

ACCESSIBILITY:

A handbook for Venue Hirers

This handbook is to provide you, the hirer, with:

- **information on the access features of the venue**
- **a checklist for you to consider ways to make your show/ event more accessible.**

Finally, this handbook may provoke a desire for a further discussion on how to make your work/ events more inclusive. Please contact our Access Coordinator if you'd like a further conversation by emailing info@nexusarts.org.au .

For Nexus Arts Venue Accessibility information please visit

<https://nexusarts.org.au/visit-us/accessibility/>

For general information on visiting Nexus Arts please visit [Visit us - Nexus Arts | Nexus Arts](#) . Here you will find transport links.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

We encourage you to consider the needs of your creative team, crew and audiences regarding COVID-19 and other viral/respiratory illnesses. It is your responsibility to create and communicate any required public health provisions for your show/events to ticketholders prior to attendance. This may include mandatory mask mandates in designated spaces, signage about maintaining 1.5m physical distance, providing tissues and hand sanitising stations.

This handbook will be updated when the venue provides more access features.

ACCESS FEATURES OF THE VENUE



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

The main entry to the venue is wheelchair accessible. There is a main external door (1.641m wide) and a middle door (1.625m wide). Finally, there is a set of double doors to the right to enter the performance space.

There is no fixed seating and an open flat seating area in front of the stage, which runs the length of the venue.

There is a wheelchair lift to the stage. Platform lift dimensions: 786mm width x 1.460m length. Please see Venue Manager for instructions on use.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TOILET

There is a standalone gender-neutral bathroom to the right of the venue's main entrance. However, it does not currently meet required standards.

The doorway is 0.793m wide. The door is heavy and pushes inward.

The toilet room is 1.77m wide and 2.455m long and includes two handrails and a low freestanding sink.

The bathroom is locked and requires Front of House staff to unlock it for you.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PARKING

There is an accessible parking bay located at the Lion Arts Centre's Morphett Street entrance by the Mercury Cinema.

PURPOSE BUILT CHAIRS

We have two chairs designed to assist the comfort and mobility of those with increased body weight and/or limited ability. They have arms, extra berth and hold up to 250kgs.



DISABLED PATRONS PRIORITY BAR SERVICE

We have a bar extension table that is dedicated to serve disabled patrons that is at a height and under clearance suitable for wheelchair users.

ACCESSIBILITY CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you plan for your show/event, your publicity and presentation, as well as form the basis for Front of House and Crew instructions and pre-show/ event announcements.

WHEELCHAIR/ MOBILITY AID ACCESS

- Is the ticket reception desk and bar at a height accessible for wheelchair users? If not think about providing an alternative option. We have recently provided wheelchair accessible reception and bar extension tables.
 - Have you considered in your seating plan designated wheelchair user spaces? spaces for audience members with mobility aids?
 - Will there be any movement by audience members between spaces as part of your show/event?
 - If you replied yes to the above, have you considered how to ease the passage and timing between spaces for those with mobility issues within the design of your show/event?
 - Have you left enough space between entrances/exits and seats/stage/design elements to allow for wheelchairs and extra mobility aids?
 - Have you considered the process of letting audience members into the venue, such as accounting for the demands of standing in hall/ outside waiting for doors to open?
 - Have you planned for the extra moving time required for an audience with mobility issues?
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SCRIPTED PERFORMANCE SHOWS

- Are there characters living with disability, chronic illness, or who are Deaf or hard of hearing featured in your work? Are there any characters/people who are neurodivergent? ?
If you answered Yes:
 - is the script based on engagement and consultations with people from those communities?
 - Are any of the performers portraying those characters publicly self-identified as living with that disability etc. ?
 - Is your show under the artistic/creative direction/control of a person who publicly self-identifies as living with disability etc. (Producer/s, Director/s)?
 - Do any of your cast and crew, including playwright/s, publicly self-identify as living with disability etc.?
 - If the script contains expositional information on a condition or impairment, has the info been fact checked?
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LIGHTING

- Are there periods of blackouts/darkness upon entering, during and ending of the show/event?
If so, for how long? And will audiences be sitting?
- Is there going to be any light effects e.g. strobing, flashes of bright light, rapid blinking? If so at what timelines? You need to have warnings ahead of time for any flickering lights, strobe lighting and flash photography for anyone that has epilepsy.

- Is the show dimly lit throughout? Any transitions from dark to light need to be a gradual process.
 - Be aware of correctly lighting interpreters.
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SOUND

- Is there any section of very loud noise or music? Is it continuous, regular or irregular or one off?
- Is there any sound that could be 'nerve jangling', grating etc? If so where in the timeline?
- Is there any section or episode where sound is multilayered, compounded in a dense way that may be overstimulating?

Your answers to the above three questions can form the basis of a 'sound timeline' that can be visually represented like a frequency chart and placed in your Access Info Pack or as a QR code poster.

- Is the sound at a good volume throughout the audience space, free of any crackles/distortion?
 - Is the background house music intrusive/excessive?
 - For d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing audiences, have you thought about placement of their seats in relation to speakers/sub woofers to feel vibrations or on same surface as musicians such as wooden floor to feel conducted vibrations? Have you thought about use of wearable transducers?
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DESIGN

- Is there any design that changes the flooring that make it slippery or difficult to balance which could impact the audience?
 - Are there audience participation elements that involve touching objects? If yes to the above, has sanitising been considered?
 - Will you be using any strong odours, perfumes, smells, smoke haze etc? These can impact those with chemical sensitivities and sensory overload symptoms. You may ask the audience not to wear product with strong, chemical based odours.
 - Will you provide a seating and stage plan in the ticketing platform, show/event page/info pack?
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NEURODIVERSITY

- Is it okay for audience members to bring and use stim toys during the show/event?
- Will you be providing a quiet room or a 'chill out' relaxed space for audience?
- Are any of your shows/your event going to be relaxed performance/s? If yes, which date/s?

ACCESS LANGUAGES

For d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing audiences:

- Does the show/ event embed Auslan at all in its design?
- Will there be any Auslan interpreted shows/ an interpreted event? If so which one/s?
- Have you considered the seating position of those who will require an Auslan interpreter and placement of the Auslan interpreter? As well as reserving interpreter/s seat/s?
- Does the show/event embed captioning at all in its production design?
- Will there be any captioned shows/ a captioned event? If so which one/s?
- Will you provide a captioned/text version of your FOH instructions for the audience on a screen or poster? Or a screening of an Auslan interpretation?
- Will you provide a captioned/text version of your Acknowledgment of Country for the audience on a screen or poster? Or a screening of an Auslan interpretation?

For blind and/or vision impaired audiences:

- Will there be any audio described performances/ event? If so which one/s?
- Will there be a touch tour prior to each show/event or only select one/s?
- Will you provide a model of stage set and audience seating for audiences to preview – illustrated or in 3D?
- Will you provide an audio description of this set and seating model?
- Will you provide an audio-described recording of your show/event program? E.g. accessed via QR code to a link.

SUPPORTS

- Will you provide Companion Card tickets?
- Are Guide and Hearing Dogs and other Assistance Animals welcome? They need to have access to water and open space, so this must be considered.
- Will you make available Large Print and Easy Read versions of your show/event program/ information?
- Will you provide name and role badges for FOH, especially one that identifies ACCESS SUPPORT to identify who to approach for accessible toilet if locked or to use stage wheelchair lift.

Please note we have in the venue two chairs designed to assist the comfort and mobility of those with increased body weight and limited mobility. They have arms, extra berth and hold up to 250kgs.