

Resources from Cultural Access Collaborative

Resources from Sense & Support

Erin Harvey

Erin Harvey (she/her) is a self-described world traveler and ballet dancer. Some of her favorite performances include dancing with Western Spring Ballet Training in addition to playing Circe in *The Odyssey* and Elizabeth/Partner in *Frankenstein* for A.B.L.E. Ensemble. Erin joined A.B.L.E. in 2023, and, in addition to performing, she is also a member of the Program Advisory Council where she shares her expertise to shape programmatic strategy and advocate for others. When not at A.B.L.E., Erin enjoys being a dog owner and working at St. John of the Cross. Something she wishes people knew about her is that appearance isn't everything!

Katie Yohe

Katie Yohe (she/her) is a multi-faceted performer, director, producer, and educator with credits ranging from musicals to Shakespeare both in the U.S. and abroad. Katie holds a BFA in Drama from Syracuse University and a Masters with Distinction in Applied Theatre from The Royal Central School for Speech and Drama in London. As the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of A.B.L.E. – Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations – Katie specializes in collaborating with performers with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). She enjoys working collaboratively with performers to devise their own stories, or to find themselves in classic pieces, through a multitude of performance styles ranging from music to movement to puppetry. With A.B.L.E., she has produced and directed over 30 productions including stage plays, feature films, and digital projects all featuring neurodiverse ensembles. Katie has adapted 8 stories from the classical canon, including the critically acclaimed *Frankenstein* produced in partnership with Chicago Shakespeare Theater. In 2023, she was part of a delegation of artists who toured to Poland with the Center for International Theater Development. Katie has developed and led accessibility training for Northlight Theatre, UIC, Paramount Theater, and The Lyric Opera, among others. As a leader with a chronic illness, Katie centers accessibility throughout the creative process, and approaches her work with the ethos that the arts belong to everyone.

Melanie Zehner

Melanie Zehner (she/her) works as the the Accessibility and Inclusion Coordinator at the Lincoln Park Zoo. She also is an actor, writer, director, theatre educator, cultural institution practitioner, disability consultant and 500hr Registered Yoga Teacher. Melanie is a proud member of actor unions' AEA and SAG-AFTRA. She has directed and written theatrical works for multiple performing arts companies, and interactive museum exhibits. As an accessibility consultant, she has provided inclusive guidance for film productions, museums, theatre companies and performing arts schools. Melanie holds a BA in Theatre from SUNY Potsdam and a MA in

Physical Acting from the University of Kent Canterbury. She is a graduate of the Second City Conservatory and a Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC). Melanie joined the Steering Committee in 2025.

Abby Busser-Acsettura

Abby Busser-Acsettura (she/her) is a long time resident of the Chicagoland area, Abby holds a Bachelors Degree in English and the Humanities from Valparaiso University, where she attended the Christ College honors program, and a Masters of Fine Art in Screenwriting from DePaul. Abby's career experience lies in both formal and informal education at institutions across Chicago, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Chicago and the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry. She currently serves as the Senior Learning Specialist for Teen Programs at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, where she sits on the Learning Department's Accessibility working circle. In her free time, Abby also occasionally works as a photographer specializing in portraiture and event photography, and sings with the Windy City Performing Arts Treble Quire. Abby joined the Steering Committee in 2025.

Slides Deck  LEAD 2025 Share Out.pdf

Resources

[Sense & Support Resources](#)

A collection of links relating to the materials from today including organizations to connect with.

[Frankenstein Sensory Guide](#)

A sensory advisory guide provided by A.B.L.E. from a production of Frankenstein.

Below are links to some sensory tools recommended by our presenters

- [Tangles](#)
- [Poppers](#)
- [Speks magnet putty](#)
- [Sensory ball](#)

Below are links to some websites where sensory tools and toys can be purchased in bulk for cheaper and/or offer discounts for non-profit organizations

- [Crazy Aaron's Thinking Putty](#)
- [Schylling](#)
- [PlayTherapySupply.com](#)

Archived resources from Past Programs can be accessed below!

2025 Programs

[LEAD Share Out 2025](#)

[Sensory Friendly Program Roadmap](#)

[Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?](#)

[Sighted Guiding & Accessibility Training](#)

2024 Programs

[Creating Accessible Cultural Spaces](#)

[Elevating Artists with Disabilities](#)

[Service Dogs Welcome](#)

[Elevating Artists with Disabilities](#)

[LEAD Conference Share Out 2024](#)

[Expanding Accessibility in Cultural Spaces](#)

[Director of Artistic Sign Language \(DASL\)](#)

2023 Programs

[Accessible Equipment Loan Open House](#)

[Loud and Proud! Maximizing Your Accessibility Info for Guests](#)

[LEAD Conference Share Out 2023](#)

[Engaging Multisensory Experiences in Outdoor Spaces](#)

[Steering Committee Info Session](#)

[Inclusive Employment in Arts & Culture](#)

[Nothing About Us Without Us: Meaningful Collaboration with the Disability Community](#)

2022 Programs

[An Open Book Conversation with Rahnee Patrick and Grace Tsao](#)

[Ask About Alt Text with Bojana Coklyat](#)

[LEAD Conference Share Out 2022](#)

[BIPOC Providers Part Two: Audio Describers](#)

[BIPOC Providers Part One: ASL Interpreters](#)

[Cultural Communities Advancing Disability Rights](#)

[Aesthetics and Accessibility](#)

[How to Use the Equipment Loan Program](#)

2021 Programs

[An Open Book Conversation with Emily Ladau and Risa Jaz Rifkind](#)

[Access 101: Individual Perspectives](#)

[Access 101: An Introduction to Disability and Accessibility](#)

[Accessibility in Virtual Events: A Technical Step By Step](#)

[Adapting and Advancing: Cultural Accessibility During the Pandemic and Beyond-Day Two](#)

[Adapting and Advancing: Cultural Accessibility During the Pandemic and Beyond-Day One](#)

[Ask About Access](#)

[Disability in Children's Literature](#)

[Intro to CCAC Steering Committee](#)

2020 Programs

[Intro to Cultural Accessibility: A One State 2020 Conference Event](#)

[Leading Accessible Virtual Programs](#)

[New Year Access Resolutions](#)

2019 Programs

[Serving Older Adults in Cultural Institutions](#)

[A Showcase of Accessible Services for Theater](#)

[Intro to Cultural Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities](#)

[Welcoming Veterans](#)

[Developing Accessible Museum Exhibitions](#)

2018 Programs

[Accessibility 101](#)

2017 Programs

[Web and Technology Access: Top Tips](#)

[LEAD Conference Share-Out: 60 Ideas in 60 Minutes](#)

[Accessible Outdoor Events](#)

[Creating a staff training plan for access and inclusion](#)

2016 Programs

[Visual Language, Verbal Description and Multisensory Strategies](#)

[Intro to Captioning](#)

[Sensory-Friendly Cultural Programming Summit](#)

[Creative Engagement in an Aging Society](#)

[Is Your Cultural Organization Prepared for An Emergency?](#)

2015 Programs

[Getting Down to Business: Creating an Access Plan](#)

[Inclusive Programming for Children with Disabilities](#)

[Funding Accessibility](#)

[Getting Started with Access](#)

[Accessible Seating and Ticketing](#)

[The Elements of Outreach](#)

2014 Programs

[Forging Alliances: The Creation of Access and Advisory Committees](#)

[Visitors with Cognitive Disabilities](#)

[Guests Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#)

[Guests Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision](#)

[Disability Awareness Training for Front-Line Staff](#)

Inaugural Program

[ADA 101: The ADA & Cultural Spaces](#)