Accessibility Policy

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About the ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that persons with disabilities have access to public programs for services on an equal basis with the rest of the general public. Furthermore, federal law mandates that any program or service that receives federal or state funding must be accessible to persons with disabilities. The NAC is committed to ensuring that the programs and services we fund are accessible to persons with disabilities, including those with visual, hearing, mobility and learning impairments.

The U.S. Department of Justice provides free Americans with Disabilities Act materials online (www.ada.org). Printed materials may be ordered by calling the ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TDD).

- Downloadable Handbooks
The National Endowment for the Arts has several handbooks and other resources available regarding accessibility.

Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook is an excellent resource for artists and administrators alike. You can download either the whole handbook or individual chapters. (www.arts.gov/publications/design-accessibility-cultural-administrators-handbook)

The Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators is an online companion to the above printed text. 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 your organization not only comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but also assist in making access an integral part of your 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 sectors. (arts.gov/accessibility/accessibility-resources/publications-checklists/accessibility-planning-and-resource)

The Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design is an excellent resource tool for those interested in learning more about accessibility and museum exhibition design. (www.si.edu/FAQs/Access)

NAC Accessibility Policy
All events funded by the Nebraska Arts Council must be accessible to persons with disabilities, including those with visual, hearing, mobility and learning impairments.

- NAC Accessibility Checklist
  The Accessibility Checklist is a part of every online NAC grant application. This checklist provides verification that our funds are supporting fully accessible projects and programs, and it also helps grantee organizations identify ways of improving their services to patrons with disabilities. The costs of hiring sign language interpreters, producing large-print materials, and providing a variety of other accommodations for persons with disabilities can be subsidized with NAC grant funds.

- Obtaining Interpreters for the Deaf
  To obtain a qualified interpreter for the deaf, contact the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (www.ncdhh.ne.gov) at 402-471-3593 (Lincoln) or 402-595-3991 (Omaha). Valuable information can also be found at the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (www.rid.org).

- ADA Access Plan
  The NAC encourages all organizations to have an ADA Access Plan. If your organization does not have one in place, one of the first steps to take is to organize an Access Advisory Committee. The committee should include persons with disabilities and service providers to persons with disabilities. These individuals can provide insight into the extent and scope of accessibility concerns, and make suggestions for improved outreach. The recommendations of the advisory committee should be used in conjunction with ADA policy development and a survey of your organization's facilities to complete an ADA Access Plan. The NAC has examples of Access Plans available. Ideally, your organization's ADA Access Plan should include the following:
  - A policy statement regarding accessibility and a brief description of how the policy was developed
  - The ways in which facilities, programs and services are currently accessible to persons with disabilities
  - Accessibility goals yet to be addressed
  - A timeline and budget of action steps to accomplish the organization's accessibility goals

Other sources of ADA information can be obtained at the *National Endowment for the Arts office for Accessibility* (arts.gov/accessibility/accessibility-resources).

For more information contact Robin Richards, Accessibility Coordinator, at 402-595-3934 or email robin.richards@nebraska.gov.