

**Changing  
how we  
create and  
experience  
arts and  
culture.**

**January  
24–26, 2019**

**Harbourfront  
Centre**

# **Crippling the Arts.**

**Access Guide**

# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is a symposium?</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is Crippling the Arts?</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>What is a Land Acknowledgement?</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>What does Harbourfront Centre look like?</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>How will Crippling the Arts be accessible to me?</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>How can I help make this space safer and more inclusive?</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>What will happen at the symposium and evening performances?</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Who can I contact for assistance?</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>What are some of the words that will be used?</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>



---

## Introduction

This Access Guide is for people coming to Crippling the Arts on January 24th, 25th and 26th. Inside, you will find information about the space in which the symposium will be held and about other things you might want to know before coming to the event.

We hope you have a wonderful experience!



## What is a symposium?

A symposium is an event where people gather together to talk about ideas. Symposiums often have presentations and panel conversations.



## What is Crippling the Arts?

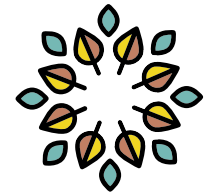
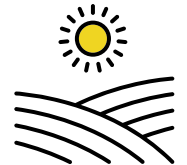
Crippling the Arts is a three-day symposium at Harbourfront Centre. There will be presentations, workshops, exhibitions and performances. Participants attending the symposium will talk about ideas and present art and performances. Here are some examples of what people will talk about:

- Best practices in accessibility
- Leadership and representation
- Intersections between indigeneity, race and disability

## What is a Land Acknowledgement?

A land acknowledgement is an opening recognition about the land that we are gathered on. This year, Crippling the Arts will be at Harbourfront Centre. This land that we are on has an important history, present and future that we need to understand and acknowledge. This land is called Turtle Island, and it is the original home of many Indigenous peoples. This land that we gather on is the land of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat and the Mississaugas of the New Credit.

We want to honour this land and the Indigenous peoples who are here today and who have passed. We want to recognize that we are sharing this land on which Toronto sits with each other. We want to recognize that we all have a responsibility to care for this land and for those who live here.



This is a picture of the area near Harbourfront Centre.







A picture of Harbourfront Centre taken from the street entrance.

# What does Harbourfront Centre look like?

## Entrance

To get into the Harbourfront Centre Main Building, you will find a wheelchair accessible entrance at the front of the building on the east side. The doors are power-automated.



## The Brigantine Room

Most of the activities and performances will happen in the Brigantine Room on the main floor in the Harbourfront Centre Main Building.



This picture shows you what the Brigantine Room looks like during a live performance. The chairs in the room do not have arms and are not padded. There will be tables spread out in the room with enough space for wheelchair users to move around.

## The Marilyn Brewer Community Space

Breaks and lunches will happen in the Marilyn Brewer Community Space. The Marilyn Brewer Community Space is right outside the Brigantine Room.



This picture shows you what the Marilyn Brewer Community Space looks like.



## Getting around

You can get to the Brigantine Room from the main entrance. When you arrive, head towards the information desk. There are two ways to enter the Brigantine Room.



### Ramp access

Beside the information desk, there is a ramp that leads to the Brigantine Room. This ramp has a steep incline. There will be people at the ramp to assist anyone who needs help.



