



We Are Listening - Accessibility and Veterans Programs

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SnJAsVc9

Notes

With many county arts councils operating in buildings of historic nature - challenge is greater for them than others. How do we achieve this? What are our resources?

Blind community - museums are problematic - if you plan ahead you can get a guided tour - no braille - no exhibits that are tactile that can be touched. How do we ensure museums are responsive to the needs of the blind community? How do we change this?

National Federation of the Blind has compiled email lists that are focused on visual arts and tactile arts - how can we share this with museums/share with them the programs of our local museums to create greater buy in from all?

How can the general art community reach out to the disability community - experience could be made much fuller on a multi-sensory platform - involving touch, sound scape - can attract a much broader audience not just disabled with this interesting work...

*Newseum hosting an exhibit by John Olson who is a Veteran and now a photographer - multi sensory exhibit of photographs - has a voice component, braille, etc. 3D panels mounted. Photograph panels mounted.

Where are the resources to make accessibility a reality? What is available on a local level?
Where are statewide resources?

We need handicapped accessible bathrooms.

How do we get a ramp in front of our building?

We need Lift/Elevator for access for artists that need access in buildings.

Example: Music at Penn Alps - they use an old restaurant that has a upstairs great hall that is not accessible - local arts council would not fund until they moved to a space that was appropriate and met the needs of all.

Kent County Arts Council is planning a program as part of a festival to commemorate the first slaves arriving in North America at a historically black church and had to raise private funds to build a temporary ramp, as there was not one in place at the church - this is an issue that is likely statewide.

Many arts organizations unsure of population that they are actually dealing with - how can this be researched and disseminated?

Are museums interested in making their permanent collection accessible? - inform them that these challenges exist.

Challenge a museum with an afternoon where touching is allowed - this is taboo with the museum community but would be an important step.

Promote that blind people CAN experience art - promote collaborations with artists with disabilities

Help teachers understand how to integrate what they are teaching in arts classes among all students and don't discount students with disabilities and have them do something else (example of students working with trash to do tactile work)

HAPTICS is an emerging technology that could help with the problem of not being able to touch the art

Bring mainstream/non-disabled kids/people to people with disabilities - integrating the experience somewhere.

There is tremendous overlap between the accessibility topics and Veterans - invest in some of the latest technologies/portable architectural structures - lending resources to grantees - training in the use of them as well - could there be a center for all of this to live? A physical space?

How can we support artists with disabilities and better encourage involvement?

Could we develop an arts center specifically for artists with disabilities or drop in art classes - exhibits of art that comes out of the center - hub of all things accessibility?

Need to study the senses - not just people who lack a sense but for general public to experience sensations in a different way - reciprocal

Who are we reaching? How are we reaching them? Get them at an earlier age.

Final thoughts - WEBSITE NEEDS SOME WORK - we are aware of that; could there be a demonstration center where there would be resources in innovative technology, could view experts at work, hub for different services that are part of the access equation? Think access to material, access to space, access to building, access geographically ...

Hospital Audiences Inc. in NYC - now defunct - would take Veterans to go to the parade, musical events, etc. - mobile units - could we provide this for Marylanders?

Try to break down silos of people working on programs for Veterans - working smarter not harder TOGETHER.

County Arts Councils could be the connecting thread in identifying these communities in their counties.

Where do the Veterans go after they finish their Art Therapy?

Everyone receiving money from the State should be at the table for conversations like this.

Example: We know we have a Veteran community in Kent County because of American Legion Hall and Next Generation Veterans, etc. - need to work on identifying them

Creative Forces Initiative -

*PILOT REQUEST - MSAC begins to work with artists and arts organizations that surround Walter Reed campus so that there is a connection between the arts therapists and the veteran community leaving the arts therapy environment - how is community ready to receive them?

We pilot a program in Montgomery County and then replicate it across the state - Veterans living and working in communities across our state

MSAC has identified - the State has many arts orgs and artists who are interested in this work but need training; training model for arts organizations and artists for working with vets that will make a smooth transition

*HOW DO WE GET MESSAGING OUT? It would come with some sort of endorsement from the arts council and live on our Rosters as being able to work with the veteran community; County Arts Councils list, grantee list, etc.

Should it pilot in Montgomery County? - ratio of veterans leaving Walter Reed and actually living in Montgomery County - it is the best funded county - could resources be better spent in a rural community where more veterans likely come from? For the purposes of this project and funding, Walter Reed will be the pilot location.

Training will be on different levels - specific to groups of veterans and their challenges.

Ideal situation is that we move forward on both fronts simultaneously - we could be developing the program with the money through the National Endowment for the Arts for Montgomery County as we are developing for statewide.

Arts Council involvement will not be in realm of art therapy - we will train community arts organizations and artists to clarify and elevate their work with to be able to work with veterans.

Suggestion: Scouts need service hours in middle and high school - some partnership on this to facilitate message could be possible?

Veterans who are artists - have them a part of the training.