

# Accessible Community Forum: Accessible Arts and Culture in BC

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## PART I: Panelists

- HOST: James Sanders
  - Founding Artistic Director of Realwheels
- Monique Nelson
  - Director of Community Engagement at posAbilities
- Keiko Honda
  - Founder of the Vancouver Arts Colloquium Society
- Ashley Daniel Foot
  - Vancouver Opera’s Director of Engagement and Civic Practice
- Amy Amantea
  - Artist, Actor and Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Ladan Sahraei
  - Iranian-Canadian deaf actress, director and filmmaker

## PART II: Forum

- 54 total EventBrite registrants
- **23 total in person attendees**

## PART III: Survey Response Summary

63 total respondents participated in the survey.

- **Respondents' relationship with the disability community:**
  - 38 respondents have a visible disability
  - 18 respondents have a hidden/invisible disability
  - 8 respondents have a family member or a care aid of a person(s) with disabilities
  - 1 respondent is a health care professional or other aid for a person(s) with disabilities
  - 4 respondents are an advocate for people with disabilities
- **Types of disabilities respondents live with:**
- Most common (36) disability among respondents was a mobility impairment followed by a cognitive disability (17) and mental health (13)
- **Several respondents also indicated having a:**
  - Hearing impairment (10)
  - Visual impairment (12)
  - Memory impairment (12)
  - Communication impairment (10)
  - Degenerative disease (5)
  - No disability (5)
  - Other (7)
- **Respondent's ages:**
  - 0 respondents Under 18
  - 3 respondents between the ages of 18-30
  - 22 respondents between the ages of 31-50
  - 29 respondents between the ages of 51-70
  - 9 respondents are ages of 71+
- **Respondent's locations:**
  - Most respondents (30) are in Canada, Vancouver, BC
  - Locations included Port Coquitlam, Victoria, Surrey, New Westminister, Williams Lake, Port Coquitlam, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Richmond, Harrison Mills and Burnaby.
  - A few respondents are from Ontario, London and Pakistan

- 18 respondents indicated participating in arts & culture activities weekly, while another 18 do so monthly. Fourteen respondents participate yearly, with less than 10 indicating daily participation (6).
  
- **Challenges faced when engaging with arts and culture activities:**
  - Lack of accessibility features (38)
  - Communication Barriers (23)
  - Social Stigma (17)
  - Financial Constraints (37)
  - Limited Transportation (19)
  - Physical Barriers (32)
  
- 15 respondents are members of disability advocacy, or a support group related to arts and culture, while 48 are not.
  
- Participants' familiarity with accessible arts programs in BC vary, with 3 indicating they are very familiar, 23 somewhat familiar, and 37 not familiar at all.
  
- **Participants receive information about accessible arts and culture events in BC through various channels:**
  - Email newsletters (27)
  - Social media platforms (20)
  - Dedicated websites/apps (12)
  - Word of mouth (18) and others (2)
  - (23) Participants have not received such information.
  
- 5 respondents feel that the current offerings in accessible arts and culture in BC adequately represent the diversity within the disabled community, while 20 disagree, and 38 are unsure.
  
- 22 respondents feel that there are specific cultural or artistic genres particularly overlooked in terms of accessibility for the disabled community, while 2 disagree, and 39 are unsure.
  
- **Specific types of accessible arts and cultural activities that are interesting to the respondents:**
  - Live performances (theater, dance, music): 55
  - Visual arts (painting, sculpture, photography): 44

- Literary arts (writing, poetry, storytelling): 28
  - Film and media: 44
  - Digital arts: 31
- **Respondents prefer to access arts and cultural content through:**
  - In-person events: 61
  - Online platforms: 36
  - Audio descriptions: 11
  - Braille materials: 2
  - Subtitled/captioned content: 10
- 10 respondents believe there are sufficient opportunities for individuals of diverse backgrounds to participate in the decision-making process related to arts and culture in BC, while 53 disagree.
- 35 respondents have had a positive experience related to accessible arts and culture, while 28 have not.
- 34 respondents have had a negative experience related to accessible arts and culture, while 29 have not.
- 35 respondents have attended or engaged in virtual arts and cultural events, such as online concerts or virtual museum tours, while 25 have not.
- **How satisfied are you with the accessibility of virtual arts and culture experiences available online?**
  - Very satisfied (5)
  - Satisfied (11)
  - Neutral (34)
  - Dissatisfied (9)
  - Very dissatisfied (4)
- 30 respondents find mobile apps to be the most beneficial when accessing arts and culture, followed by virtual reality (VR) with 18, screen readers with 17, assistive listening devices with 16, and augmented reality (AR) with 12. 17 respondents mentioned other forms of technology.
- **Specific features in mobile apps or websites which enhance the experience in accessing arts and cultural content:**
  - Voice command navigation (24)

