Arts Access: Ensuring Inclusion and Universal Accessibility in the Arts in Healthcare

Part I - Introduction & Selected Exemplary Practices

“Independence Starts Here” Mural in process on Hahnemann University Hospital
Artist: Donald Gensler (through Mural Arts Program)  Photo: Donald Gensler;
by permission of Donald Gensler and the Mural Arts Program, Philadelphia, PA

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Clarification of Terms

Barrier-Free or Accessible Design: enforceable and prescriptive minimum design requirements that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; has often resulted in separate and stigmatizing solutions.

Universal Design (UD): usable by the widest range of people to the greatest extent possible, without need for multiple separate adaptations or designs; addresses both accessibility and inclusion via a broad-spectrum solution.
Accessibility and Inclusion

Accessibility:
implementation of strategies that start with responsibility to the experience of the user, ensuring not only access but also efficiency, effectiveness, ease of use, and satisfaction.

Touch tour prior to Pennsylvania Ballet performance of The Nutcracker  

Inclusion:
orientation embracing variation in ability, age, etc., as well as diversity in social and economic circumstances.

Cast of ArtStream’s inclusive theater production, A Mystery to Me  
Photo: By permission of ArtStream, Inc., Bethesda, MD, www.art-stream.org
UD Applied to Learning (and arts learning)

Universal Design for Learning (UDL): accommodating differences and increasing access to learning via multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement; first defined by Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act): 2004 reauthorized legislation requiring accountability and accommodations in educating more than 6.5 million eligible U.S. infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities

Photo: School-age patient engaged in academically accredited collaged box art project delivered by artist-in-residence; by permission of Snow City Arts Foundation, Chicago, IL, www.snowcityarts.com
UD and UDL create opportunity to fully participate for constituents...

- of all ages
- of varied sizes
- from diverse cultural and language backgrounds
- with short or long-term disabilities (e.g., quadriplegia or paraplegia, partial paralysis, amputation, mobility disabilities, traumatic brain injury, aphasia, Tourette’s Syndrome, autism and autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit disorders, speech disorders, learning disabilities, Down Syndrome, emotional or behavioral disorders, sensory disabilities, post-traumatic stress disorder, cystic fibrosis, psychiatric conditions)
Benefits of Applying UD and UDL

- results in higher quality practice
- strengthens capacity to serve existing and new populations
- complies with ADA and IDEA; embraces spirit of the law, not just the “letter of the law”
- leads to expanded funding opportunities
- distinguishes organization as welcoming, accessible, and inclusive
- generates creative solutions for delivery and/or locus of projects and programs, and extending their reach

Photo: Art-Reach, Inc.’s multisensory Jazz Art workshop; by permission of Art-Reach, Inc., Philadelphia, PA
Extending Reach Through A Vehicle

“Claymobile” ceramic arts outreach arm of The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Hospital Audiences, Inc. (HAI) Omni*Bus transit vehicle, designed to accommodate passengers who are severely disabled and the frail elderly attending NYC cultural events
HAI Omni*Bus in Action

Typical HAI Omni*Bus group

HAI Omni*Bus full of veterans with disabilities in Veteran’s Day Parade

HAI Omni*Bus Holiday Lights Tour

Walter Reed Army Medical Center soldiers with family at MoMA after HAI Omni*Bus transport there—part of NYC weekend for the group organized through HAI

Photos: By permission of Hospital Audiences, Inc. (HAI), New York, NY, www.hospitalaudiences.org
Cultivating Inclusion/Extending Reach Through Collaborative Art-Making with the Community—COSACOSA’s “Safe Harbor” Project

Safe Harbor, wood and over 500 metal milagros, 20’ x 8’ (2001)

Temple Children’s Medical Center Safe Harbor sculpture adorned with metal-work milagro amulets (expressing personal hopes, histories, and experiences of healing), created by community residents, patients, their families, and clinic visitors—part of COSACOSA’s Healing Art Project (Artist-leader: Pedro Ospina)

COSACOSA’s *Connection* Project

COSACOSA art installation connecting Philadelphia International Airport terminals C & D, including over 1,200 clay sculptures (depicting themes common to human experience) created by city-wide community youth and pediatric patients—part of COSACOSA’s *Healing Art Project* (Artist-leaders: Dit Wah Deng, with Betsy Leschinsky and Andres Chamorro)

“Independence Starts Here” Mural on Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia

Artist: Donald Gensler (through Mural Arts Program)

Making Art Accessible Through The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Alzheimer’s Project

Meet Me at MoMA: free monthly interactive program for individuals with Alzheimer’s and their family or professional caregivers, during MoMA’s non-public hours

The MoMA Alzheimer’s Project: nationwide expansion of MoMA’s art and dementia programs through adaptable program models and resources

Photos: Robin Holland; by permission of Francesca Rosenberg/MoMA Education Department Access Programs, New York, NY
See www.moma.org/learn/programs/alzheimers for more information.
Accessible Environments
setting the stage for
Accessible Arts in Healthcare Programs
Examples of Inclusive Signage and Wayfinding developed by Coco Raynes Associates, Inc.

