

Access Riders

Getting your needs met, meeting the needs of others

What are Access Riders?

Access documents are used by disabled artists to ensure that our needs are met when working with others. They help to cover important issues prior to beginning a working relationship, allowing both institution /gallery/ organization /events team and artist to feel confident and comfortable in their interactions with each other.

ACCESS RIDERS

Normalise asking collaborators for access riders!

Share examples and resources for developing them

Johanna Hedva:

<https://sickwomanttheory.tumblr.com>

Jemina Lindholm & Jessie Bullivant:

<https://frame->

[finland.fi/en/resources/access-riders/](https://frame-finland.fi/en/resources/access-riders/)

Accessibility:

- **I am a sick person with an invisible illness and I use a cane sometimes.** I need to know if the space where I will be performing or working is accessible for me and others and in what ways, and also if it is not. Please let also the audience know if the space is accessible or if it is not IN EVERY CHANNEL OF INFORMATION USED (social media, webpage and printed invitations etc.).
- Don't ask me about my cane or police other people's use of their medical aids.
- I encourage you to be mindful of your language, especially of ABLEIST SLURS.
- I need there to be a chair in a room. I need to know that I can sit if it is necessary.
- Please consider that there should be room for a wheelchair in the room and for people to stretch and change positions.
- Please make sure that there are enough breaks within the program.
- I need to know that it is okay for me to cancel plans if needed.
- No cis-heterosexism, racism, ableism, classism, transphobia, homophobia or fatphobia.
- I prefer the event prices to be on a sliding scale or free for all.

<https://feministculturehouse.org/>

Writing an access document

An access doc can cover anything that you feel is important for an organisation to know in order to make your work together more accessible. It can be helpful to split your access doc into various sections to make it easily digestible, and you may want to number these sections to make them easy to reference.

You are never under any obligation to share diagnoses or to justify your access needs. You can simply state what access provisions you require without explaining further (unless you want to, of course).

Disability Access Rider

- “access documents are used by rock stars and divas all the time— they’re simply called riders and no one bats an eye. this is because they are helpful for everyone involved: the person can say what they need in order to do their thing, and the venue/institution knows exactly how to provide support for them to do their thing.”
- --Johanna Hedva

NEEDS

(Things I absolutely must have in order for this to work for me.)

1. Working methods.

- a. Is our relationship creative or administrative? Please tell me how you would like to work together, including how involved you do or don't want to be in the process.
- b. Power Awareness. What are the roles, responsibilities and working conditions of yourself and others involved? Tell me.

2. Communication.

- a. I need details of the project in writing, including what you offer, what you want, and what you expect.
 - i. Include: a project description, fees (even if it is 0), budgets, payment conditions & schedule, deadlines for proposals (if necessary) & press material.
 - ii. Don't surprise me with deadlines if possible. Please let me know of changes in writing.
 - iii. If you are expecting to be credited for your role in the project, let me know/let's talk about this before it's too late.
- b. Email is my preferred method because I like to have things in writing and have time to think about my response. If you want to use another method let me know and we can discuss a way to work together.

WANTS

Accessibility:

- **I would love institutions to be able to change things to be more accessible for events and gatherings on their own and upon request, in other words to have money to do so.** I also would love know to how you are planning to make the event or space accessible.
- Please familiarize yourself with accessibility primers, guidelines and checklists that are available online.
- **Please note that accessibility does not only mean physical accessibility.** Social accessibility is a huge part of it (safer space guidelines, power structures and cultural capital, different ways of communication and participation, pronouns etc.).
- **Please don't promise more that you can actually provide.**

LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES

- **No work calls after 5pm if not otherwise agreed.** Always send an email beforehand.

AFTER THE EVENT

- **Please provide a channel for feedback for everyone who participated in the event.** You can also collect feedback also before and during the event/gathering/process. Also try and change things and your actions according to the feedback.

Some Sections to Include

Introduction

Do you want to explain what an access document is and why you are using it?

Overview

Do you want to give a brief overview of your general access needs here?

For example: “I am an ambulatory wheelchair user” or “I live with a disability that affects my energy levels and mobility”.

Communication

Do you have a preferred method of communication?

Do you like text to be formatted in a certain way? Bullet points?

Short paragraphs? Large font? Etc.

Meetings / events

Can you meet in person or do you prefer to meet digitally? If digitally, what formats are most accessible for you? Do you prefer voice calls or video calls, for example?

Do you have access needs that determine what kind of space you can meet in?

Travel

Do you need travel to be paid for to and from meetings / events?

Can you only travel within a certain radius of your house / studio?

Budgeting / access costs

What access costs need to be budgeted into working on a project with you?

Do you need access costs to pay for an assistant to facilitate your work?

Installs

Are you able to participate at installs or do you require a technical assistant?

Is there work you can and can't do during installs?

Marketing

Is there a particular way that you like to be referred to in any marketing materials? This could include particular terminology in relation to your identity / disability / pronouns etc.

For you!

For next week you can write your own if you need accommodations (not just DRC ones). It does not have to go into detail about why you need the accommodations, and we can try to meet them.

1-2 pages (a separate typed and printed document that you can give the professors, not in your warp book)

You can use the sections from the last slide.

Add anything relevant to your learning/making that might be relevant

Add allergies that might be relevant

Add food preferences/restrictions

Add if you have transportation (for possible field trips)