



Extraordinary
Bodies

How to Grow Your Welcome!



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Donations to Extraordinary Bodies are administered by Diverse City, charity number 1176855, VAT number 399994981



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A presentation on how to improve access in rural touring venues.

Part of the Circus Around and About Project 2024
by Take Art, Extraordinary Bodies and Crying Out Loud



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Why Grow Your Welcome?

- Reach new audiences, volunteers, artists
- Explain your offer better to everyone
- Give people choice about places, spaces, shows
- Make your event better for everyone



Image ©Joe Clarke





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Who is missing?

Who always comes?

Who never comes?

Who do you know that faces obstacles to
coming?

Who can you think of that might not feel
welcome?





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The Social Model of Disability

insert image from "Photos" in the
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and box



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What barriers limit people feeling welcome?

- Finance
- Environment
- Communication
- Attitude
- Language
- Understanding



How do we identify barriers?

We can review:

- Place
- People
- Policies
- Procedures

This is what an 'access audit' or access assessment' is.



Finding barriers

Things you may want to think about:

The flooring / ground / surfaces

Parking

Seating

Entranceways, doorways, steps/lift access

Lighting

Sound / background noise

Toilet facilities

Signage

Distances between facilities e.g. to car park, to toilets

Staff / volunteer training

Public transport links

Sight-lines

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and box



Barriers

Physical barriers

May mean more difficult way into, or movement in spaces

Mitigations

Install (mobile) ramps or handrails

Widen aisles,

Open double doors to narrow doorways

Lower counters or tables and provide a step

Remove obstacles on routes through spaces

Have access champions





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And as you can see,



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Barriers

Sensory barriers:

May mean difficulty in sensory processing

Sensitivity to loud noises

Sensitivity bright light

Mitigations:

Pre-warn about any sensory impacts

Reduce volume, dim lighting

Provide a Chill Out Space





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or a quiet room for people,

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Barriers

Cognitive barriers:

May lead to difficulty understanding
instructions
directions
or signage

Mitigation:

Simplify language
Avoid jargon
Provide Easy Read





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Barriers

Language barriers:

May mean slow or disrupted communication

Mitigation

Spoken language interpreters

British Sign Language interpreters

Offer translated materials and programmes





Barriers

Environmental barriers:

May mean difficulty navigating a space or feeling comfortable in it

Mitigation:

Add more lighting if underpowered

Reduce noise levels

Provide variety of seating options eg seats with/ without arms, beanbags, floor mats

Allowing time before the show for people to orientate themselves in the space



Barriers

Time:

May mean needing more time to enter or leave spaces, access toilets, refreshments or other facilities

Mitigation:

Allow more time

- between opening space and start of event
- between end of event/ performance and closing space

Brief Ushers/volunteers to avoid rushing



Credits

Training Content Created by Kate McStraw, Access Consultant
www.katemcstraw.com

Videos featuring Abi Hill
Audio Description by Sophia Knox Miller

Circus Around and About 2 is a partnership between Take Art, Crying Out Loud and Extraordinary Bodies



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