

2023 Culture and Community Design Class Program

Full Radius Class Material: Resources



Atlanta Regional Commission

Inclusive Dance Design

Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)

Istd.org

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, a UK-based organization, outlines a variety of specific elements important in the creation of accessible dance spaces. Some such suggestions include:

- Keeping the space distraction-free and uncluttered
- Ensuring good lighting/Well-lit (understand orientation and placement of windows, and lighting elements)
- Understanding the acoustics and echo properties of the space
- Providing a dedicated breakout/calming space, as well as a separate space for eating
- Determining the best visual or auditory aids to meet the needs of the class
- Adequate information regarding the class structure and location; an agenda and clear map to get to the location can be helpful in preventing unnecessary programming strain.

Additionally, the ISTD identifies a variety of beneficial additions to the dance space for learners with physical disabilities, such as:

- Walking aids (e.g., wheelchair).
- Step-free access to general areas, especially to enter the building and the dancing space.
- Level-free, accessible parking space. Ideally blue badge spaces should be available.
- Support when arriving to show where the facilities, dance space, etc. are.
- Accessible signage and people to meet and greet are recommended.
- Wide enough door frames to enter the building as wheelchairs come in various sizes. (Note there are statutory requirements for buildings).
- Accessible toilet facilities (e.g., a toilet bay with a hoist) and/or changing area. (Teachers need to find out who can provide toileting support).
- A dance space large enough for everyone to move around safely, especially if there are children using wheelchairs.

Resources

A Nearly Comprehensive Guide to Creating an Accessible Theater, Melanie Malson

www.cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.gwu.edu/dist/7/3946/files/2021/05/A-Nearly-Comprehensive-Guide-to-Creating-an-Accessible-Theatre-Melanie-Malson.pdf

Accessing Pathways to Training

www.istd.org/teach/inclusive-dance-practice/accessing-pathways-to-training/

Video, similar to TED Talk, on inclusive dance

- 0:05:45 - 'Accessing pathways to training for disabled young dancers' by Dr Imogen Aujla
- 0:35:30 - 'Working with progressions' by Kimberly Creak and Freya Spencer
- 0:54:00 - 'Developing inclusive dance practice: A teacher's journey' by Amy Bastin and Juliet Diener
- 1:17:30 - 'Deconstructing Dance - Making Ballroom and Latin American dancing more accessible' by Roswitha Wetschka and Imogen Butler
- 1:37:20 - Panel discussion

4 Key Principles for Teaching Inclusive Dance Classes, National Dance Institute

www.dance-teacher.com/teaching-inclusive-dance-classes/

- 1.) Understand the Parameters
- 2.) Continue by Expanding those Parameters
- 3.) Collaboration Creates Choreography
- 4.) Disability does not Equal Fragility

Inclusive dance phenomenon gains exposure in Spain | The World from PRX

www.theworld.org/stories/2022-09-02/inclusive-dance-phenomenon-gains-exposure-spain

"Inclusive dance is an entirely new language."

Organizations

Directory of Inclusive Dance Organizations, United Kingdom

www.istd.org/teach/inclusive-dance-practice/directory-of-inclusive-dance-organisations/

Dance For All Bodies | Inclusive Dance Classes | Adaptive Dance

www.danceforallbodies.org/

“By organizing free, inclusive, and physically integrated dance classes where people of all abilities are welcome! Currently all our classes take place virtually on the Zoom platform. We offer Closed Captions in all our classes. ”

MOVE Inclusive Dance

www.moveinclusivedance.com

Inclusive dance organization based out of Nashville which prepares activities and recitals for dancers of all ages and abilities.

Chance 2 Dance

www.Chance2danceinc.org

Wheelchair Dancers Organization

www.Wheelchairdancers.org

ADA Title III Summary

- All public accommodations must meet ADA non-discrimination requirements by March 15, 2012, with few exceptions. This means that any theater that currently does not meet these standards is likely breaking the law.
- **Service animals**, defined as animals trained to perform a specific service or set of services for disabled people, must be permitted inside theaters. ○ If you are unsure whether an animal inside of a theater is a service animal, you may ask only these two questions:
 - Is the animal required because of a disability?
 - What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
- **Mobility aids**, like canes, wheelchairs, electric scooters, and crutches, must be permitted in all places where customers are allowed to go.
- If a customer needs to communicate with an employee in a theater and verbal communication is not useful to that customer, **nonverbal forms of communication** such as written notes or gesturing towards a sign or product are required to accommodate the way that customer communicates.
- Theaters must answer calls made through the ADA's **telephone relay service**, a service that allows *d/Deaf* and hard-of-hearing people and others to send a written message to be voiced over by another person as a phone call. The communications assistant at the relay service can help explain the system if necessary, but calls placed through the relay service must be answered and treated the same as any other phone call.
- Businesses must remove **structural barriers** for disabled people if the removal is "readily achievable." For example, if your box office has a single step up to the ticket window, this step must be replaced with a safe ramp.
- If your theater has a parking lot, one out of every six **parking spaces** must be van-accessible. If your theater has fewer than six parking spaces, one of those spaces must be van-accessible.
 - Snow, construction debris, and other debris cannot block these accessible spaces.
- Theaters must have at least one **wheelchair-accessible entrance**, meaning no steps or barriers to the door. The door must be wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through. If the theater has more than one entrance and only one is accessible, signage must be placed on the inaccessible entrance(s) to direct patrons to the accessible entrance.
- Routes through the theater, including to audience seating, the box office, and the restrooms, must be at least three feet wide and not cluttered by objects.

- Theaters are required to make 1% of their **audience seats** accessible, meaning they must have clear floor space and larger dimensions than standard seats, and are able to be accessed by someone using a wheelchair or other mobility aid.
 - These seats must be distributed proportionally throughout the venue so that disabled people have the option to purchase tickets at multiple degrees of closeness to the stage, different sightlines, etc. Accessible seats must have the same options as non-accessible seats. To learn more about ADA requirements for accessible seating, visit the ADA's compliance page for assembly areas.

- Theaters are required to sell **tickets** for accessible audience seats through the same hours and methods of purchase as non-accessible seats.
 - Theaters are also required to provide accessible tickets to third party vendors if they provide non-accessible tickets, and those vendors must abide by the ADA requirements.
 - Tickets for accessible seats must be the same price as tickets for non-accessible seats in the same seating section.
 - Theaters cannot ask for proof of a disability when selling tickets to accessible seats.

- If your theater has a more affordable section where patrons stand rather than sitting and chairs are unavailable there, a proportional amount of accessible seats must be made available for the same price.