

Arts & Culture Accessibility Self-Assessment Study Group Details

To request accommodation, contact Program Director, Performing Arts & Accessibility Coordinator Sarah Lewitus at slewitus@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 X 110.

Hosted by [Mid Atlantic Arts](#), facilitated by [Dani Rose](#) with [Open Door Arts](#)

Self-Assessment developed by [Open Door Arts](#)

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Overview

Mid Atlantic Arts invites arts & culture organizations located in our [funding region](#) to participate in a virtual accessibility self-assessment study group.

In the virtual study group, organizations will complete [Open Door Arts'](#) Arts & Culture Accessibility Self-Assessment and will benefit from the collaboration and accountability that comes from doing this work among peers. Mid Atlantic Arts will provide stipends of **\$325** for up to 12 organizations that commit to participating in this study group, to help organizations prioritize time to do this work. In addition to this financial incentive, participating organizations will benefit from consultation with facilitator Dani Rose, an award-winning accessibility advocate and certified ADA Coordinator with a decade of experience championing radical inclusion.

As a participant in the study group, you will move through [Open Door Arts'](#) Arts & Culture Accessibility Self-Assessment tool. This free, comprehensive, fully electronic tool was created specifically to help arts and cultural organizations understand and improve their accessibility. The Self-Assessment is disability centered and balances best practice with compliance. It is filled with resources to learn throughout the process and gives you the tools you need to grow.

All study group activities are virtual. The study group runs from July through December 2026, meeting monthly. You can find detailed information about the Self-Assessment Study Group below, including **full schedule**, **facilitator information**, **preview interest form questions**, and **FAQ**.

Schedule

Participating organizations commit to join for the following activities, on the following Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30pm ET:

- **July 8, 2026:** Orientation to the Self-Assessment
- **August 5, 2026:** Preparing for Self-Assessment
- **September 16, 2026:** Progress Support & Peer Learning I
- **October 7, 2026:** Progress Support & Peer Learning II
- **November 18, 2026:** Interpreting & Reviewing Results
- **December 9, 2026:** Accountability & Celebration

About the



Photo courtesy of Dani Rose

Mid Atlantic Arts is proud to work with Dani Rose, Director of Cultural Access at Open Door Arts, as facilitator of the Accessibility Self-Assessment Study Group.

Dani Rose is an award-winning accessibility advocate, certified ADA Coordinator, and proud Neurodivergent professional with over a decade of experience leading bold, human-centered change in arts and culture. Rooted in disability justice and driven by joy, Dani pushes the cultural sector beyond compliance to create radically inclusive experiences where everyone—absolutely everyone—can belong.

Dani is the Director of Cultural Access at Open Door Arts focused on working with cultural organizations to improve their accessibility and inclusion practices. With expertise in strategic planning, consulting, and organizational transformation, Dani centers authentic disability representation in every project. Her work is shaped by lived experience and a fierce belief in the power of storytelling and shared experience.

She holds advanced ADA certifications through the Great Plains ADA Center and University of Missouri, and was honored with the 2024 True Tickets Young Ticketing Professional Award and the Kennedy Center’s 2019 LEAD Emerging Leader Award.

Instagram: @Rose_Knows_Access | LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/danibrose/>

Preview Interest Form Questions

We recognize that Microsoft Forms are not accessible to all. To submit an interest form over the phone or to request accommodation, contact Program Director, Performing Arts & Accessibility Coordinator Sarah Lewitus at slewitus@midatlanticarts.org or 410-539-6656 X 110.

Visit Mid Atlantic Arts' website to learn more about the Study Group:

<https://www.midatlanticarts.org/opportunity/accessibility-training/>

Organization name

Organization state

Organization budget size (current fiscal year; estimate is okay)

Percent of organizational budget currently allocated to accessibility work (estimate is okay!)

