

Museum Accessibility

Online Resources: Agencies, information, and products for the visually impaired

<http://www.vsarts.org>

VSAarts advocates for arts education for students with disabilities. Arizona chapter director is Barbara Yorkis, 520-795-6502 (w); 751-0235 (h); barbarayorkis@vsaz.org

www.ARTability.org

ARTability serves as a bridge between arts organizations and individuals with disabilities by promoting accessible programming in the arts and facilitating connections to services and resources. ARTability serves over 289,000 individuals with disabilities statewide, and 640 arts organizations statewide.

<http://www.gag.org/resources/das.php>

A website with downloadable disability access symbols for your documents and signage.

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/lead/conference.html>

LEAD (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability) Kennedy Center sponsors this annual conference which moves to different locations around the country. It was in AZ in 2005.

<http://www.si.edu/opa/accessibility/exdesign/start.htm>

Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design (downloadable book)

<http://www.nea.gov/resources/Accessibility/pubs/DesignAccessibility.html>

National Endowment for the Arts' Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook (downloadable book, 171 pages)

<http://www.azada.gov/>

Arizona's Office for Americans with Disabilities. The AOAD provides training, on-site physical accessibility surveys and ADA-related referrals and resource materials.

<http://www.artsforallinc.org>

Arts for All, Inc., 2520 North Oracle Road, Tucson, Arizona 85705, (520) 622-4100
Mission Statement: To provide accessible education, training, and experience in the Arts to children, particularly those with special needs.

<http://www.nea.gov/resources/Accessibility/pubs/DesignAccessibility.html> (to download and print this book—171 pages) National Endowment for the Arts' **Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook** represents an update of *The Arts and 504* (1992). This resource is designed to help you not only comply with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but to assist you in making access an integral part of your organization's planning, mission, programs, outreach, meetings, budget and staffing.

<http://www.azada.gov/>

Arizona's Office for Americans with Disabilities. The AOAD provides training, on-site physical accessibility surveys and ADA-related referrals and resource materials.

The Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). The primary purpose of the council is to encourage and advocate independent living for Arizonans with disabilities throughout the state. SILC has produced an Independent Living Document that includes Arizona resources and a section on disability etiquette, available at www.azsilc.org.

The Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired is a non-profit agency serving visually impaired adults in Southern Arizona since 1964. By promoting independence, SAAVI enhances the quality of life for those with vision loss through programs offering services, skills training and social and recreational opportunities. <http://www.saavi.us/home.html>

www.brailleplus.com

Braille Plus is a Braille transcription company that specializes in converting text to Braille for a wide variety of purposes.

<http://www.americanthermoform.com/>

American Thermoform Corp., 1758 Brackett St., La Verne, CA 91750 (909) 593-6711. A company that sells Braille paper, embossable paper, high and low tech equipment for producing Braille and tactile materials.

www.azdes.gov/rsa/blind.asp

Arizona Directory of Services for Persons who are Blind & Visually Impaired, compiled by the Arizona Department of Economic Security/Rehabilitation Services Administration (downloadable, 93 pgs.).

<http://www.azblinddeafchildren.org/>

The Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation mission is to invest in the future of Arizona's children and youth with vision and hearing impairments, by raising and managing private funds to bridge the ever-widening gap between public education funding and access to the quality educational experience essential to prepare Arizona students to be self-sufficient and contributing members of society (520) 577-3700.

<http://www.artbeyondsight.org/index.shtml>

The **Art Beyond Sight (ABS)** collaborative is dedicated to making the visual arts play a vital role in the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired. The collaborative of museums, schools and advocacy groups was created and is sponsored by **Art Education for the Blind**, who's mission is to make art, art history, and visual culture accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. The website offers networking, resources, newsletters and inspiration. ABS sponsors an international, annual Art Beyond Sight Awareness month each October and invites all museums and schools to participate through programs that serve, or advocate for, the visually impaired.

<http://drc.arizona.edu/>

University of Arizona Disability Resource Center: Facilitates full access for disabled students, faculty, staff, and visitors through the provision of reasonable accommodations, adaptive athletic and fitness programs, assistive technology, innovative programming, education, and consultation.