Accessibility in the Arts
Is Expression Really Free to All?
Monday, January 20, 2 PM

This program is supported in part by a grant from New Hampshire Humanities
RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Be respectful and use respectful language.

Share air time by keeping your remarks concise. This will allow everyone a chance to be heard.

Listen to each other and be open-minded.

Be inclusive.

Think critically.

Take risks, be unpolished, make mistakes — then let go.

Speak for yourself. Don’t try to speak for “your group.”

Trust each other to go places we don’t anticipate.

REBECCA COKLEY is the director of the Disability Justice Initiative at American Progress, where her work focuses on disability policy. Most recently, she served as the executive director of the National Council on Disability (NCD), an independent agency charged with advising Congress and the White House on national disability public policy. She joined the NCD in 2013 after serving in the Obama administration, including time in the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as a successful stint at the White House where she oversaw diversity and inclusion efforts.

CARA CARGILL (moderator) is a Carsey Fellow for New Hampshire Listens. She works as a facilitator and mediator covering a spectrum of areas from agriculture, food systems, land access and accessibility, to family systems and civic engagement. She has facilitated such topics as mental health, substance use, community police relations, transportation, environmental resiliency, education, and strategic planning for various communities.
QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

What does it mean to have a voice?

What forms can expression take?

How does our speech, expression, language shape our worldview? our agency in the world?

What assumptions do we make about people who are different from us?

What impact do labels have on our ability to express ourselves? To connect with others?

What does accessibility mean to you?

SPEAKER BIOS:

EMILY SARA is a disabled, interdisciplinary artist working within the language of advertising and animation to discuss the American healthcare system and extent of social control over the disabled body. She received her undergraduate degree from Boston University in advertising and art history and her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Emily is the recipient of a grant from the Foundation for Inclusion Fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she currently teaches graphic design and foundations.

KELLY DOREMUS STUART has been a roster artist and trainer with VSA Arts of New Hampshire, an AIE teaching artist with the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and a dance/movement instructor and choreographer for theater and dance productions at New England College since 1990. She has extensive experience teaching dance and expressive movement to students of all ages and abilities in a wide variety of venues. She is a firm believer in the transformative power of dance for everyone.
ARTICLES


Fighting the Art World’s Ableism, article by Emily Sara published in Hyperallergic, 8, 2019, https://hyperallergic.com/510439/fighting-the-art-worlds-ableism/


RESOURCES

Arts Access New Hampshire uses the power of the arts to work toward creating a society where people with and without disabilities have the same opportunities to experience the arts as artists and as audience members. The current organization grew out of VSA arts of New Hampshire which was established in 1986 as a member of a worldwide network of international VSA arts organizations. https://education.kennedy-center.org/education/#Access.

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts supports universal access to the arts. The Council abides by state and federal laws that prohibit public support to organizations (people or entities) that discriminate against people with disabilities. https://www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/accessible.htm

Future in Sight (formerly NH Association for the Blind) provides vision rehabilitation services for New Hampshire people of all ages who are blind and visually impaired. https://futureinsight.org/

National Endowment for the Arts’ Office of Accessibility is the advocacy-technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment to make the arts accessible for people with disabilities, older adults, veterans, and people living in institutions. https://www.arts.gov/accessibility/accessibility-resources/nea-office-accessibility

Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the New Hampshire Deaf and Hard of Hearing community through empowerment, education, and advocacy for equal access and opportunity. https://www.ndhhs.org/