New Mexico Arts Accessibility Resources List

This resource list is intended to help New Mexico Arts grantees find and utilize information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and accessibility within the arts. Resources listed here represent only a small selection of the information and resources available regarding arts accessibility. We encourage you to explore the information and contact New Mexico Arts Accessibility Coordinator Lilli Tichinin with any questions.

To request a large-print version or other alternate format of this list please contact Lilli Tichinin.

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By Resource Type

Checklists & Tip Sheets

- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Brief Accessibility Checklist
  "…user-friendly tool for your confidential use to assist you in making your organization and project inclusive and available to everyone." Includes links to additional resources within checklist."

- Section 504 Self-Evaluation Workbook
  "This Program Evaluation Workbook is designed to assist…in evaluating the current state of accessibility of programs and activities to disabled visitors and employees." The Workbook is designed to be used in conjunction with Design For Accessibility, A Cultural Administrator's Handbook.

- New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fact Sheets
  Including "How to Find a Signed Language Interpreter" and "Realtime Captioning Resources."

- Accessibility TipSheet: Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources for Students with Disabilities

- **Disability Language**
  Poetry Out Loud: Communicating and Interacting with People with Disabilities
  Please note that changes in acceptable terminology do occur and language preferences can differ between disability communities and among individuals. "There are two main types of language used to refer [to] disability: person-first language and what is known as identity-first language (IFL)."[1]
  There are many available guides for person first-language including the Poetry Out Loud guide linked to above. We encourage you to read more about the distinctions between and uses of person-first and identity-first language (links to articles are provided as additional information and are not an endorsement of the ideas and opinions expressed therein):
    - "What Is Identity-First Language, & Should You Use It?" By JR Thorpe
    - "Identity-First Language" by Lydia Brown
    - "Journalists should learn to carefully traverse a variety of disability terminology"
      By Beth Haller, Board Member, National Center on Disability and Journalism

Guidelines & Handbooks

- [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)
  See also: [NEA Tip Sheet on the 2010 Revised Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

- [Smithsonian Publication Guidelines](#)

- [Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook](#)
  "Designed to help organizations not only comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but to assist in making access an integral part of planning, mission, programs, outreach, meetings, budget and staffing."

- [Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators](#)
  A Step-by-Step Guide to Accessible Cultural Programs and Organizations

- [Downloadable Disability Access Symbols](#) (from Graphic Artists Guild)

Trainings, Webinars and Videos

- [New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability](#) (information on trainings offered)

- [ADA BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS: An Online Course about the ADA](#)
  "This introductory web course on the ADA explores the legal requirements and spirit of the ADA."

- [Southwest ADA Center Webinars](#)

- [Planning Accessible Temporary Events](#)

- [AccessibilityOnline Webinar Series](#)
  "AccessibilityOnline represents a collaborative training program between the ADA National Network and the US Access Board…Sessions are held on a monthly basis and cover a variety of topics concerning accessibility to the built environment, information and communication technologies, and transportation."

Resource Lists

- [National Endowment for the Arts Accessibility: Publications, Checklists, & Resources](#)

- [Southwest ADA Center Useful Resources](#)

- [New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Links](#)

- [National Arts and Disability Center Library](#)

- [National Arts and Disability Center Resource List](#)

- [National Endowment for the Arts: Laws and Compliance Standards Resources](#)

- [VSA/Kennedy Center Resources](#)
  The resources listed here provide general information on arts, education, and disability that may be useful to the public.

- [American Council of the Blind Resources](#)

- [Cultural Access Network Project Resource Library](#)

Online, Virtual and Web Accessibility

- [National Endowment for the Arts Accessibility: Resources to Help Ensure Accessibility of Your Virtual Events for People with Disabilities](#)

- [World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)](#)
  "The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) develops strategies, guidelines, and resources to help make the Web accessible to people with disabilities."

- [WebAIM Website Accessibility](#)

- [WebAIM WAVE Accessibility Tool](#)

- [Usability.gov: Accessibility](#)
  Usability.gov is the leading resource for user experience (UX) best practices and guidelines, serving practitioners and students in the government and private sectors.

- [Section508.gov](#)

- [American Federation for the Blind's Social Media Accessibility Guidelines](#)

- **Writing Alt Text**
  Include a visual description of the images to be used for Alt Text. This is not the same as a photo caption. Additionally, if there are words in your image please transcribe the text. These are important accessibility features for social media users who are blind or have low vision. For some tips on best practices see examples from these resources:
  - [Perkins School for the Blind: How to Write Alt Text and Image Descriptions for Instagram](#)
  - [Phase2: The Definitive Guide To The Alt-Text Field](#)

Statewide Resources

- [New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability](#)
  "The New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is committed to improving the quality of life of all New Mexicans with disabilities by addressing social integration, economic self-sufficiency, political resolve, physical and program accessibility, and full participation in the benefits of life and rights of all individuals."

- [New Mexico Commission For The Blind](#)
  "Our mission is to enable persons who are blind to achieve vocational, economic and social equality by providing career preparation, training in the skills of blindness and above all, promoting and conveying the belief that blindness is not a barrier to successful employment, or to living an independent and meaningful life."

- [New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)
  "Providing effective leadership, education, advocacy and programs to reduce barriers to the social, economic, educational, cultural and intellectual well-being of Deaf and Hard of Hearing New Mexicans and their families, friends and colleagues."

- [Disability Rights New Mexico](#)

"Disability Rights New Mexico - DRNM - is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, promote and expand the rights of persons with disabilities. We are the designated protection and advocacy program for New Mexico, and as such we have authority under federal law to pursue legal, administrative and other remedies on behalf of persons with disabilities."

- New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
"The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council will promote advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families."

Regional Resources

- Southwest ADA Center
"The Southwest ADA Center is the Southwest's leading resource on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability rights laws. The Center is part of the ADA National Network funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)."

National Resources

- U.S. Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
"Information and Technical Assistance of the Americans with Disabilities Act"

- National Endowment for the Arts Office of Accessibility
"The advocacy-technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment to make the arts accessible for people with disabilities, older adults, veterans, and people living in institutions."

- The Kennedy Center: VSA and Accessibility Office
"VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded more than 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and increase access to the arts for all."

- [National Arts and Disability Center (NADC)](#)
  "The NADC is a leading consultant in the arts and disability community, and the only center of its kind. Recipients of our technical assistance include artists with disabilities, performing arts organizations, art centers, universities and colleges, disability specific groups, and arts administrators."

- [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.](#)
  Includes searchable database of interpreters.

- [United States Access Board](#)
  "The U.S. Access Board is a federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards for the built environment, transportation, communication, medical diagnostic equipment, and information technology."