

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Accessibility at Mia

Mia

Access at Mia

What does it mean?

- **Public places have social expectations**
- **Accessibility is more than access**
 - Access = you get visitors in the door
 - Participation = you get visitors “doing”
 - Engagement = you get them engaged with what they’re “doing”
 - Inclusion = the culmination of all the above
- **Creating inclusion involves everyone at Mia**
- **People don’t want to be considered “special,” they want to be included**
- **This applies at all ages**

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Mia has an Accessibility Team

Discusses/gives recommendations for disability-related issues throughout the museum

Accessibility topics: website, maps, physical plant, mobility issues, label placement and type size, programs and services, hiring practices, and more

Human Resources – Sandy Larson

Security – Ross Guthrie

Facilities – Tom Lyons

Media and Technology – Gretchen Halverson

Learning Innovation – Debbi Hegstrom, Juline Chevalier

Visitor Experience – Dianne Kramer

Curatorial Affairs/Exhibition Design – Michael Laphorn

Press & Public Relations – Tammy Pleshak

Social Model of Disability

Disability is a difference.

Disability in itself is neutral.

Disability derives from the interaction between the individual and society.

The remedy for disability-related issues is change in the interaction between the individual and society.

The agent of change is the individual, an advocate, or anyone who affects the arrangements between the individual and society.

Outdated Model of Disability

Disability is a deficiency or abnormality.

Disability is a negative.

Disability resides in the individual.

The remedy for disability-related issues is cure or “normalization” of the individual.

The agent of change must be professional or institutional.

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Social Model con't

Ableism – Ableism is the discrimination or prejudice against people who have disabilities. Ableism can take the form of ideas and assumptions, stereotypes, attitudes and practices, physical barriers in the environment, or larger scale oppression. It is oftentimes unintentional and most people are completely unaware of the impact of their words or actions.

Social Model con't

Casual ableism shows up in our language: “That’s so lame!” “That meeting was crazy!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1rrSXkFqGE>

Do not avoid using the word disability or disabled.

Do NOT use euphemisms like “differently-abled” because this perpetuates the idea that the term disabled is inherently bad.

Person First Language – Disability does not define a person

- Person who has a physical or learning disability
- Person who uses a wheelchair
- Person who is blind or has low vision
- Person with intellectual disabilities (sometimes called cognitive abilities)

Identity First Language

Some groups prefer to identify with their disability first.

Many, but not all, in these groups prefer identity first language:
Deaf (there's a difference between Deaf and deaf)
Autistic

It is important to ASK people how they identify...if it's appropriate to ask.

Heads Up: the next slide uses the “r word”



Diane Arbus

American, 1923-1971

A Young Family in Brooklyn Going for a Sunday Outing. Their Baby is Named Dawn. Their Son is Retarded., 1966

Gelatin silver print

The Kate and Hall J. Peterson Fund, 72.109.4

This photograph depicts Richard and Marylin Dauria with their two children, Dawn and Richard Junior. The title of this work uses an outdated term for cognitive disability that is now considered an offensive slur. The title also highlights one way that people with disabilities have historically been marginalized. The title names the baby, but only identifies Richard Jr. by his disability thereby linking his identity with that one aspect of who he is. Today, “People First” language (i.e. using “a person who is blind” instead of “a blind person”) helps to bring a person’s humanity to the forefront, over any disability.

Diane Arbus focused most of her photographic career on people who were on the outside of white, middle-class, cisgender, heterosexual, “mainstream” society. Her unconventional approach to portrait subjects has gained her much praise and critique over the years, with some congratulating her drive to photograph subjects who had been mocked or ignored by society, and others describing her images as exploitative and sensationalizing of the lives of marginalized peoples.

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Mobility Aids

Tools like wheelchairs, guide dogs, crutches, scooters, etc. are often described by those who use them as extensions of their body.

As such, they should be treated with the same respect, meaning you never touch a person's mobility aid without permission.

A great question to ask, “How can I be of assistance?” and they can tell you what they need or want.

