



## 2021-2022 ARTS LEARNING COMMUNITY for Universal Access

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County are partnering for a sixth year to offer a yearlong arts learning community that uses a collaborative approach to advocating for and improving access to the arts for people with disabilities. Up to sixteen representatives of Raleigh and Wake County organizations will be selected to participate in this program (maximum 2 representatives/organization).

The Arts Learning Community kicks off the week of July 26 with *The Art of Access* – a multi-week speaker series that explores integrating accessibility into artistic programming from inception – and then three learning sessions with Arts Access to discuss accessible programming, marketing, and organizational culture. Learning Community members will also:

- Attend a virtual welcome convening on Wednesday, August 4 from 11:30am-1pm;
- meet every month in facilitated virtual sessions to share lessons learned, discuss issues and achievements in their accessibility work, and explore accessibility topics of mutual interest to the group (attendance at eight meetings required);
- identify individual organizational goals/projects to accomplish during the year to increase accessibility for people with disabilities;
- track the number of people with disabilities engaging with their organization as a result of accomplishing the goals/projects; and
- share what they have learned through a group presentation or project for the arts community at large.

### ABOUT THE ART OF ACCESS SPEAKER SERIES

Beginning the week of July 26, *The Art of Access* will focus on innovative ways to create accessible artistic programming by integrating it as part of the program design process. This 4-part, virtual series, curated by disabled artist-activist Chloe Crawford, will include disabled artists and producers who will share their approaches to creating accessible exhibitions and performances in a variety of disciplines and venues. Learning Community members are welcome to invite as many other organizational staff as they like to attend these Zoom sessions.

### ABOUT THE ARTS ACCESS LEARNING SESSIONS

**Dates: August 18; September 1; and September 15**

**Times: 9:30 – 11:00 AM**

Arts Access has created a three-part, virtual learning module that takes participants from basic ADA compliance in their organization to creating programming and organizational culture that embraces the disabled community's mandate "Nothing About Us, Without Us." Learning Community members will attend the three sessions and may invite an additional staff member from their organization to join them for this training as well.

### ELIGIBILITY

To participate in this program, applicants must *be located within Wake County and be a nonprofit exempt from federal and state income tax* as either (1) a charitable organization with 501(c)(3) designation by the Internal Revenue Service with established arts programming or (2) a unit of municipal government.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Deadline:** Applications must be **received** no later than **Friday, July 9 at 4pm.**

Applications may be emailed ([margaret.toomey@raleighnc.gov](mailto:margaret.toomey@raleighnc.gov)), delivered by hand or mailed to the Office of Raleigh Arts, by the deadline.

**Mailing Address & Street Address:**

City of Raleigh - Office of Raleigh Arts  
127 West Hargett Street, Suite 408  
Raleigh, NC 27601

### How to Apply

Eligible groups must submit the following for each proposed participant (max. two) from their organization:

- Completed Arts Learning Community Application Form
- Narrative (two-page maximum) indicating:
  - 1) Brief description of organization's current accessibility accommodations and/or programming
  - 2) Proposed individual's name, job title, and a description of current work duties and experience
  - 3) Criteria used to select this individual
  - 4) Summarize anticipated benefits of participation for proposed individual and organization as a whole

### Evaluation Criteria

Applications that are complete and received by the deadline will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Track record/commitment of applicant organization to making programming accessible for people with disabilities
- Appropriateness of participation by proposed individual in terms of professional responsibilities and prior ADA experience
- Potential impact of the learning community experience on proposed individual and organization going forward as they continue working to improve accessibility in arts programming and accommodations for people with disabilities
- For previous grant recipients, quality of past grant compliance

## NOTIFICATION

Notification of acceptance into the Arts Learning Community will be made by email on **Friday, July 16**. Participants will receive a letter of agreement and additional information the following week.

## QUESTIONS?

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