Organization website

Contact name

Contact email

Contact phone

Name(s) and role(s) of person/people from organization who will participate in the study group, if different from contact above

Check box—I am available for all study group dates:

- *Select this box only if you are NOT available for this study group but would like us to be in touch if future study groups are scheduled.*

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Please share questions or comments below:

FAQ

I know my organization is not where it should be in terms of accessibility. Will my organization be penalized or prevented from receiving funding from Mid Atlantic Arts in the future if I participate in the study group and find out I am not in compliance?

No, you will not be penalized. Your survey data will be anonymous. The results of your self-assessment will be private to your organization; Mid Atlantic Arts and Open Door Arts will not be able to connect your organization name to your self-assessment results. Anything shared during study group time will be confidential to the study group and will not impact future funding decisions from Mid Atlantic Arts. Mid Atlantic Arts staff will be participating in the study group and we look forward to learning along with you!

While having a completed access self-assessment on hand bolsters an organization's legal resilience, recommendations from the self-assessment do not constitute legal advice and participants in the study group will not receive legal advice from the facilitator.

Why should I participate in this accessibility self-assessment study group?

If you work for an arts and culture organization based in Mid Atlantic Arts' funding region, participating in this study group will help you learn how to make your arts and culture organization more accessible. Organizations that serve the public, like arts and culture organizations, have an obligation to make their resources accessible to all, including people with disabilities. At the end of this study group, your organization will have a self-assessment on file, along with a plan to implement recommendations provided by the self-assessment. Mid Atlantic Arts will provide stipends of \$325 to up to 12 organizations who want to participate. In addition to this financial incentive, participating organizations will benefit from consultation with facilitator Dani Rose, an award-winning accessibility advocate and certified ADA Coordinator with a decade of experience championing radical inclusion.

Do I need to have experience with accessibility to participate?

Not at all! If you are new to accessibility, this study group will be a great place to learn, connect with peers in the region, and find out how your organization can be more accessible. If you do have experience with accessibility, this group will be an energized place to continue to learn and share your knowledge with others.

How will organizations be selected for participation in the accessibility self assessment study group?

Mid Atlantic Arts will prioritize the following when selecting organizations to participate in the study group:

- Representation of states/jurisdictions across our funding region;
- Prioritizing organizations with smaller percentages of overall budget dedicated to accessibility
- Prioritizing organizations with smaller budgets (under \$2,000,000– larger organizations are welcome to indicate their interest in participating.)
- Prioritizing organizations who can attend all dates for the study group

If multiple organizations based in the same state/jurisdiction are interested in participating, Mid Atlantic Arts will prioritize participation considering the priorities listed above. If necessary, Mid Atlantic Arts will select participating organizations at random by state/jurisdiction.

When will selected organizations receive the \$325 stipend?

Stipends will be distributed upon selection for the program, as an acknowledgement of selection. Organizations will be asked to commit to participating in the entire study group when they receive payment.

I want to participate but know I will be unavailable for one scheduled date—can I still participate?

Mid Atlantic Arts will prioritize organizations who can participate in all scheduled study group dates; however, if you are interested but cannot attend all sessions, please submit the form.

Does the same person need to commit to attending all study group dates or can it be multiple people attending at each session?

Mid Atlantic Arts recommends the same person or team participate in the study group for continuity and relationship-building. But if your schedule conflicts with a scheduled date and you would like to send someone else from your organization, that is okay.

I want to participate in a study group like this, but the timing doesn't work for me. Will Mid Atlantic Arts offer this again?

Mid Atlantic Arts may offer the study group again in our next fiscal year. If you are interested, please complete the form and we will be in touch to let you know about future opportunities to participate in accessibility-related groups and training at Mid Atlantic Arts.

Submit Your Interest Form

[Click here](#) to submit an interest form to be part of the Accessibility Arts & Culture Self-Assessment. Interest forms are due June 12, 2026.

Learn More About Open Door Arts

[Click this link to learn more about Open Door Arts' Arts & Culture Accessibility Self-Assessment tool!](#)