The Raynes Rail Braille and Audio Handrail System (patented)

Floor Markings (above and below)

Tactile Map

Medical Missions for Children’s
Giggles Children’s Theater

Theater wheelchair access offered via moveable chairs; multiple wall sockets provide access for patients with medical equipment.

Memorial High School Charlie Brown performance (simultaneously broadcast on bedside TVs) – one example of ongoing community group performances.

BINGO streamed to bedside TVs in patient rooms.

Live “Story Time” with librarian using document projector (simultaneously broadcast on bedside TVs in conjunction with related art projects).

Photos: By permission of Medical Missions for Children/Giggles Children’s Theater, Paterson, NJ, www.mmissions.org
Virtual Field Trip to Rain Forest from *Giggles*, St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital, Paterson, NJ

Example of a Giggles virtual field trip via Polycom equipment—in this case, to the Panama rain forest; other such virtual trips have included swimming with manatees, building puppets, etc.

Photos: By permission of Medical Missions for Children/Giggles Children’s Theater, Paterson, NJ
ArtThread Interactive Online Gallery

ArtThread Gallery in use by girl at computer

Child using online art-making tool Splash! to create art for ArtThread Gallery

Computer screen view of an original art “thread” in ArtThread Gallery

ArtThread Gallery art on a lobby LCD screen in Shriners Hospital, Tampa, FL

Portland Memory Garden, Portland, OR

Garden designed to create and bring back memories, with many features tailored for those with dementia or Alzheimer’s and their caregivers (e.g., four seasons of sensory stimulation, including plants to look at, touch, and smell)

Photos: By permission of Friends of the Portland Memory Garden and the Center of Design for an Aging Society, Portland, OR, www.centerofdesign.org
Sybil Silkwood Nutter Playground with Accessible Equipment at Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Kansas City, MO

Outdoor “Walking Piano”™ by Remo Saraceni at Playground entrance

Playground equipment with ramping to help provide access

Sensory Studio designed by Joe Fialko for Baker Victory Services’ Early Childhood Program, Lackawanna, NY

Photo: Joe Fialko; by permission of Joe Fialko, Soundbeam USA & Sensory Expressions, Inc., Snyder, NY
Arts Access Services and Practices
enhancing
Arts in Healthcare Program Accessibility
Sample Arts Access Services and Practices

- open captioning
- assistive listening systems
- sign language interpretation (even via iPod)
- language translation (via headphone, too)
- Braille and/or large-print program materials
- audio description for the blind and low-visioned
- sensory seminars/touch tours (with corresponding multisensory arts projects and programming)
- office TTY device (telephone typewriter)

See www.graphicartistsguild.org/resources/disability-access-symbols for downloadable universal Disability Access Symbols.
Audio Description

Patron obtaining free AD service equipment (receiver and ear piece)

Patron wearing ear piece to receive AD service

Patrons being introduced to AD equipment

Audio describer using steno mask microphone and transmitter to relay live description of visual details

Photos: top l. and r. – Altoona Mirror/Jason Sipes; bottom l. – Centre Daily Times; bottom r. – still image from “View Via Headphones,” filmed by Charlie Gudeman
Sensory Seminars/Touch Tours

Patron exploring costume via touch

Tactile experience of pointe shoe

Backstage touch tour of set, props, and costumes at Penn State’s Center for the Performing Arts, prior to audio-described ballet and talkback with participants–part of VSA Pennsylvania’s PA Visual Access Project

Photos: Carl Kosola; by permission of Penn State’s Center for the Performing Arts, University Park, PA, www.cpa.psu.edu
See www.vsapa.org/access/vap/html for more information on VSA Pennsylvania’s PA Visual Access Project.
“Feel the Art” Project and Exhibit
(originated by Nancy Adams and Beth Gordon in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; has been a touring exhibit through VSA Florida)

Original 3-D tactile adaptations of famous artworks, exhibited at wheelchair-accessible height, with Braille and large print captioning, audio tour option, sign language interpretation, and sighted guides

Photos: By permission of Nancy Adams, Beth Gordon, and VSA Florida
Contact Lee Moniz at VSA Florida, www.vsafl.org, for more information.
Gallery with Multisensory Living Art™
(originated through the Arts and Health Outreach Initiative, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA)

Patron exploring multisensory living Van Gogh Self Portrait via guided touch with sighted guide