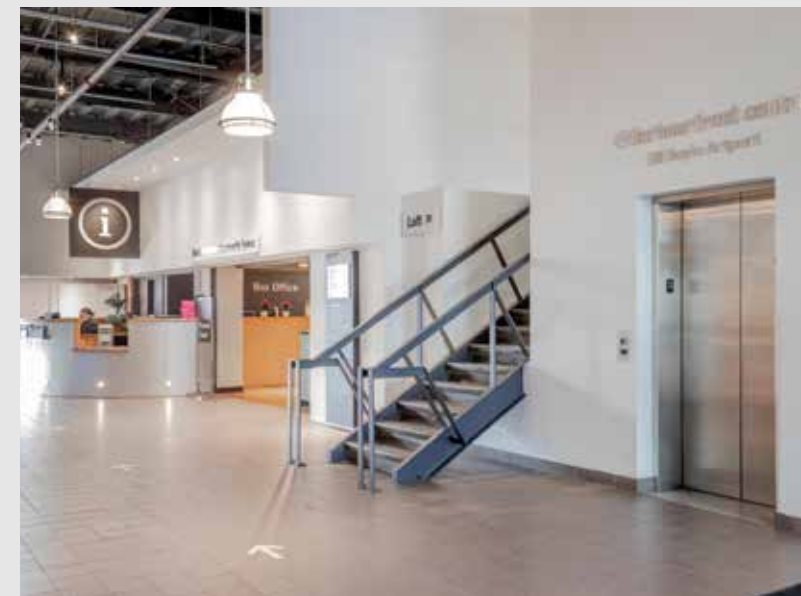
### Stairs

Beside the information desk on the right, there are eight (8) steps down to the Marilyn Brewer Community Space. The entrance to the Brigantine Room adjoins this room. Volunteers will be present to assist people with directions if needed.



## Main Loft space

There is a relaxed room in the Main Loft on the second floor. This room will be quiet and will have couches for people to relax on. There will also be dim lighting and an interactive installation in this room. There are two ways of getting to the Main Loft space.



### Elevator

There is an elevator located near the main entrance. This elevator will take you to the Main Loft space on the 2nd floor.

### Stairs

The stairs to the Main Loft are located beside the elevator on the left. There are 15 stairs to the 2nd floor.

## Harbourfront Centre Theatre

Harbourfront Centre Theatre is located in a separate building across the laneway on the east side of the main building. This is where the performance of Brownton Abbey will take place on Day 3. To get there from the Main Building, exit the main entrance, walk towards the harbour and the building will be on your left.

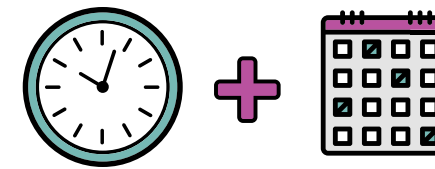
Here are some pictures of the building, the theatre and the washroom.



## The Washrooms

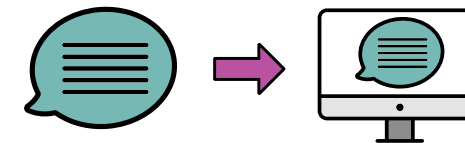
There are accessible and gender-neutral washrooms available on the main floor in the Harbourfront Centre Main Building. To find them, pass the information desk and follow the arrows down the hallway. You will find the washrooms down this hall opposite the glass windows.

# How will Crippling the Arts be accessible to me?



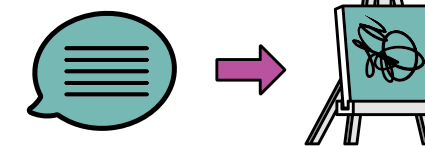
## Crip Time

Crip time can mean starting late or going over time to make it easier to learn, work or rest. Crip time can also mean starting on time so that ASL interpreters are in the room during a presentation. During this event, we will embrace crip time by starting on time and sticking to the schedule.



## Live Captioning and Transcription

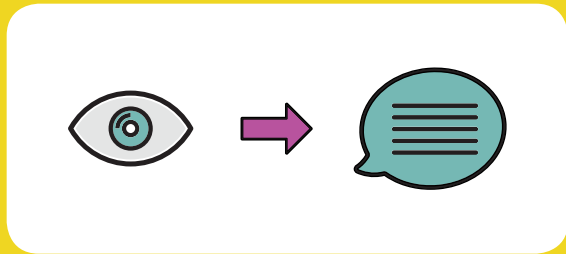
Angie Lang and Debbie Anshan will live-transcribe panels and presentations. This means they will be typing what the speakers say and these captions will be visible on a large screen on the main stage.



## Visual Recorder

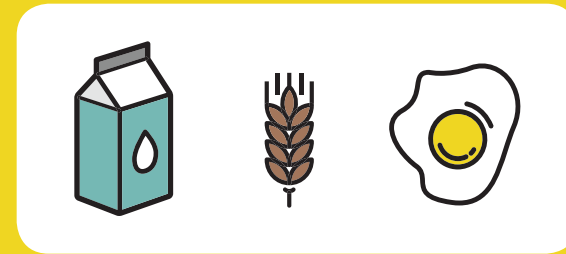
sonny bean is the visual recorder. They will draw pictures that represent people's ideas and presentations. sonny's drawings will be shown on a screen between presentations.





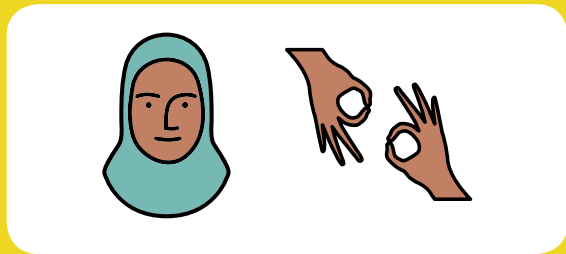
### Audio Describer

Kat Germain is the audio describer. She will provide descriptions of visual elements for people who are blind or who have low vision. Headsets are available to those who request them. If you would like an audio description headset, please let an Access Team member know.



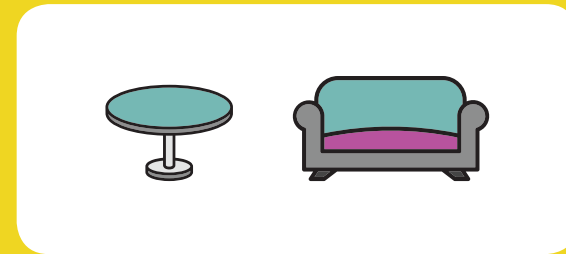
### Food sensitivities

There will be food options for people who have emailed us their dietary restrictions. We will ensure the removal of any foods that are triggering for those who have emailed us ahead of time. **If you have any allergies that you have not told us about, please tell a member of the Access Team immediately.**



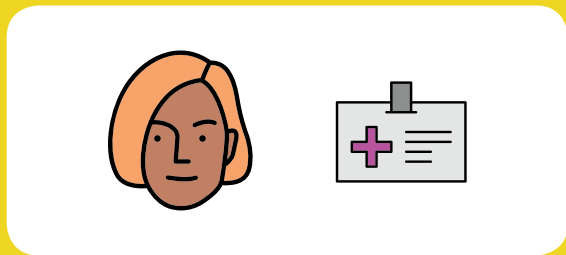
### American Sign Language

There will be ASL interpreters. They will be wearing badges that say "ASL Interpreter" for those who want to ask them questions.



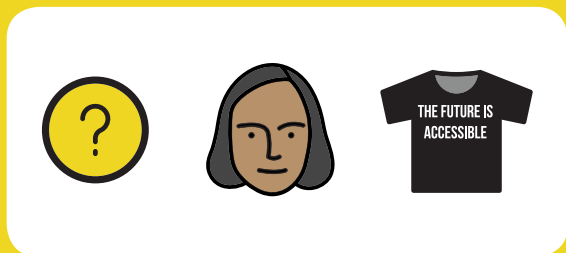
### Chill-out Space and Relaxed room

There will be a chill-out space available on the second floor in the Main Loft. There will be tables, couches and chairs in the room. There will also be an interactive art installation featured in this room entitled LUCID. For more information about this installation, see LUCID by Aaron Labbé in the program.



### Attendant Care

There will be four (4) attendant care workers to help anyone who asks for it. They will be wearing a badge that reads "Attendant".



### Access Team

There will be an Access Team available to help with accessibility needs. The Access Team will be wearing black t-shirts that say "The Future is Accessible".

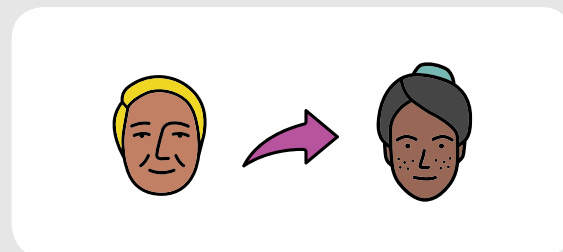


# How can I help make this space safer and more inclusive?

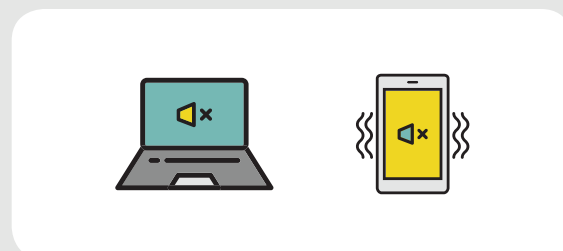
We ask that you help us create a safer, non-judgemental and inclusive space for everyone at Crippling the Arts. Here are some suggestions for how we can do this!



