

Accessibility Training Topics

VSA Minnesota can present trainings for staff, board or volunteers for arts organizations on a variety of topics. Including persons with various disabilities in these trainings will bring in their consumer-oriented expertise and experience. Here are some examples:

1. **General Accessibility Training** to help an arts organization be more welcoming to people with disabilities – good for Volunteers, Ushers, Box Office Staff, etc.
2. **A Blind Guy Walks into a Board Room** – access issues for a board of directors.
3. **A Blind Guy Walks into a Theatre** – access issues for a performing group/venue.
4. **Finding, Developing and Serving a New Audience** – learn how patrons with disabilities participate in the arts and what accommodations improve their experiences. Can include disability etiquette, customer service practices, connections with disability agencies, social service organizations, group homes, senior centers and media to help reach and develop ongoing new relationships (and sell tickets).
5. **Creating an Arts Access Plan** – a hands-on work session to help an arts organization/venue draft strategies and policies to be more successful in involving people with disabilities. Examine current accessibility strengths and weaknesses, discuss actual challenges you face, search for practical solutions, and begin to draft (or update or modify from a template) an Access Plan for your board to consider.
6. **Access Guide Site Survey** – take a hands-on survey/tour of your facility using one or more accessibility survey instruments (can combine with #5).
7. **Disability Language and Etiquette** – alternatives to “handicapped,” etc.
8. **Online Ticketing** – A PowerPoint show developed by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts shows how to comply with the 2011 ADA regulations.
9. **Lights, Sound, Action, Roll ‘Em!** – How Captioning, Audio Description, ASL Interpreting and Assistive Listening can attract patrons with vision/hearing loss.
10. **The Access Investment** – costs for interpreters, assistive listening system, automatic door opener, lifts/elevators, Braille playbills... – and how to find the \$\$\$.
11. **Do Your Own Captioning** – using free software and our free caption display.
12. **See Me Hear Me** – a short readers theatre play demonstrating access issues.
13. **Website accessibility** – non-techie ways to make your website friendlier.
14. The role of an **Accessibility Coordinator** for a nonprofit organization.
15. Other topics geared to individual needs.

VSA Minnesota is a statewide, nonprofit organization founded in 1986 to create a community where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in, and access the arts. It is an affiliate of VSA, a program of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.