Hidden Disabilities

Not all disabilities are visible.

A person may act in a way that appears atypical. That behavior could be disability related.

Many mental health conditions are invisible.

Accept all requests for accommodation as genuine. (i.e. don't assume that the person is only pretending to have a disability or that they want a 'handout'.)

Even though these disabilities are hidden, they are real. People are not required to disclose their disability.

Learn from People in the Disability Community

Take the time to educate yourself – there are many people and hashtags (like #ActuallyAutistic) to follow on social media.



The image shows a screenshot of two tweets from a social media platform. The first tweet is from Shannon Dingle (@ShannonDingle) dated Jan 14. The text of the tweet reads: "When I ask about accessibility as a disabled woman, I'm not asking for a favor. I'm declaring that I belong, and I'm asking if you agree with me about that." The tweet has 6 replies, 340 retweets, and 1.5K likes. The second tweet is from Gregory Mansfield (@GHMansfield) posted "now". The text reads: "Euphemisms for 'disabled' are not compliments. They are a manifestation of ableism." This tweet has 6 replies, 162 retweets, and 455 likes. Both tweets include icons for replies, retweets, likes, and direct messages.

 You Retweeted

 **Shannon Dingle** @ShannonDingle · Jan 14

When I ask about accessibility as a disabled woman, I'm not asking for a favor.

I'm declaring that I belong, and I'm asking if you agree with me about that.

 6  340  1.5K 

 You Retweeted

 **Gregory Mansfield** @GHMansfield · now

Euphemisms for "disabled" are not compliments.

They are a manifestation of ableism.

 6  162  455 

 You Retweeted



Emily Ladau  @emily_ladau · Jan 10



I know people learn by doing, but that's not the case with disability. It's not a series of tasks. It's a nuanced physical, emotional, cognitive experience that shapes one's identity. Simulations lead to shallow pity, fear, or inspiration. Instead, learn FROM disabled people.

sunday parker  @sundaytakesbart

Wheelchair users, what're your thoughts on "immersion experiences" where an able-bodied person is put in a chair in an effort to build empathy?

I find them really problematic with the exception of architects / doctors...

Show this thread



robin m eames @robinmarceline · 12h

Provide access info in event descriptions.

Ask for access requirements in event registration.

Think about who's not in the room, and who can't get into the room.

Disabled people make up a fifth of the population. If we're not there, ask why.



116



284



Show this thread



robin m eames @robinmarceline · 13h

Additionally - there's no such thing as a "fully accessible" venue.

Dimly lit spaces are inaccessible for blind and partially sighted people, brightly lit spaces can be overwhelming for autistic people.

Access isn't a yes or no question, it's a conversation.



6



164



424



Show this thread



robin m eames @robinmarceline · 13h

If there's "just one step" it's not accessible

If we can't go to the bathroom it's not accessible



Crutches&Spice
@Imani_Barbarin

Following

Bryan Cranston is Everything I Will Not Be Accepting from Abled Allies in 2019
crutchesandspice.com/2019/01/08/bryan-cranston-is-everything-i-will-not-be-accepting-from-abled-allies-in-2019/



6:04 PM - 8 Jan 2019



Promotional Poster for the Upside | Facebook: The Upside



I know this is something you likely don't want to hear about your Breaking Bad fave, but he's problematic. When I heard that Breaking Bad would be casting RJ Mitte, a disabled actor for the role of Cranston's disabled son in the series, I was elated. Cranston even used the decision to advocate for the inclusion of disabled

<https://crutchesandspice.com/2019/01/08/bryan-cranston-is-everything-i-will-not-be-accepting-from-abled-allies-in-2019/>

Article: I prefer that you say I'm "Disabled"

January 15, 2019 By Robyn Powell

<https://www.damemagazine.com/2019/01/15/i-prefer-that-you-say-im-disabled/>

DAME — NEWS + ISSUES — CULTURE — SCIENCE — PODCASTS —  - Login - Support - Shop —   



“Special needs” indicates that the needs of the disabled are extra, and that can be a matter of life or death.

