

Accessibility Training Topics & Costs

VSA Minnesota presents trainings for staff, board or volunteers for arts organizations on a variety of topics. Generally our staff does the presenting, but we can include persons with various disabilities and other consultants in these trainings to bring in their consumer-oriented expertise and experience. Here are some examples:

One Hour Presentations

- **A Blind Guy Walks into a Board Room** – access issues for a board of directors.
- **A Blind Guy Walks into a Theatre** – access issues for a performing group/venue.
- **Disability Language and Etiquette** – alternatives to “handicapped,” etc.
- **The Access Investment** – costs for interpreters, assistive listening system, automatic door opener, lifts/elevators, Braille playbills... – and how to find the \$\$\$.
- **See Me Hear Me** – a short readers theatre play demonstrating access issues.
- The role of an **Accessibility Coordinator** for a nonprofit organization.

90 Minute to Two-Hour Presentations/Workshops

- **General Accessibility Training** to help an arts organization be more welcoming to people with disabilities – good for Volunteers, Ushers, Box Office Staff, etc.
- **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).
- **Online Ticketing** – A PowerPoint show developed by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts shows how to comply with the 2011 ADA regulations.
- **Lights, Sound, Action, Roll ‘Em!** – How Captioning, Audio Description, ASL Interpreting and Assistive Listening can attract patrons with vision/hearing loss.
- **Do Your Own Captioning** – using free software and our free caption display.
- **Website accessibility** – non-techie ways to make your website friendlier.

Three Hour Presentation/Workshops

- **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.
- **Access Guide Site Survey** – take a hands-on survey/tour of your facility using one or more accessibility survey instruments (can combine with Creating an Arts Access Plan).

Other topics may be geared to individual needs.

Costs

\$75/hour for each hour of presentation by VSA Minnesota staff member

\$50/hour for each hour of presentation by artist or community member with a disability joining a VSA Minnesota staff member as part of the presentation

\$25/hour for any time of travel that exceeds one-hour round trip

\$.54/mile, mileage reimbursement



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.

Any and all of the activities proposed above are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



VSA Minnesota Contact Information:

Office: 528 Hennepin Avenue #305 (at Cowles Center for Dance & Performing Arts)
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Phone: 612-332-3888, toll-free 800-801-3883, Fax/Phone 612-305-0132

Email: access@vsamn.org or info@vsamn.org

Website: <http://www.vsamn.org>

Accessible Arts Calendar: <http://vsamn.org/community/calendar/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VSA-Minnesota-127503623931963/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ASL-Interpreted-and-Captioned-Performances-Across-Minnesota-257263087700814/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Audio-Description-Across-Minnesota-202035772468/>

Executive Director: Craig Dunn, craig@vsamn.org

Access & Grants Coordinator: Jon Skaalen, jon@vsamn.org

Exhibit Coordinator: Halle O'Falvey, exhibitions@vsamn.org

Hours: generally open 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM