Arts and Creativity Resources

By participating in the arts, people with disabilities greatly contribute to our workplaces and communities, help bury old stereotypes regarding disability, and create a global culture truly representative of all people.

The arts enhance lives in many ways. They improve both personal and academic success, from the beginning of a child's education through the time of adulthood and career. Elementary school students who participate in music programs score higher in reading, mathematics, language, and overall achievement tests. Students who study the arts in high school earn higher test scores. And students who participate in studio art courses improve their writing and vocabulary skills. These findings underscore the value of the arts in positively shaping the lives of all people, including people with disabilities.

Because art is an infinite and unconditional field, people with disabilities are free to express themselves without physical, social, or attitudinal barriers.

Art is the universal language that has the ability to unite all people. The following Arts and Creativity resources connect people with disabilities to the visual arts, music, theater and dance.

Source: VSA – The International Organization on Arts and Disability

Web Sites

General

http://www.artheals.org/

Arts and Healing Network
An Internet resource celebrating the connection between art and healing.
The National Arts and Disability Center (NADC)
Jane & Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior
760 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Phone: 310-825-9989
The National Arts and Disability Center (NADC) is the nation's centralized resource on
the inclusion of audiences and artists with disabilities in all facets of the arts community.
It does so by providing information, training, and technical assistance with a strong focus
on accessibility and careers in the arts for people with disabilities.

National Endowments for the Arts Office for AccessAbility
400 7th St
Washington, DC 20506
Phone: 202-682-5400
TTY: 202-682-5496
The National Endowment for the Arts' Office for AccessAbility 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.

Visual Arts

Art Rod Foundation, Inc.
206 South Davenport
Metamora, IL 61548
Phone: 309-367-4496
Email: gdepaupw@mtco.com
The Art Rod Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization promoting handicapped
awareness and the triumph of the human spirit. The Art Rod is will travel to various
schools with artist Greg DePauw, an incomplete quadriplegic, who teaches basic drawing
and watercolor techniques. He speaks about self-respect, setting goals, dreaming and how
to develop a "Can-Do" attitude!

ArtLifting
Phone: 304-825-5278
ArtLifting is a benefit corporation that provides homeless and disabled artists the
opportunity to earn their own income. ArtLifting sells original paintings, art prints, and
products so artists can earn recurring income from each piece. Artists earn 55% of the
profit from each sale.

Association of Foot and Mouth Painting Artists
2070 Peach Tree Ct. Suite 101
Atlanta, Georgia 30341  
Phone: 770-986-7764  
Email: mfpaura@bellsouth.net  
Offers financial support to painters accepted into the group.

http://sci.washington.edu/info/reports/conversations-2.asp  
Artists discuss their art in the context of their SCIs.

http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/  
VSA – The International Organization on Arts and Disability  
2700 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20566  
Phone: 202-467-4600, 800-444-1324  
Email: vsainfo@kennedy-center.org  
Founded in 1974 as an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, VSA creates learning opportunities through the arts for people with disabilities. The organization offers arts-based programs in creative writing, dance, drama, music and the visual arts implemented primarily through an affiliate network in 39 states and 70 international affiliates in 67 countries.

www.zotartz.com  
Zot Artz  
3014 Bronson Blvd.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Phone: 269-254-8928  
Email: Dwayne@zotartz.com  
Zot Artz Arts for All provides services, programs, art tools and supplies that allow individuals with different levels of abilities to creatively express themselves. Zot Artz has created hundreds of special art events around the world, and helped schools, museums, residential and day centers, independent living centers, park and rec programs and others put the art tools to work in their programs.

Dance

http://www.axisdance.org/  
AXIS Dance Company  
1428 Alice Street, Suite 200  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: 510-625-0110  
Email: info@axisdance.org  
AXIS Dance Company has performed its innovative body of work in theaters and dance spaces at throughout the U.S. as well as overseas. AXIS has become an internationally known resource for physically integrated dance and is one of a handful of companies setting a standard for professionalism in this emerging field.
Dance>Detour
1935 South Archer Avenue, Suite 413
Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: 312-341-1018
Founded in 1995, Dance>Detour is Chicago’s first professional “diverse-abilities” dance company comprised of multi-talented artists with and without disabilities. The focus of their work is solely dedicated to the art of physically integrated dance and collaborations that include dancers of all abilities.