Patron discovering pose of multisensory living Dancer with Bouquets by Degas

Tactile encounter with living Degas dancer outside of frame

Photos: top l. and r. – The Daily Collegian/Adam Levin; bottom l. – Stacie Bird  Costumes: Nanette Anslinger
Sets: John Skrabalak, Nanette Anslinger  Gallery originator/director: Ermyn King (efk103@psu.edu)
Artists Who Embody Universal Principles

reinforcing UD and UDL as a core value of Arts in Healthcare Programs
Dancing Wheels

Photo: Dale Dong; by permission of Lori Bowman/G.G. Greg Agency for Dancing Wheels, Cleveland, OH, www.gggreg.com
Ms. Bowman (800-901-8485) may be contacted when scheduling a Dancing Wheels workshop or performance.
ArtStream, Inc.
inclusive theater companies

Photo: By permission of ArtStream, Inc., Bethesda, MD, www.art-stream.org
Art-Reach, Inc. Presentation of Lisa Thorson’s Universally Accessible JazzArtSigns

JazzArtSigns with jazz musicians, improvisational painter, American Sign Language interpreter, live audio description and text captioning, and program information in Braille, large print and on tape—featured during Fall 2007 “Independence Starts Here: A Festival of Disability Arts and Culture” in Greater Philadelphia

See www.lisathorson.com for more information on Lisa Thorson’s JazzArtSigns.
Art-Reach, Inc.’s Jazz Art Workshop linked to JazzArtSigns Performance

Participants interacting with JazzArtSigns musician

Participants painting in response to jazz

Exhibit of completed visual interpretations of jazz

Photos: Stephanie Borton; by permission of Art-Reach, Inc., Philadelphia, PA
The Kids on the Block, Inc.,
a troupe of educational puppets addressing
disability awareness and medical/educational differences

Photos: By permission of The Kids on the Block, Inc., Columbia, MD, www.kotb.com
Multimodal Processes and Adaptive Tools

ensuring accessible arts activities

offered through Arts in Healthcare Programs
Accessible Reimagining of Seurat Masterwork
(collaboratively created in sections by patients using Pointillism—part of COSACOSA’s Healing Art Project)

A Sunday Afternoon on the Banks of the Schuylkill River (modern-day reimagining of Seurat’s A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte), created by patients at Shriners Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA, in collaboration with COSACOSA artists and Temple University Art Therapy students; canvas panels on wood, 8’ x 4’ (2007) Note: Pointillist technique is well suited to artists with limited use of the hands.

Zot Artz Arts For All Adaptive Tools in Use

Girls using Little Pogo Paint Poles

Wheelchair bubble blower in use

Boy using “Give It A Whirl” device

Photos: top l. – Carol Seago; top r. and bottom l. – Brian Castillo; center – Geoff Coe; bottom r. – Dwayne Szot; by permission of Dwayne Szot/Zot Artz Arts For All, Bayfield, WI, www.zotartz.com
Wheel Art Day at Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, New York

Photos: By permission of Pamela Ullmann, MS, CCLS, ATR-BC, LCAT, former Coordinator of Therapeutic Activities–Child Life, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, New York, NY, www.setonpediatric.org
Sample Adaptive Tools for Creative Drama, Storytelling, and Dance/Movement

Youth controlling light pattern and sound through his movement with Soundbeam

Mobile multisensory Vecta Deluxe

Photos: l.–by permission of Joe Fialko, Soundbeam USA & Sensory Expressions, Inc.; r.–from TFH, www.specialneedstoys.com
Accessible Communications and Products
reflecting UD/UDL as an imperative and asset
within Arts in Healthcare Programs
Universal communications and products include (but are not limited to)...

- an accessible web site
- accessible panel and label copy for exhibits
- program calendars noting accessible performances, events, exhibits, etc. in accessible formats
- accessible formats for newsletters, information desk or kiosk and orientation materials, program brochures, and for-sale program products (e.g., art note cards), etc.
- multisensory approaches to evaluation (e.g., touch screen laptop evaluation process using pictorial software with auditory component)

*May Your Light Shine APH InSights Art Holiday Card featuring the art of Margo Langohr, an 81-year old artist with sight loss
Photo: By permission of American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. (APH), Louisville, KY, www.aph.org
A committee on UD/UDL (including staff/members with disabilities, arts specialists, and others) can...

- promote universal communications, products, and services (e.g., accessible hospital tours and arts experiences, with pre-tour description and navigation tips)
- sponsor UD awareness events (e.g., film series, exhibits, displays, UDL arts workshops and performances)
- hold UD and UDL sensitivity and related trainings
- launch a “buddy program” for ADA compliance and accessibility; conduct violations checks, and write notes praising positive developments
- plan a yearly UD celebration in October (National Disability Awareness Month and National Arts & Humanities Month)