



July 24, 2020

## THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF THE ILLINOIS CULTURAL ACCESSIBILITY NETWORK

In celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) is proud to announce a new partnership initiative with the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium (CCAC) and the creation of the Illinois Cultural Accessibility Network (ICAN).

Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ADA — the landmark legislation that affirms people with disabilities have equal rights under the law. ADA was the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. It was signed into law by former President George H. W. Bush after a national movement led by disability advocates across all sectors of society, and people with, and without, disabilities who demanded equality in access to education, employment, and living conditions.

With all the challenges that we face on this ADA anniversary, now is the time to reaffirm our national commitment to ADA and all that it stands for. Disability and creativity through the arts are parts of the human experience and impact everyone at some point in life. ICAN is meant to create a community of Illinois-based cultural arts groups with the united goal of working together in making the cultural arts accessible to everyone.

On Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> CCAC will put out an open call to all Illinois-based cultural arts groups for the first Illinois Cultural Accessibility Network meeting. As an IACA applicant you will receive the CCAC call via email and are strongly encouraged to participate. This will be an opportunity to join in creating a community that works toward equity in the arts for all!

### About the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium

Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium (CCAC) mission is to empower Chicago's cultural spaces to become more accessible to visitors with disabilities. Through monthly professional development workshops, an Access Calendar, Accessible Equipment Loan Program, and an active list-serv, CCAC facilitates a dynamic community of cultural administrators and visitors with disabilities striving to advance accessibility and inclusion across the Chicago region's vast cultural spaces. Since 2015, CCAC has been regarded as a national model. They frequently partner and encourage other local access knowledge networks to begin and take the first steps to create a community in their area.

For more information about CCAC visit: <https://www.chicagoculturalaccess.org/>

### About the Illinois Arts Council Agency

The Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) develops the state's public arts policy, fostering culturally diverse programs, and approving grants expenditures. A small professional staff with in-depth knowledge of the arts develops and administers the agency's programs, provides technical assistance, and ensures the responsible and impactful distribution of all funds.

For more information about IACA visit: <https://arts.illinois.gov/>

## ADA COMPLIANCE & UNIVERSAL ARTS

### Universal Arts

IACA supports universal access to the arts.

IACA abides by state and federal laws that prohibit public support to organizations (people or entities) that discriminate against people with disabilities. Therefore, each grantee is required to assure that they are in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

### Americans with Disabilities Act

ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Furthermore, federal law mandates that any program or service that receives federal or state funding must be accessible to persons with disabilities. IACA is committed to ensuring that the programs and services we fund are accessible to persons with disabilities.