http://www.danceability.com/

DanceAbility International
576 Olive St. Suite 208
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-357-4982
DanceAbility International encourages the evolution of mixed-abilities dance by cultivating a common ground for creative expression for all people. The mission is accomplished through performance, educational programs, teacher training and workshops

http://www.dancingwheels.org/

Dancing Wheels Company & School
3615 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: 216-432-0308
Dancing Wheels is a professional, physically integrated dance company uniting the talents of dancers both with and without disabilities. The School of Dancing Wheels opened in 1990 and has become a world-class training center for dancers, choreographers and educators.

http://www.fullradiusdance.org/

Full Radius Dance
P.O. Box 54453
Atlanta, GA 30308
Phone: 404-724-9663
Email: fullradiusdance@aol.com
Founded in 1990, Full Radius Dance is a physically integrated modern dance company that presents mature, choreographically complex works celebrating technique and physicality. Full Radius also offers lecture demonstrations, master classes, and teacher training.

http://heidilatskydance.com/gimp

GIMP Project
400 West 43rd Street #21S
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212-268-0976
Email: heidilatskydance@gmail.com
The GIMP Project, a project of Heidi Latsky Dance, features four trained dancers and four performers who have physical disabilities.

http://www.infiniteflowdance.org/
Infinite Flow—A Wheelchair Dance Company
14622 Ventura Blvd, #102-373
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Phone: 949-267-8751
Email: InfiniteFlowDance@gmail.com
Infinite Flow - A Wheelchair Dance Company based in Los Angeles, CA, is America's first professional wheelchair ballroom dance company, and has a mission to break artistic and social barriers through excellence and innovation in wheelchair dance performance.

http://www.infinitydance.com/
Infinity Dance Theater
220 West 93rd Street
New York, NY 10025
Email: info@infinitydance.com
Infinity Dance Theater is a non-traditional dance company committed to expanding the boundaries of dance by featuring dancers with and without disabilities. In addition to performances, Infinity Dance offers educational programs including lecture demonstrations and teacher training.

http://www.ncpad.org/directories/programs/7859
Light Motion Dance Company
1520 32nd Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144
Phone: 206-328-0818
Email: CACrutiss@msn.com
Light Motion was established in 1988 to develop the artistic expressions of both dancers with and without disabilities. Working with both choreography as well as improvisation, the Company travels nationally and internationally to perform and teach dance residencies for dancers of all ages, abilities, and professional levels.

http://www.sinsinvalid.org/
Sins Invalid
San Francisco, CA area
Phone: 510-214-6530
Email:info@sinsinvalid.org
Sins Invalid is an inclusive performance project involving artists of color, queer and gender-variant artists, and artists with disabilities (broadly defined). They present multidisciplinary performances (video, poetry, spoken word, music, drama, and dance) by people with disabilities; organize performance workshops for people with and without disabilities; and offer political education workshops for community based organizations
Film Festivals


Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival and Competition
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
1716 San Antonio St.
Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-478-3366
Email: info@txdisabiities.org

www.DisabilityFilmChallenge.com

Disability Film Challenge
The Disability Film Challenge is a 48 hour short film competition that has been established in association with prestigious organizations such as the Media Access Awards and the HollyShorts Film Festival. It is a competition in which entrants are allotted two days to complete production of their entry into the competition. Among other prizes, winners will have their shorts screened at the Hollyshorts Film Festival in the famous TCL Chinese Theater.

www.dislabeledfilm.wordpress.com

Dislabled Film Series
New York City’s monthly screening series celebrating disability culture

http://disabilityfilmfest.org/

DisABILITIES Film Festival
Museum of disABILITY History
3826 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14226
Phone: 716-629-3626
Email: info@museumofdisability.org

http://ptff.typepad.com/ptff_main/

Picture This…Film Festival (PTFF)
c/o Calgary Scope Society
219 18th St., SE
Calgary, AB, Canada, T2E 6J5
The festival features films that are about disability and/or films on any subject that were produced, directed and/or written by people with disabilities.

http://www.reelabilities.org/

ReelAbilities NY Disabilities Film Festival
334 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10023
ReelAbilities: NY Disabilities Film Festival is the largest festival in the country dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities. Initiated in NY in 2007, the festival presents award winning films by and about people with disabilities in multiple locations throughout each hosting city. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring together the community to explore, discuss, embrace, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.

http://superfestfilm.com/
Superfest International Disability Film Festival
An annual festival held in San Francisco, CA each year.

