

Inclusive Performing Arts Accessibility Policy for Inclusive Performing Arts Festival

At Inclusive Performing Arts we are committed to creating a fully inclusive environment where everyone can participate in and enjoy the arts. This Accessibility Policy outlines the measures we have taken to ensure that all aspects of our festival – from the venue to the performances – are accessible for individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

1. Commitment to Accessibility

We believe that everyone, regardless of their background or ability, should have equal access to the arts. We are dedicated to providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all attendees, performers, and staff. Our festival is designed to ensure that all visitors, including those with SEND, have the opportunity to fully participate in and enjoy the event.

2. Venue Accessibility

We have taken steps to make sure that the venue is accessible to all guests, performers, and staff:

- **Physical Access:** The venue is wheelchair accessible, including entrances, seating areas, and restrooms.
- **Wheelchair Accessible Parking:** Designated accessible parking spaces are available near the venue entrance.
- **Elevators and Ramps:** The venue includes ramps and/or elevators for easy access to all levels and spaces, including the performance area.
- **Seating:** We provide flexible seating arrangements to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility devices. For those who prefer seated options, reserved seating will be available.

3. Inclusive Programming

We aim to create performances that are accessible and inclusive for all attendees:

- **Sign Language Interpretation:** We offer sign language interpreters for specific performances or workshops upon request.
- **Relaxed Performances:** Several performances will be designated as ‘relaxed’ to create a low-sensory environment. These performances are designed for people with autism or other sensory sensitivities and will include lowered lighting, reduced sound levels, and a more flexible audience environment.
- **Accessible Materials:** Programs, schedules, and any printed materials related to the festival will be available in accessible formats, such as large print or digital versions. Please contact us if you require a specific format.

4. Support for Individuals with SEND

We understand that individuals with SEND may require additional support to fully participate in the festival. Our staff will work with you to provide any accommodations you may need, such as:

- **Assistance with Navigation:** Volunteers will be available to help guide individuals with SEND throughout the venue and festival grounds, ensuring a safe and comfortable experience.
- **Quiet Zones:** Quiet, sensory-friendly spaces will be available throughout the venue for individuals who may need a break from the hustle and bustle of the festival.
- **Personal Assistant Passes:** Individuals who require a personal assistant to attend the event are welcome to bring one free of charge. Please let us know when booking your tickets.
- **Specialist toilet facilities:** Mobiloo Changing Places toilet facilities provided in addition to disabled toilet facilities provided at the venue.

5. Communication Support

We recognize that communication can take many different forms, and we aim to accommodate the diverse needs of our visitors:

- **Alternative Formats:** We will provide any event materials, including the festival program and information about performances, in formats such as braille, large print, or electronic documents.
- **Hearing Impairments:** For attendees with hearing impairments, we will provide assistive listening devices and captioning for all performances.
- **Staff Training:** All staff members are trained to assist visitors with a range of SEND needs. Staff will be available to provide support during the festival and will respond sensitively and respectfully to all requests.

6. Outdoor Space Accessibility

In addition to the indoor theatre, we also have outdoor spaces for performances, workshops, and relaxation areas. The outdoor space is fully accessible, with:

- **Accessible Pathways:** Clearly marked paths are available for those using wheelchairs or other mobility devices.
- **Seating Areas:** Outdoor seating is available with easy access for individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Shade and Shelter:** Covered areas are available in case of inclement weather to ensure the comfort and safety of all attendees.

7. Sensory Considerations

We understand that festivals can sometimes be overwhelming, especially for individuals with sensory sensitivities. To ensure a more comfortable experience for all:

- **Sensory-Friendly Zones:** Designated quiet zones are available throughout the venue, including areas where guests can relax and take breaks.
- **Low-Sensory Performances:** Certain performances will feature lower lighting, softer sounds, and the ability for audiences to move freely, making the festival more accessible to people with autism and other sensory sensitivities.

8. Feedback and Continuous Improvement

Your feedback is vital to helping us improve the accessibility of future events. If you have any suggestions, requests, or concerns during the festival, please feel free to speak with a member of our team, who will be available to assist you.

- **Contact Us:** For any specific accessibility requirements or inquiries, please contact us before the event at inclusiveperformingarts@gmail.com. We encourage early communication so we can ensure that your needs are fully met.