Robyn Powell Jan 15, 2019

Article: "I am Disabled: On Identity-First Versus People-First Language"

March 20, 2015 by [Cara Liebowitz](#)

<https://thebodyisnotanapology.com/magazine/i-am-disabled-on-identity-first-versus-people-first-language/>

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for MAGAZINE, COMMUNITY, SUBSCRIBE, RADICAL EDUCATION, ABOUT TBINAA, SHOP, REGISTER, and LOG IN. The logo for 'the body is not an apology' is prominently displayed, along with the tagline 'Radical Self-Love for Everybody and Every Body'. A secondary navigation bar lists various topics: IDENTIFY, DISABILITY, SEXUALITY, GENDER, MENTAL HEALTH, RACE, AGING, RAD PARENTS, MEN, GLOBAL, INTERSECTIONS, and 'H'. The main content area features a large image of a person in a wheelchair with a dog. Below the image, the article title 'I am Disabled: On Identity-First Versus People-First Language' is shown, along with the author's name 'Cara Liebowitz' and the date 'March 20, 2015'. A search bar is located on the right side of the article. At the bottom of the article, there is a social media sharing bar and a small image of a sign that says 'RADICAL SELF-LOVE!'. The page number '918' is visible in the top left corner.

Stella Young

Ted Talk: I am not your inspiration, thank you very much
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8K9Gg164Bsw>

People with disabilities are individuals with families, careers, interests, likes and dislikes.

Don't make them into disability heroes or victims (ex: inspiration porn).

Don't make them objects of pity or charity.

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Tours for People with Disabilities



Mia

Mia Tours

- ASL-interpreted or assisted-listening group tours for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Small-group tours for people with physical disabilities/who use wheelchairs.
- Tours for people with memory loss or dementia and their friends and care partners.
- Small-group tours for people with cognitive/intellectual or developmental disabilities/traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Individual, docent-guided touch/"white glove" and tactile diagram tours for people who are blind or have low vision.
- Individual verbal description tours.

Mia Tours

Things to consider for all tour groups

- Sitting, standing, walking: wheelchairs, gallery stools, elevator vs. stairs
- Assisted-listening devices (available from volunteer at Info Bar in main lobby)
- Accessible restrooms: locations on map
- If you're not sure what to do, ask first! And then follow directions.
- If your offer is declined, do not insist.

Mia Tours

Working with an ASL Interpreter

- Talk with ASL interpreter prior to the tour – be sure to come early!
- Work out where both of you will stand so that the art work is visible to everyone in group.
- Introduce the interpreter to the group.
- Don't single out those who are there for interpretation; the interpreter is aware who is there.
- Speak at your usual pace, looking directly at the group. The person watching the interpreter may not be looking at you. Pause after you speak to allow time for looking.
- Do not walk and talk at the same time. Interpretation will not be possible!

Mia Tours

Tours for Visitors with Cognitive/Intellectual Disabilities

- Be alert to your groups' responses and adjust your method of communication accordingly.
- Use direct sentences and concrete language. Use visual aids and props that can be touched.
- Repeat information as necessary.
- Give people time to respond to questions.
- Do not be discouraged if people do not respond as you expect. Encourage any form of participation.
- Don't try to cover too much information or territory—prioritize the quality of the experience.

Mia Touch Tours

Tours include three-dimensional objects from curator-approved list as well as paintings to explore through verbal description, essence boards, and tactile diagrams.



