

Examples of Arts Organizations Funded by the NADC



Audio Description (AD): AD involves the accessibility of the visual images of theater, television, movies and other art forms for people who are blind, have low vision, or are visually impaired. AD is a narration service that attempts to describe what the sighted person may take for granted such as the images that a person who is blind or visually impaired formerly could only experience through the whispered asides from a sighted companion.

Audio description of video provides information about the actions, characters, scene changes, on-screen text, and other visual content. Audio description for movies supplements the regular audio track of the program. Audio description is also called “video description” and “description narration”. (<https://acb.org/adp/ad.html#what>)

AXIS Dance Company (2018) provided ASL and Audio Description for the Radical Impact Tour performances at ZSPACE in San Francisco, AXIS’ 31 Home Season Performances and annual Dance Access Day (4) free performances for youth in Oakland, CA. AXIS launched an accessibility pre-show experience with AD at ZSPACE.

Lighthouse for the Blind (2018) supported the cost of Audio Description for six films screened at the 2018 Superfest Disability Film Festival in October 2018. Superfest provided additional access services including large print and braille materials, ASL interpreters and live captioning.



American Sign Language (ASL): ASL is a visual language. With signing, the brain processes linguistic information through the eyes. The shape, placement, and movement of the hands, facial expressions and body movements, all play important parts in conveying information. Sign language is not a universal language, each country has its own sign language and regions have dialects like many languages spoken all of the world. (<https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/what-is-american-sign-language/>)

CounterPulse (2018) hired 4 ASL interpreters for the production of Antoine Hunter’s DEAF’s Imprisoned, an interdisciplinary work of choreography, sign language, and multimedia. The piece paralleled deaf inmates’ experiences in prison with deaf people’s experience in a dominantly hearing world to expose the isolation and deprivation in deaf people’s daily lives. Ten artists with disabilities were hired to be part of the event.

Film Independent Company (2018) offered ASL interpreters for the panels and keynote conversation for *We the People* at the LA Film Festival and to create accessible marketing materials. Funding for accessibility services for *We the People* inspired the LA Film Festival to provide accessibility services on a case-by-case basis for artists participating in the Artist Development programs, and to provide ASL interpretation at Opening and Closing Night of the Festival.



We have provided accessibility services on a case-by-case basis for artists participating in our Artist Development programs, but we have never secured funding previously to expand accessibility for audiences beyond partnering with venues that are ADA compliant and physically accessible. We were thrilled to receive this grant and offer this support to our audiences.”

Rock Paper Scissors Collective (2018) provided ASL interpreters and Support Service Providers (SSP) during two mixed media collage workshops for deaf and deafblind artists, and at the opening receptions of the Mixed Media Collage exhibit. Deaf artists had ASL interpreters to converse with hearing viewers, while deafblind artists had SSPs to keep them oriented and facilitate communication with both Deaf and hearing attendees.



TOUCH MATERIALS VISUAL DESCRIPTION

incorporates tactile objects and materials in order to provide an understanding of the different styles and materials used by the artist. A tactile exhibit provides an opportunity for the visitor to touch the artwork in order to feel and interpret what they cannot see.

(<https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/please-touch-objects-tactile-models-and-alternative-approaches-curation>)

The Main Museum (2018) added accessible services to the exhibition Milton Davis and Vickie Uyeda: Common Ground, an exhibition featuring two artists with developmental disabilities. Access services included touch materials to accompany a visual description tour (the tour was

recorded in both English and Spanish and available online and printed onsite), additional accessibility on the website, and printing of text transcriptions for visual description tour. All of the works in the show were created during the artists' time working with the adult art program at the Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF), a local nonprofit dedicated to creating artistic opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Closed Captioning gives deaf and hard of hearing people access to live performances and screenings. Captioning converts the spoken word into text, that is then displayed on one or more caption units situated on, above or next to the stage. The captions include the name of the character who is speaking or singing, and descriptions of sound effects and safety announcements. (<http://adiarts.ie/audiences/access-the-arts/open-captioning/>)

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired (2018) added audio description to 5 films and closed captioning to one film. This allowed the filmmakers who did not have the budget to add audio and closed captioning to their films. All of the films screened at Superfest are shown with audio description for people who are blind or have low vision.

ACCESS CONSULTANT is a special consultant who is trained to identify accessibility issues and advise you of your legal obligations. The consultant assesses your venue or project and will offer practical advice and the steps you need to take to overcome disability access issues in your workplace, organization or project.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) (2018) hired an access consultant with a disability to help them to design a training session for staff, along the lines of "How to work with visitors with disabilities in an arts setting." The training covered working with a variety of visitors in gallery, film, and performing arts settings. It also covered education about all different types of disabilities, and offered role playing opportunities for docents to learn how to interact with individuals with disabilities. YBCA plans to produce a training document so that all new staff who come on board receive a similar level of training.