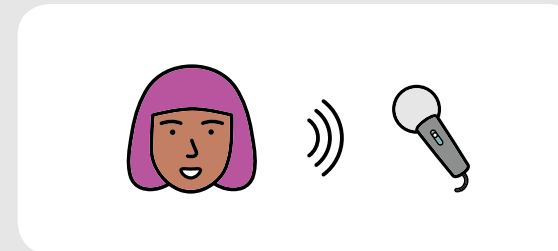
**Wait** for people to finish what they want to say before speaking.



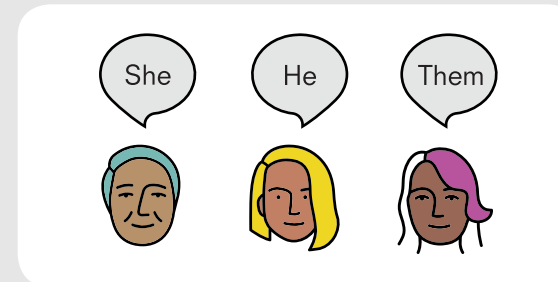
**Give** the space to those who might not be participating as much as you.



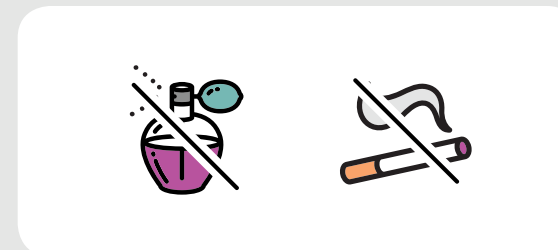
Please set computers and phones to **vibrate** so as not to disrupt the conversation.



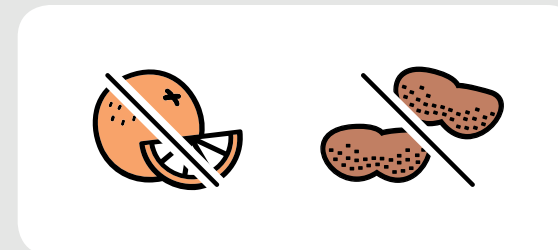
Always **talk into** the microphone. This will help the note-takers and the visual recorder to transcribe what you're saying.



Please **respect** people's pronouns.



Please help us make this space as **scent-free** as possible.



Please **do not bring oranges or peanuts** into the space.



Please **warn** people if you are going to speak about difficult things. For example, let us know if your comment or story will be upsetting. Does it have any ideas or scenes about violence or hate that could make someone in the room feel bad?





Picture of a Brownton Abbey performance. Harbourfront Centre Theatre will be decorated similarly.

## What will happen at the symposium and evening performances?

The symposium will run over three days with panel conversations and presentations during the day and performances in the evening. Each day will take place in the Brigantine Room and will begin with an Elder to acknowledge the land we are on and some welcoming words from our sponsors.

Panel discussions and performances will be live-streamed and available for viewing in the Marilyn Brewer Community Space for those who wish to leave the main space. You can register and/or buy tickets at the Harbourfront Centre box office, on the phone or on the Harbourfront Centre website. Here is some information on what to expect. Check out the Crippling the Arts Program for more information about the performers!

### At a glance

## Day 1

### Trajectories in Access

#### 9:30am-5:30pm: Presentations and workshops

On the first day, there will be presentations and workshops that talk about how we can make theatre and arts events more accessible to audiences.

### Evening Reception

#### 6-8pm: Evening reception at Tangled Art + Disability

This event will happen at a separate building called 401 Richmond Street. You can ask a volunteer or Access Team member for information on how to get there or you can check out the Crippling the Arts program.

## Day 2

### Deaf and Disability Futures

#### 9:30am-5:30pm: Panel conversations

On the second day, there will be panel conversations throughout the day and a keynote speaker talking about different themes related to disability arts.

### Crip Shorts

#### 8-10:30pm: Performance

There will be a performance called Crip Shorts taking place in the Brigantine Room in the evening. You can choose your own seat when you arrive and an usher will be at the door to assist you.



Crip Shorts has six (6) performers and one host, Alex Bulmer. The host will talk to the audience and introduce the performers. Some of the performances include audio or visual elements, low levels of lighting and repeated circus movement. The lighting in the room will be dim but not dark, so people can easily move around.

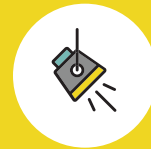
## Heads up!

# Day 2



### **8:20-8:40 pm: Erin Ball's performance**

Confetti cannons will go off near the end of the performance. They make two loud pops. The performer will also take off her prosthetic legs.



### **8:45-8:55 pm: Jessica Watkin's performance**

During this performance, the lights will be turned off or really low and it will be very dark. If you want to leave the space at any time, an usher or someone from the Access Team will be available to help you.



### **9-9:20 pm: Jackie Hagan's performance**

There will be some swearing and coarse language.



### **9:45-9:50 pm: Tamyka Bullen's performance**

The performer will be stomping the ground with their feet.



### **10-10:30 pm: Brian Solomon and Justin Many Fingers' performance**

There will be a loud bang after a fading of music.

## At a glance

# Day 3

## **Embodying the Intersections: Indigeneity, Race and Disability**

### **11am-7:30pm: Workshops and performances**

On the third day, there will be interactive and movement workshops and performances. There will be a closing dinner provided at the end of the day.

## **Brownton Abbey**

### **7:30-11pm: Performance**

The performance Brownton Abbey will be in Harbourfront Centre Theatre. Harbourfront Centre Theatre is located in a separate building on the east side of the main building.

The space will be decorated with rag bunting and glow-in-the-dark lights. There will be lots of purple, blue and neon colours. The photo on page 14 is an example of what the performance looked like in another space.

Brownton Abbey is a performance party that celebrates queer and disabled identities. The audience is invited to take up space and dance. You are welcome to come in and out of the space.



Tarik is the lead artist and host for Brownton Abbey. He will guide you through the night, introducing artists and describing what is happening on stage for the audiences members. Tarik will sometimes be on stage and at other times, he will be in the audience.

# Day 3



### 12:10-1pm: Mad Race

Content discussed may be triggering. Course language may be used.



### 2-3pm: Finding Language

People will be invited to move around the space, but participation is optional.



### 3:10-4:10pm: Welcome to the Shot Club

Content discussed may cause triggers and course language may be used. As part of this presentation, the people on stage are going to be drinking alcohol.



### 4:20-5:20pm: Minimal Action

People will be invited to participate, but it is optional.



### 7:30pm: Brownton Abbey

- There will be energetic lights and sounds that build up.
- The music will sometimes burst into a high energy sound. There will be high energy dance routines with lots of jumping around.
- There may be some intermittent screaming.
- A performer will blow a bowl of gold dust into the crowd.
- There will be a dance component, with audience members invited to participate if they wish.
- There will be projections.



# Who can I contact for assistance?



Volunteers are available to answer any questions and provide help. Volunteers will be wearing light blue vests. If you have any questions, contact Mikayla at [mstranges@harbourfrontcentre.com](mailto:mstranges@harbourfrontcentre.com).



This is a picture of DJ artists LAL (Rosina Kazi/Nicholas Murray) who will be performing with Brownton Abbey on the evening of January 26th.



# What are some of the words that will be used?

This glossary includes some words and ideas that may be used in conversations and performances at Crippling the Arts.



## **Ableism**

Ableism means intentional or unintentional prejudice against disabled people.

## **Activism**

Activism is the creative process of making change in society and politics. Activism is led by groups of people who need change in order to create better living conditions for themselves and others. There are many kinds of activism, including rallies and protests, research and policy change work, writing and art-making, and even posting on social media about personal experiences in order to create awareness and change people's perceptions.

