

Integrating service providers into the rehearsal/planning process

- By have service providers assist as a part of the planning process you are incorporating them into the process, decision making, and allowing their expertise to make sure your art is accessible.
- This is going to be a step above providing the service as you will ensure the creation of a new show/exhibit/etc. is thinking about how services will be used throughout the piece. Think of it like having an advisory board of people with disabilities. This is an advisory board of experts on accessibility.

How to create a comfortable environment and good working relationship.

- Provide a guide of things to know about a specific art form/venue/etc.
 - Ex. A Theatre Guide for Access Providers
 - Can be as simple as a 1-pager about terms specific to an organization
- Have someone on the production or creation team who is the point of contact for any questions from service providers.
- Involve service providers in any planning meetings or decision-making processes.

What sort of ideas can service-providers give?

- How to integrate captions into the design of a set or uniquely into an exhibit.
- Providing ASL as a part of the production.
 - Ex. Involve interpreters in a rehearsal process so they become an extension of the actor rather than off to the side.
- Ensuring that items are tactile or have tactile options.
 - Ex. Creating a lobby display for theatre productions of tactile/visual opportunities prior to the performance.
- Any number of wonderful ideas that aren't currently being implemented. You don't know until you ask!

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How to plan for this.

- Increased accessibility budget. Talk to service providers you currently use (or use the CCAC listserv to make connections) and find out what they would charge to come on as an accessibility consultant or part of the production/planning team.
- Be aware that service providers schedules may not allow in-person access to every meeting/rehearsal/etc. Be flexible.

Not quite ready to go this far?

- Begin creating a network of providers who are willing and able to offer their services and collect what they charge for them.
- Schedule service providers as early as possible and provide as much information as possible from the outset.
- Invite service providers to attend a rehearsal/walk-through/etc. before the final product to provide feedback.
- Share design plans, videos, or other collateral that may provide a service provider more context if an in-person visit isn't possible.