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Council on the Arts

# NDCA'S ACCESSIBILITY IN THE ARTS CONVENING

September 24, 2020

9:30am to 2:30pm

# Welcome!

- I am so happy to see so many people join us today for NDCA's Accessibility in the Arts online Convening! Today's Convening takes place from 9:30am to 2:30 pm with a 5 min break and a 30-minute (lunch on your own) break. Please feel free to take additional breaks as you need.
- We have ASL interpreters, live closed captioning, and the presenters will describe all images used in the slide and read the relevant text from the screen during their presentation. Thank you to Karen Skow for providing closed captioning services, and to Lindsey Solberg Herble and Renae Bitner for providing the ASL interpretation today. If Lindsey and Renae could wave and say Hi.

# Housekeeping

- You can go to the ASL interpreters video image in the gallery and click on the 3 blue dots in the top right corner of their screen to “pin” the ASL interpreters to your screen if you wish.
- It is recommended that you choose “Speaker View” at the top right-hand side of the screen. Please be courteous of others. If you have a question, please ask it in the Chat section and we will try to respond to you as soon as possible.
- We will be turning off everyone’s microphone and are asking that you keep yourself muted during the presentations to keep everything running smoothly.
- For additional options and to access the links, be sure to click on Participants, and then click on the Chat buttons on the bottom of your screen.

# Thank you for your patience!

- This is NDCA's first Online Accessibility Convening, so I thank you in advance for your patience if everything doesn't go quite as planned today, but we are doing our best and learning along with you.
- An email was sent to everyone who registered with Convening information, additional resources, and links to today's presentations from today's convening. We will also be putting links in the Chat section.

# Presenters

- We have a wonderful line up of speakers today including Tami Ternes, of North Dakota Assistive; Emily Shuman of Rocky Mountain ADA Center; Julie Guidry of Upstream Arts, Inc.; and Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason from the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County.
- We also have a special musical performance by Kimberly Forness-Wilson, an artist and musician.

## Note about Accessibility *(this is copied from the National Endowment for the Arts' blog page)*

- “Words like accessible and accessibility are often used broadly, but they are also very specific terms that empower the disability community. **Physical accessibility** ensures that people with physical disabilities can access the built environment, including museums, galleries, performing arts facilities, film screening venues, schools, etc. **Program accessibility** ensures that arts content and programming is made accessible by providing effective communication through accommodations like sign language interpretation, captioning, audio/visual description, and tactile opportunities.”

# National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- Did you know that [October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)?
- The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.
- Held annually it is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Everyone is encouraged to participate. For specific ideas about how to participate, visit [www.dol.gov/NDEAM](http://www.dol.gov/NDEAM).

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- 2020 Marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA!
- On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law; this landmark civil rights law affirmed the inherent dignity of every person, regardless of disability. This sweeping legislation prohibits discrimination by local and state governments, provides standards for privately owned businesses and commercial facilities, against discrimination in the workplace, and ensures equal access to healthcare, social services, transportation, and telecommunications.

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- In order to share best approaches, the National Endowment for the Arts developed a guide called “[Resources to Help Ensure Accessibility of Your Virtual Events for People with Disabilities.](#)”
- And to celebrate 30 years of the ADA, they also asked a few artists to reflect on what the ADA means to them and to tell their stories. These artists stories are called “[Voices from the Field: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)”
- Links to both the Resource Guide and Voices from the Field are available in the Chat section.

# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- I would like to play a brief video from the National Endowment for the Arts' Chairman Mary Anne Carter wishing the ADA a happy birthday.
- In this video Mary Anne Carter is a blond white woman wearing a white shirt is in front of a white background with the NEA logo on it. Her Twitter handle is displayed as @NEAArtsChair, and her words are closed captioned at the bottom of the screen.
- I hope you enjoy the video. Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to ADA!
- [https://youtu.be/pJ\\_sHCtD8z8](https://youtu.be/pJ_sHCtD8z8)

# Thank you!

- Thank you again for joining us today and I hope you enjoy the Accessibility in the Arts Convening!

# Our first presenter today is Tami Ternes

- Tami is an AT Consultant with North Dakota Assistive, our Accessibility Convening partner. She will talk about North Dakota Assistive services and discuss assistive devices that are available.

# Our second presenter is Emily Shuman

- Emily Shuman is the deputy director of the Rocky Mountain ADA Center (RMADAC). She leads the staff's daily operations including technical assistance calls, regional training coordination, information dissemination and more for the center's six-state region (which includes North Dakota).
- Shuman produces the organization's podcast and manages all of RMADAC's social media outlets and communication programs. Emily is noted across the region and nation as one of the leaders in creating accessible social media content and communications. Emily has a deep passion for empowering and working with businesses and individuals so they can obtain a clear understand of their rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

# Next up we will hear a performance by Kimberly Forness Wilson

- Kimberly Forness Wilson is an award-winning visual artist, singer songwriter, creative programs designer and product developer. She is currently the Director of Arts for Vets a gallery and creative arts programs that is run and developed by veteran's active duty personnel and their families. Kimberly's visual art work is in corporate and private collections throughout the world. She has worked with special populations developing programs that serve those populations by the stakeholders of those populations.

# Lunch on your own

- It's time for lunch!
- Lunch is scheduled from 12 to 12:30pm today, I hope you will all rejoin us after the lunch break – there is lots more to come!

# Welcome back! Our next presenter is Julie Guidry

- Julie has worked in the disability and nonprofit communities since 1997. She is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Upstream Arts, an innovative nonprofit organization which uses the arts to develop the social and communication skills of individuals with disabilities. Founded in 2006, Upstream Arts has rapidly become an emerging, cross-sector leader at the intersection of disability, arts and learning.
- Julie facilitates trainings for social service organizations, schools, districts, and arts organizations on arts based instructional strategies, universal design for learning, access and inclusion.

# Our final presenter of the day is Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason

- Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason is currently the executive director of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County which runs the museum at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, MN. Maureen, along with Sherry and Jesse Shirek, co-founded Arts Access for All, a consortium of arts organizations in Fargo dedicated to increasing accessibility to the arts to people with disabilities. She will talk about their journey together to build the consortium and the work they have achieved since 2013 and will go over some ADA best practices for arts organizations.

# Thank you for joining us today!!

- I hope you enjoyed the Convening and learned some new and helpful information today!
- I especially would like to thank all of the presenters, Kayla for assisting with the tech, Karen and Staci for the closed captioning and Lindsey and Renae for the ASL interpretation!
- We would love to hear from you, so please complete the Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RK2ZGQF> it is also found in the Chat section. We will be sending out an email as well in case you missed it.
- My contact information is [amschmid@nd.gov](mailto:amschmid@nd.gov); or [arts@nd.gov](mailto:arts@nd.gov); our website is [www.arts.nd.gov](http://www.arts.nd.gov).
- Thank you so much for your time today!