http://wideanglemedia.ca/
Wide Angle Media Festival
Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture
Vancouver, BC
Phone: (604) 681 5788
Email: programs@kickstart-arts.ca

Music

www.accessiblefestivals.com
Accessible Festivals
Phone: 949-291-6534
Email: accessiblefestivals@gmail.com
Works with concert promoters to make music festivals accessible for people with disabilities.

http://www.disabled-musicians.org
Coalition for Disabled Musicians, Inc.
P.O. Box 1002M
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Phone: 631-586-0366
Email: cdmnews@aol.com
The Coalition for Disabled Musicians, Inc. (CDM) is dedicated to enabling physically disabled musicians to pursue their musical dreams. Their online forum connects disabled musicians to each other provides information on topics such as adaptive gear and adaptive techniques for pain, endurance, and other limitations.

http://www.disableddrummers.org
Disabled Drummers Association
An organization dedicated to serving drummers with disabilities and helping them to be a positive part of the music industry, as well as to help change the way disabled musicians are viewed and treated in the industry today. Their website includes a marketplace to buy, sell and trade equipment.

http://project-resiliency.org/about-us/
http://www.ravendrumfoundation.org

The Raven Drum Foundation/Project Resiliency
Email: info@ravendrumfoundation.org
An organization established by Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen to encourage the healing powers of drumming and to help people overcome the emotional and physical pain resulting from traumatic events. The foundation provides free educational programs to inspire personal growth during times of adversity.

http://www.wheelyguitars.com/
Wheely Guitars LLC

Mel Bergman
Founder
805-407-4542

Dan Peyton
Co-Founder
805-377-7557

Liam James O’Malley
National Director of Placement
917-749-0957

Wheely Guitars manufactures guitars that allow wheelchair users to play them.

Performing Arts/Theater

http://inclusioninthearts.org/
Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts
1560 Broadway, Suite 709
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212-730-4750
The Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts works to advance the participation of artists of color, female artists, artists who are deaf or hard of hearing and artists with disabilities. The Alliance maintains a free national talent bank, the Artist Files, for theatres, production companies and casting offices to consult.
That Uppity Theatre Company produces The DisAbility Project, bringing awareness and sensitivity to issues in the disability community through a combination of art and advocacy that tours to a variety of audiences. The group is comprised of people with and without disabilities who are diverse in age, race, ethnicity, class, occupation, education, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, and performance experience.

Dionysus Theatre is a non-profit organization that brings the theater experience to actors with disabilities and those who are non-disabled since 1998. Through stage shows, classes, and touring troupe, Dionysus breaks down stereotypes and opens up communication and inclusion.

Quest is a group of artists, educators, and dedicated volunteers representing a diverse ethnic, cultural, and artistic panorama who are committed to creating, producing, presenting, and supporting theatre that emanates from a visual base and features casts and production staffs that are inclusive.
The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please visit the online catalog at: http://www.ChristopherReeve.org/Library.

Books


  Learn how one man rebuilds a gratifying and purposeful life from a wheelchair after a car accident.

• Syll, Monita Imbert. **Victors All.** Los Angeles, CA: Authors Unlimited, 1992.
  Covers painters who belong to the Association of Foot and Mouth Painting Artists.

  A true story of five little girls with cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities who take a ballet class.

• Treanor, Richard Bryant. **My Paintings: Celebrating the Good Life.**
  Treanor is a wheelchair user due to polio.

• Wisehart, Cynthia. **Storms and Illuminations: 18 Years of Access Theatre.**

**Videos**

• **Dancing from the Inside Out: Stories of Dancers with Disabilities from AXIS Dance Company.** 2014 DVD (30 minutes).
  A documentary that profiles three dancers with disabilities from the acclaimed AXIS company.

• **Invitation to Dance.** Kino Lorber, 2014. DVD (85 min.)
  A documentary about Simi Linton who was injured in 1971 as a college student. She found freedom through dance.

• **Passage: A Disabled Dancer Dances Again.** Sherborn, MA: Aquarius Health Care, 2004. VHS
  Following a diving accident, a professional dancer is left quadriplegic. She brings adaptive dance to Montreal.

• **Possibilities, Disabilities & The Arts.** Normal Films, 2009. DVD
  The film shows how fine art, music, dance, drama, public speaking, comedy, and other forms of creative expression provide essential tools for improving social and life skills.

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.

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