

Working with a Sign Language Interpreter 101

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Ground Rules

- ❑ Feel free to ask questions any time
- ❑ There are no dumb questions
- ❑ Speak one at a time
- ❑ Raise your hand

Interpreter's work

- Where will you work with me?
 - Sunday tours
 - School group tours
 - One on one tours/special requests
 - Lectures/discussions
 - Art cart
 - Special events/exhibitions



My Key Concerns

- ❑ What's the content of our tour?
- ❑ Can I hear you?
- ❑ Can the Deaf patron see me?
- ❑ Can we all see the artwork?
- ❑ Do all patrons have the opportunity to participate?



Patron's concerns

- ❑ Where does the tour start?
- ❑ Where will I meet the interpreter?
- ❑ Talk to the Deaf patron like a regular visitor
- ❑ Pointing in front of the interpreter



Docent's concerns

- ??????????

Pre-tour

- Meet docent 15 min before tour
 - Find out topic of tour-answer my questions, vocabulary, dates, etc.
 - Negotiate our logistics
 - Arriving at the artwork
 - Talking about the artwork
 - Asking cooperation from the group



Pre-tour continued

- Answer your questions, make you feel at ease
- Introductions



During the Tour

- Wait for tour to assemble
- Make sure I am next to you
- Sight lines
 - Make sure Deaf patrons can see me
 - Don't obstruct sight lines-pointing
 - Navigate working with a DB patron



During the tour-Cont.

- Lag time
- Questions and answers
- Group involvement
- When we move to the next piece-Do's and Don'ts



After the Tour

- Remaining questions from the patrons
- Debrief with the interpreter
 - Feel free to discuss any awkward moments
 - If you enjoy working with this population, sign up to guide the American Sign Language tours!

Resources

- ❑ Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Website-<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us>
- ❑ Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (R.I.D.)
<http://www.rid.org>
- ❑ Deaf artists-<http://www.chuckbaird.com>,
<http://www.deafart.org>
- ❑ www.vsarts.org
- ❑ Mary Baremore - mbaremore@gmail.com