



# Young Audiences Western New York

*Arts for Learning!*

## **Accessibility Statement**

Updated January 2022

Young Audiences of Western New York meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, but for us, accessibility means much more than complying with the minimum standard of acceptance.

We strive to meet the needs of all individuals we work with at Young Audiences. Many of our programs are designed to engage all participants or can be modified to meet different individual needs. Our programs offer interdisciplinary arts experiences for people of all ages and those with varying ability levels to gain confidence in communication and knowledge across all art forms. [AS1] Through our programs, all individuals build sequential skills that develop physical coordination, visual communication abilities, and confidence-using the arts as the unifying element. We have an ongoing commitment to removing barriers that prevent people with disabilities from fully participating in our programming.

Our location in the Downtown Library allows us to host meetings for the broader public and have training on site. Our office space is wheeled mobility device accessible, as are all our event and meeting locations. We utilize venues that are fully accessible to the public and comply with all safety and accessibility standards.

Additionally, the launch of our new website includes an Accessibility Toolbar for individuals with auditory or visual impairments to navigate our website more successfully. This toolbar will create accessibility features including but not limited to keyboard semantics, defining ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) attributes, and offering visual indicators.

Our staff is also working on translating our marketing materials into various commonly spoken languages in Western New York, including Spanish and Bengali, to serve youth that do not speak English as their first language. We are also prioritizing relationship building in these regions to ensure that New American populations in Western New York have access to high quality arts education programming.

Young Audiences also considers financial and transportation barriers when writing our comprehensive accessibility policy. We strive to maintain financial support from state, federal, and local resources to provide 80% or more programming for free, directly in the neighborhoods with the most need. To provide programs in these neighborhoods, we partner with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system, public and private schools, and after school community programs such as Say Yes Buffalo, the Police Athletic League, and local Boys and Girls Club sites.