## **Aesthetics**

Aesthetics refers to our sense of what is beautiful, interesting, and fulfilling. Aesthetics also refers to how art makes you feel and how your sense of beauty influences what you create.

## **Audism**

Audism refers to discrimination against D/deaf or hard of hearing people.

## **AODA**

The AODA stands for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The AODA is a government organization that works to make sure that Ontario obeys standards of accessibility.



## **BIPOC**

BIPOC is a short-form way of saying: "Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour." (See "Disability Justice".)



## **Chill-out space**

A chill-out space is a quiet room or area where people can go to relax and take a break from an event.

## **Cis and cisgender**

Cis and cisgender are words that people use to describe their gender identity as matching the sex assigned to them at birth.

## **Crip**

When we crip, we "open up with desire for the ways that disability disrupts". (Kelly Fritsch)



## **Data**

Data refers to information that is collected by people to understand something. Data can be used to represent or support ideas, to provide evidence, and to make social change.

## **D/deaf**

"Deaf" with a capital 'D' refers to Deaf identity and culture. "deaf" with a lower-case 'd' refers to the experience of not hearing, or being hard-of-hearing.

## **Decolonization**

Decolonization means working towards restoring freedom and self-determination of Indigenous peoples. It means respecting Indigenous people and their lived experiences, and moving away from ways of thinking that give white people (settlers) unjust rights and privilege over people of colour and Indigenous peoples.

## **Disability aesthetics**

Disability aesthetics refers to the aesthetics of disability arts. Disability aesthetics invites us to think about disability as a desirable and celebrated way of being in the world.

## **Disability justice**

Disability justice is a form of activism led by and for disabled Black, Indigenous and People of Colour. This form of activism focuses on experiences of disability and ableism from an intersectional perspective, which takes race, gender, sexuality, and class into account.

**Elder**

An Elder is an older Indigenous person who is recognized as a leader in their community. Elders may have different roles based on which communities/nations they belong to.

**Interdependence**

Two or more people or things that take care of one another in respectful and reciprocal ways.

**Intersectionality**

A word created by a scholar named Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe overlapping systems of oppression. It means that not everyone experiences disability or marginalization the same way. For example, some of us experience disability in a way that is impacted by our experience of race, gender, and sexuality.

**Indigenous**

The word indigenous refers to people, animals, plants and other things that originate naturally in a place. At Crippling the Arts, we will mostly be talking about Indigenous people and by this we mean First Nations, Inuit, and Métis People, the First Peoples of this land.

**Journalism**

Journalism refers to the field of reporting current news and cultural events.

**Keynote**

A keynote is the feature talk at a symposium. A keynote speech usually addresses main themes or issues that tie the whole symposium together.

**Mad**

Mad is a word sometimes used by some of us who have experienced mental distress and/or use the mental health system.

**Marginalize**

Marginalize is a word that describes treating a person, group of people, or ideas as not important. When people are marginalized, their rights and ideas are not seen or heard as central or important.

**Moderator**

The moderator is a person who introduces speakers, keeps track of time, and organizes questions during a panel presentation.

**Neurodiverse**

Neurodiverse refers to the idea that people experience things in many different ways. Our bodies, our minds, and our nervous systems are varied and include all kinds of different responses to our environments. A person who is neurodiverse may experience different sensations and responses to the world. Autism and autistic ways of thinking are common examples of neurodiversity, though there are many other ways to be neurodiverse.

**Non-binary**

Non-binary is a term some people use to describe gender identities that do not fit into the traditional gender categories of male and female.

**Panel**

A panel is a small group of people who give presentations to the audience at a conference or symposium.

**Panelist/speaker**

A panelist or speaker is a person who is invited to give a presentation in front of an audience. They are usually an expert on the topic they are talking about, either through education, lived experience, or both.

**Prejudice**

Prejudice is when we have an idea about a person or a group of people that is not based on reason or actual lived experience.

**Privilege**

Privilege is a word that describes the benefits and advantages that a person receives because their position in society is understood as more important, valuable, or desirable than others. One example of having privilege is being thin. Thin people live in the world without encountering discrimination or exclusion based on their size that fat people experience, and with the feeling that public space was built with them in mind.

