disposable income of \$544 Billion in the U.S. alone. When you include friends and family, this adds another \$3.9 Trillion.

The Global Economics of Disability Report (Fifth Quadrant Analytics)

MAKE YOUR MARKETING COUNT

- Make all your Marketing Efforts Accessible and Relevant!
- Ensure Website Accessibility and Compliance
- Make Accessibility Information Easy to Find on Your Website and Keep it Up to Date

<https://www.flynncenter.org/about-us/accessibility-information.html>

- Show Deaf and Disabled Patrons and Participants in Your Marketing Pieces!!!

PRESENT RELEVANT PROGRAMS

- Present Deaf & Disabled Companies and Artists
- Develop Residencies that have Inclusive Outreach & Engagement Events
- Expand the Range of Accessibility Accommodations for Performances, Outreach & Events
- Present Companies & Artists who Offer Inclusive Outreach

SUPPORTING DEAF & DISABLED ARTISTS

- Be a model of Deaf & Disabled Access & Inclusion
- Provide space
- Mentorships
- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Fellowships
- Residencies
- Present disabled and deaf artists and ensembles as part of regular programming
- Feature your efforts for access and inclusion in your enews, etc

RESOURCES for Organizations

NEA Design for Accessibility -- A Cultural Administrator's Handbook

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Design-for-Accessibility.pdf>

Light for the World – Disability Inclusion Scorecard

<https://lab.light-for-the-world.org/publications/disability-inclusion-score-card/>

British Council Disability Arts International

<http://www.disabilityartsinternational.org/about-us/>

Job Accommodation Network

<https://askjan.org>

Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion

<http://www.askearn.org>

RESOURCES for Organizations

Organizations that are rocking Deaf & Disability Inclusion and Accessibility

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

<https://www.flynncenter.org/about-us/accessibility-information.html>

3Arts

<https://3arts.org/resources/accessibility/>

RESOURCES for Deaf & Disabled Artists

VSArts at the Kennedy Center

<https://education.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/programs/>

[Rosemary Kennedy Initiative](#)

Implement transition opportunities for youth with disabilities, preferably including individuals with intellectual disabilities, ages 15 to 22, in creative careers, arts, arts education, or arts management internships, or pre-professional training programs of 40 or more hours. Serve 5 or more students with disabilities. Must be an arts organization, whose primary mission is cultural, to apply.

DanceNYC

<https://www.dance.nyc/programs/funds/dda>

The purpose of the DDA Fund, made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation, is to generate dance making and performance by and with disabled artists. This activity is intended to advance artistic innovation and excellence—and, by extension, further disability rights.

RESOURCES for Deaf & Disabled Artists

CA Arts Council

<http://www.arts.ca.gov>

<http://www.arts.ca.gov/programs/access.php>

CA Arts Council Arts and Accessibility

Supporting enhanced opportunities for arts participation by people with disabilities.

New Jersey Theatre Alliance

Cultural Access Network Project

www.njtheatrealliance.org/access

Among the Arts Council's highest priorities is ensuring access to the arts for all New Jerseyans. To that end, in 1992, the Council joined with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance to create what is now called the Cultural Access Network to serve organizations and individuals statewide. Since its inception, the Cultural Access Network has been a multifaceted resource for cultural organizations in making their programs and facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities, and in being compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

RESOURCES for Deaf & Disabled Artists

Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

<https://chnfoundation.org/creating-opportunity-and-independence/>

The Creating Opportunity & Independence (CO&I) portfolio supports organizations that provide programs and services that enhance the quality of life for individuals with spinal cord injury. Areas of focus include: assistive technology, education, employment, independent living, rehabilitation, and arts, sports and recreation.

Center for Cultural Innovation

<https://www.cciarts.org>

https://www.cciarts.org/quick_grant.htm

https://www.cciarts.org/cgi/page.cgi/cali_grants.htm

The CALI Accelerator program will award grants of up to \$1,000 to emerging arts professionals affiliated with a nonprofit arts organization, with a priority for those whose perspectives are not well represented by the conventional arts and culture field, to practice their leadership vision and voice. Grants are awarded on a monthly basis throughout the year.

SCI ARTIST-INNOVATOR FUND

Ten to twelve grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded to individual artist-entrepreneurs with spinal cord injuries that meet eligibility criteria for a total of \$75,000 awarded nationally.

RESOURCES for Deaf & Disabled Artists

Christopher Reeve Foundation

<https://www.christopherreeve.org>

Quality of Life Grants

<https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/program-overview>

High Impact Priority Quality of Life

Tier 1 -- The **Direct Effect Quality of Life (Tier 1)** is open-focused and awards grants of up to \$25,000 to support the wide range of projects and activities of the traditional Quality of Life grants. Grants fund specific budget items that will clearly impact individuals living with paralysis and their families. Direct Effect Quality of Life grants are offered twice yearly, in the 1st and 2nd grant cycles.

Tier 4 -- Grants of \$50,000 for Employment

Kessler Foundation

<https://kesslerfoundation.org>

<https://kesslerfoundation.org/grant-programs>

<https://kesslerfoundation.org/what-we-fundcenter-grantmaking/community-employment-grants>

Enabling New Jersey organizations to support, train and place people with disabilities in competitive-integrated-employment. Foundation grants support a wide array of programs including transition-to-work for youth and adults, employment-related transportation solutions, vocational training, workplace preparation, and strategies to support recruitment, hiring, placement, and retention.

***THANK YOU!!! For advancing equity,
access and inclusion of people who
are deaf & disabled.***

Keep up the great work.

CONTACT



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***Working to Advance Equity
for People with Disabilities***