

ACCESS AND BEYOND

Creating Welcoming Live Music Experiences for Blind and Visually Impaired Audiences

BEFORE THE SHOW



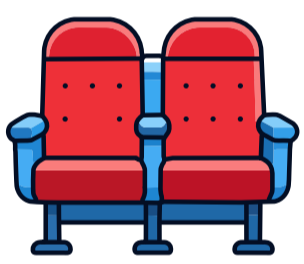
Connect, Listen, and Collaborate: Form an advisory group of blind and low-vision community members to learn from their experiences and specific needs. Collaborate with a local blindness service organization in your community.

Check Digital Accessibility: Digital materials, including ticketing pages, event pages, seating maps, programs, menus, and pre-arrival information, should conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, preferably WCAG 2.2 Level AA.



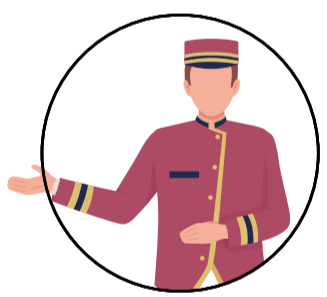
Offer a Recorded Description: Provide a short audio description that patrons can access before the performance, including by phone through a dedicated phone number. The recording can describe the venue, stage layout, performers, instruments, lighting, and other visual production elements.

Printed Material Alternatives: Provide accessible, screen reader-friendly programs in advance. This gives patrons time to review performer names, program notes, lyrics, translations, and accessibility details before arriving.



Offer Seating Choice: Offer seating options based on acoustics, proximity, guide-dog space, aisle access, and personal preference. Do not relegate blind and low-vision patrons to a default “accessible” section.

AT THE VENUE



Train Front-of-House Staff: Train staff in practical blind-access skills, including clear verbal directions, respectful offers of assistance, sighted-guide basics, and support with accessibility services. Be ready to welcome patrons with service animals. Ask, don't assume what the person wants or needs and talk directly to the blind person, not a companion.

Offer Tactile Tours: When possible, provide tactile tours that allow patrons to touch instruments, costumes, props, or stage elements, while also describing the performers and where they are positioned onstage. These can be done with or without the performers



Large-Print Programs: Make large-print versions of the program available at the venue, and ensure staff know where they are located and how to offer them.

Accessible Materials and Locations: Menus, drink lists, merch lists, donor materials, and other printed or digital materials should be available in accessible formats. If the artist is selling and signing merch after the show, make sure those areas are welcoming to blind patrons as well.