**Pronouns**

In community spaces, especially queer-positive and inclusive spaces, we often use pronouns as a way to share our gender identity with each other. For example, a non-binary person might have “they” as their pronoun (rather than “him” or “her”). Using a person’s correct pronouns is one important way to show respect for that person. Gender pronouns include she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/theirs, and more.



### **Relaxed Performance**

A Relaxed Performance is a type of theatre performance that has been adjusted to be accessible for people with sensitivity to lights, sounds, and unexpected events. Relaxed Performances are also accessible to people who wish to move around or make sound during a performance, or who wish to leave and come back.



### **Sanism**

Sanism refers to discrimination against people with lived experience in mental healthcare systems or institutions.

### **Sector**

Sector is a word that describes a section. When we talk about “the disability arts sector,” we mean arts and culture created by disabled people, as one part of a bigger social and cultural space.

### **Settler/Settler privilege**

Settler is a word used by some people to acknowledge their relation to their ancestors who colonized Indigenous land. The phrase “settler privilege” is used to describe the ways that settlers (non-Indigenous people) today benefit from colonialism.

### **Spoonie/spoons**

The term “spoonie” comes from a story created by Christine Miserandino. This story describes one’s capacity for day-to-day tasks based on how much pain and/or energy a person has. The amount of spoons a person has refers to the capacity they have on any given day, and depends on how they feel. Some of us who experience pain, fatigue, and/or chronic illness may call ourselves a spoonie as a way of telling others that we have to be careful to not use up all of our limited energy, or “spoons”.



### **Trajectory**

Trajectory means a pathway or forward direction that something follows. When we talk about “Trajectories in Access,” we’re thinking about present and future ways we make the arts accessible, and how to create forward momentum with those ideas.

### **Trans and transgender**

Trans and transgender are words that people use to describe their gender identity as being different from the traditional gender categories of male and female. A trans person’s gender identity may not match the sex assigned to them at birth.

### **Treaty**

A treaty is a formal agreement between nations or countries. Historically and today, First Nations and Inuit leaders understand treaties as living agreements between nations that ensure the well-being of all people, beings, and the land. Colonial leaders have, historically and today, used treaties as agreements that ensure their continued access to power and control over land, animals, and people.

### **Turtle Island**

Turtle Island is the original, pre-colonial name of the land that today we call North America. Turtle Island was and is still the name for the land used by Indigenous people and non-Indigenous allies who are working towards decolonization.

### **Two-spirit**

Two-spirit is a word used by some Indigenous people to describe their gender, sexual, and spiritual identity that is different from colonial understandings of gender and sexuality.

















# Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the Canada Council for the Arts for helping to make the production of this Access Guide possible.

This Access Guide was created in consultation with L'Arche Toronto, Sol Express. Members of Sol Express gave feedback and recommendations on the design and text used in the guide.

Thank you to: R. Boardman, Madeleine Brown, Joan Curran, Maya Findlay, Nicholas Herd, Irene, Agnes Kenny, Melissa Marshall, Nafiz, Andreas Prinz, Matt Rawlins, Robert, and Cheryl Zinyk.

Over the last 12 years, L'Arche Toronto, Sol Express has been working at engaging with the world through an inclusive and accessible approach to the arts. The group is open to being approached for accessibility consultation.



## Photo credits

### Page 2

Jonathan Balazs

### Pages 3-8

Harbourfront Centre

### Page 11

Aaron Labbé - LUCID

### Pages 14, 17

Victor Frankowski

### Page 19

Calvin Hwang

# Thank you!

We are grateful for the generous support of our funders below who helped to make Crippling the Arts possible!



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO



THE  
READY  
COMMITMENT

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Canada



BODIES IN  
TRANSLATION:  
ACTIVIST ART,  
TECHNOLOGY, AND  
ACCESS TO LIFE



SSHRC  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

artseverywhere  
musagetes





**Cripping the Arts  
program available at  
[tangledarts.org](http://tangledarts.org)**

**© Harbourfront centre**

Registered charitable number: 10746 6575 RR0003

235 Queens Quay West  
Toronto, ON | M5J 2G8 | Canada  
416 973 4000 | [harbourfrontcentre.com](http://harbourfrontcentre.com)

Site Partners



Programming Partners



Corporate Site Partners