Minneapolis Institute of Art



Mia Touch Tours



Henry Moore, *Warrior with Shield*, bronze, 1953-54





Pablo Picasso, *Baboon and Young*, bronze, 1951

Mia Touch Tours

Tactile Diagrams

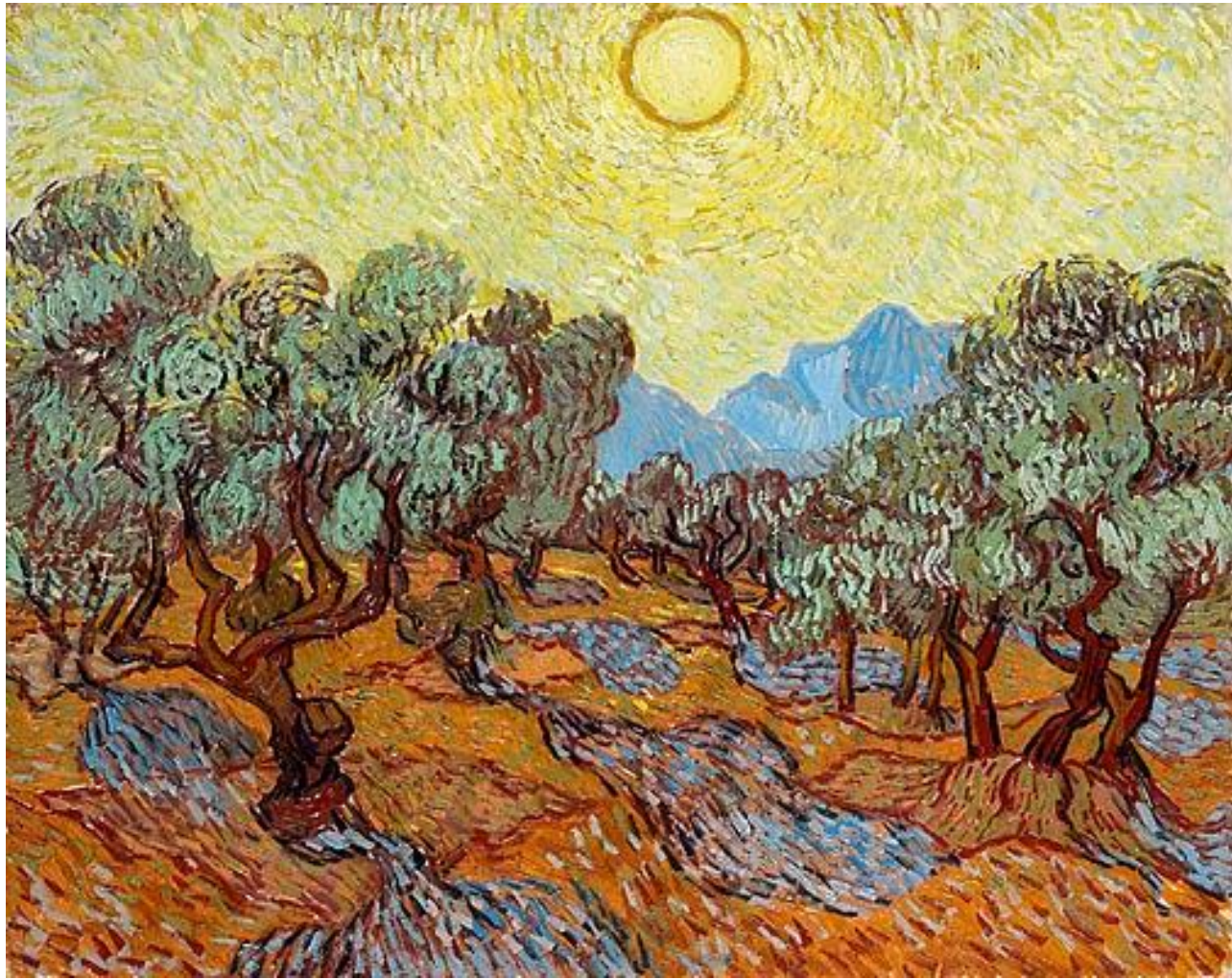
Raised physical “maps” used while docent verbally describes the work

Essence Boards

Tactile information about aspects of a work of art, such as texture, pattern, and shape

