

DISABILITY. DANCE. ARTISTRY.

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DISABILITY. DANCE. ARTISTRY. RESOURCES

Last Updated 11/01/2024

The following represent those service organizations and government entities that provide useful resources at the intersection of disability and dance in the New York City metropolitan area as identified by Dance/NYC and/or its [Disability. Dance. Artistry. Task Force](#). This list is not comprehensive, and Dance/NYC welcomes information about additional resources. Please e-mail programsassistant@dance.nyc with suggestions.

You can find additional [resources around accessibility and disability justice](#) in our DWR Resource Library.

Service Providers

[Art Beyond Sight](#)

Art Beyond Sight (ABS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to using art as a vehicle for education and personal enjoyment among people with visual impairments and other disabilities. Among its activities, ABS offers free resources to promote engagement of disabled people in the arts. Examples include the Project Access Database, which provides information on accessibility features for cultural institutions; tip sheets, FAQs, training materials, and other tools for cultural institutions to use in their inclusion initiatives; and materials highlighting Awareness Month. Special projects for disabled audiences include New York Beyond Sight, which features verbal descriptions by prominent New Yorkers (including leaders in the dance community) of their favorite works of art and culture, architecture, and city landmarks; and the Art History through Touch and Sound Series, a multisensory approach to the history of visual art.

[Disability/Arts/NYC Task Force](#)

The Disability/Arts/NYC Task Force (DANT) was an arts advocacy organization committed to fostering disability artistry in New York City. They had two primary goals: to shape a disability arts platform for NYC, and to bring greater cohesiveness and support to the disabled artists working in NYC. DANT was formed around a unique moment for disability arts and artistry. It witnessed bold artwork across genres and disciplines that take up disability as a profound aesthetic and analytic value. And yet, there are persistent obstacles that limit the possibilities for disabled artists and disability artistry. A history of DANT's work and its outcomes and challenges can be found in DANT's report: [Disability Equity in NYC's Arts and Culture Landscape](#).

[Museum Access Consortium](#)

Museum Access Consortium (MAC) is a volunteer-based association that brings together cultural practitioners, people with disabilities, and disability advocates to share experiences, learn from one another, and refine best practices with the aim of advancing accessibility and inclusion in cultural facilities of all types in the New York metro area. MAC hosts professional development workshops to address the isolation staff may experience at their home institutions and seeks to respond to and engage cultural professionals from museums, theaters and libraries at all levels. MAC's website features a [cultural calendar](#) with accessible events and a [resources section](#) for training and best practices.

[Theatre Development Fund](#)

Theatre Development Fund's (TDF) twofold mission is to identify and provide support, including financial assistance, to theatrical works of artistic merit and to encourage and enable diverse audiences to attend live theatre and dance in all their venues. For disabled theatergoers, it offers a TDF Accessibility Program (TAP) membership, with specific [Autism](#), [Hearing Loss](#), [Vision Loss](#), and [Physical Mobility Programs](#). For presenters, it offers both a [National Open Captioning Initiative](#) and [Accessibility Grants](#) for events that are being made available to the public in New York State. [Access for Young Audiences](#) is a program for elementary and secondary school students in the tristate area, offering them the opportunity to attend accessible Broadway performances.

[Circle O](#)

Through performance, education, consulting and community spaces, Circle O reimagines a dance world where Black Disabled and other multiply marginalized creatives are central and every body is worthy of care.

[Sins Invalid](#)

Sins Invalid is a disability justice based performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and LGBTQ / gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized. In addition to performance work and educational resources, Sins Invalid offers creative and political education workshops for organizations.

[Tess Dworman - Audio Description](#)

Tess Dworman provides audio description for live performance, film, television, architecture, and visual art and consulting services for artists looking to integrate AD into their work.

[Sign Nexus](#)

Sign Nexus offers CART captioning and Sign Language interpretation services for live events, including service providers specializing in the performing arts.

Notable national service providers addressing the intersection of disability and the arts include [National Arts And Disability Center/Tarjan Center at UCLA](#), [National Dance Education Organization](#), and [VSA Arts](#), whose New York affiliate, [Marquis Studios](#), offers dance education programs for disabled children. Dance/NYC works in alliance with [Dance/USA](#), the national service organization for professional dance.

Government

New York City:

[Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities](#)

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities works hand in hand with other city agencies to ensure that the voice of the community is heard, and that City programs and policies address the needs of disabled people. Its website offers directories detailing programs, services, activities, and other resources that are accessible to disabled people.

[New York City Department of Education](#)

The Department of Education and its Office of Arts and Special Projects provide New York City public school communities—students, teachers, school leaders and parents—with information to support arts education. Resources include regularly published research, such as the [NYC Schools Survey](#) and [Annual Arts In School Report](#); [Arts & Cultural Education Services \(ACES\) Guide](#) to provide New York City's public school teachers, administrators, and school leaders access to the education programs of New York City's dance and cultural community; and the [Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance](#), a resource for dance teachers and other educators, which includes an appendix on students with disabilities.

State:

[New York State Council on the Arts](#)

The New York State Council on the Arts offers accessibility resources links to City, State, and Federal agencies, including ADA/general resources and architectural resources/physical access.

[New Jersey State Council on the Arts/New Jersey Theatre Alliance](#)

In partnership with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the New Jersey Council on the Arts, created The Cultural Access Network Project (CANP), the Cultural Access Network Project (CANP), established in 1992, to assist all of New Jersey's cultural arts organizations in making their programs and facilities accessible to seniors and individuals with disabilities in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The CANP offers the field tools and resources in developing ADA plans; a wide range of technical assistance opportunities such as sensitivity training and marketing guidance; and equipment loans, referrals, and grant opportunities to assist institutions in maintaining ADA compliance.

Federal:

[National Endowment for the Arts](#)

The National Endowment for the Arts' Office of Accessibility is the advocacy-technical assistance arm of the NEA to make the arts accessible. It maintains extensive [accessibility resources](#), including publications and checklists, information about laws and compliance standards, and details on leadership initiatives. The NEA's [Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook](#) (2003) and companion piece, [Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators](#), provide guidance to cultural administrators on how to achieve accessible and inclusive programming.

Technology

Dance/NYC strives to make website content and features accessible to all users. The Dance/NYC website has implemented standards and best practices to assist users (blind, low-vision, deaf, hard of hearing, and/or those with other disabilities) in accessing and contributing website content. These standards are detailed in two easy-to-use guides on web accessibility: one on [how to access content and features on Dance.NYC](#), and one on [how to create accessible listings as a Dance.NYC registered user](#). Both resources are specific to Dance.NYC, but provide useful tips and best practices that we encourage our peer organizations to adopt and utilize.

Event Accessibility and Venue Evaluation

Dance/NYC strives to create spaces that allow the full and equitable participation of disabled persons at all convening and events. Dance/NYC has implemented standards and best practices for event preparation and production. These practices are detailed in two guides: one on [event accessibility](#), and one to conduct a [self-evaluation of venue accessibility](#). Both resources are specific to Dance/NYC, but provide useful tips and best practices that we encourage our peer organizations to adopt and utilize.