- High contrast modes (17)
- Text-to-speech functionality (30)
- Customizable font sizes and styles (25)
- Other (20)
- **Different ways in which technology helps improve accessibility for disabled individuals in virtual or augmented reality experiences related to arts and culture:**
  - More details providing audio descriptions or haptic feedback (36)
  - Offering customizable user interfaces (36)
  - Integrating real-time captioning or sign language interpretation (33)
  - Implementing navigational aids for those with mobility impairments (37)
  - Other (9)
- 8 respondents feel that there is enough awareness among arts and cultural institutions about the importance of incorporating technology for accessibility, while 27 disagree, and 28 are unsure.
- 19 respondents have used adaptive equipment or assistive devices to engage in artistic activities, while 44 have not.
- **Which forms of adaptive equipment do you find most beneficial for participating in arts and cultural activities?**
  - Adaptive brushes and tools for painting (13)
  - Adaptive grips/holders for drawing and writing (13)
  - Textured surfaces or tools for tactile art (11)
  - Adaptive musical instruments (15)
  - Specialized seating or positioning devices (37)
  - Assistive technology for digital art creation (17)
  - Other (14)
- 2 respondents find adaptive equipment for artistic activities very accessible in their community, while 33 find it somewhat accessible, and 25 find it not accessible.
- 28 respondents face specific challenges in accessing or utilizing adaptive equipment for artistic expression, while 35 do not.

- **What improvements would you like to see in the design and availability of adaptive equipment for artistic expression?**
  - More affordable options (49)
  - Greater variety of equipment tailored to different types of disabilities (47)
  - Improved durability and ease of use (30)
  - Increased awareness and education about available equipment (45)
  
- **Respondents visit art galleries, museums, or cultural centers with varying frequencies:**
  - 3 visit weekly
  - 13 monthly
  - 29 occasionally
  - 12 rarely
  - 6 never
  
- In terms of accessibility provided by art and culture facilities in their community, respondents' satisfaction levels vary: 1 respondent is very satisfied, 14 are satisfied, 29 are neutral, 15 are dissatisfied, and 4 are very dissatisfied.
  
- **What features do you consider essential for an art facility to be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities?**
  - Wheelchair ramps and elevators to all levels (54)
  - Wide doorways and aisles for easy navigation (51)
  - Accessible restrooms equipped with grab bars and adequate space (55)
  - Braille or tactile signage for navigation (40)
  - Audio descriptions or guided tours for visually impaired visitors (42)
  - Quiet areas or sensory-friendly spaces for visitors with sensory sensitivities (47)
  - Other (8)
  
- **In what ways can arts and culture facilities improve their accessibility beyond physical accommodations?**
  - Offering specialized tours or programs for visitors with disabilities (53)
  - Providing online resources such as virtual tours or digital exhibitions (41)

- Offering sensory-friendly events or exhibitions (39)
- Providing trained staff or volunteers to assist visitors with disabilities (53)
- Other (8)
- **How can arts and culture facilities best foster a more diverse and inclusive environment for visitors with disabilities?**
  - Hosting events or exhibitions focused on disability culture and perspectives (44)
  - Incorporating feedback from visitors with disabilities into their programming and exhibition design (47)
  - Collaborating with disability organizations to create targeted outreach initiatives (47)
  - Providing training to staff on disability awareness and best practices regarding accessibility (51)
  - Other (8)
- 27 respondents are interested in or looking to be a part of improving the quality of arts and culture and its accessibility in BC, while 12 are not, and 24 are not sure.
- 23 respondents are interested in attending the Accessible Community Forum: Arts and Culture, while 11 are interested but the time does not work for them, 8 are not interested, and 21 are not sure.
- 28 respondents would like to be added to the ConnecTra Society mailing list to get updates about upcoming events and programming, 10 would not, and 25 are already on the mailing list.