3D Printed Objects

Small replicas of Mia sculptures



Vincent Van Gogh, *Olive Trees*, 1889





Frank Stella, *Tahkt-I-Sulayman Variation II*, 1969



Yoruba, *Shrine Head*,
12th – 14th century



Mia Touch Tours

3D Printed Objects

Small replicas of Mia sculptures



Docent Accessibility Group

Verbal Description

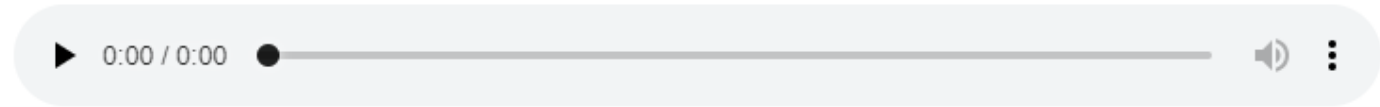


Docent Accessibility Group

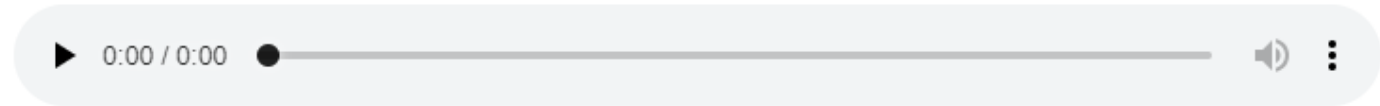
Verbal Description

Verbal Descriptions of Artwork: detailed, verbal descriptions of artwork for people who are blind or have low vision are available through your own device via the links below or by checking out an iPod at the 3rd Avenue and 24th street entrances (Note: the 24th street entrance is closed from October through May).

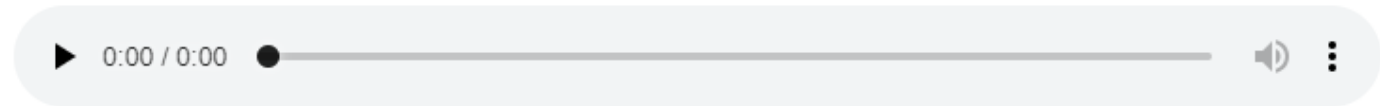
Olive Trees, 1889, Vincent van Gogh



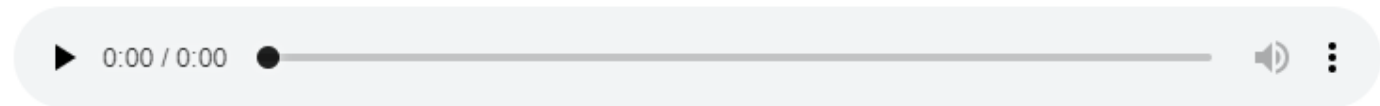
Shrine head, 12th-14th century, Yoruba



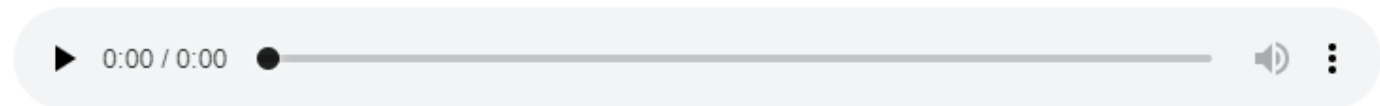
Blind Man's Buff, 1945, Max Beckmann



Jade Mountain Illustrating the Gathering of Scholars at the Lanting Pavilion, 1790, Unknown artist



The Doryphoros, 120-50 BCE, Unknown artist, Italy



Discover Your Story

Tours for people with memory loss and their care partners

- Take a journey around the world as you explore images of fine foods, colorful landscapes, and fantastic characters
- Imagine what's happening in the moment
- Create and share stories inspired by works that engage the senses and spark conversation
- Enjoy a personal, relaxed time together to reminisce, reflect, and tell our life stories



Pierre Bonnard, *Dining Room in the Country*, 1913



Tour plus art-making activity







Treasure boxes: what's important in your life experiences?

