

Thunder Bay Arts Council, Inc. Accessibility Plan 2019-2020

TBAC consistently endeavors to comply with the following federal and state laws on accessibility: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); The Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and Title IX of the Education Amendments, 1972, and corresponding state laws and regulations.

All TBAC annual programming events are open to the public. Children and students of all ages are admitted free of charge. Whenever feasible, the performers we engage are given opportunities for immersion with the audiences we ask them to serve. This may occur through day clinics, lectures, or demonstrations which augment or supplement their bookings with us for evening or principal event programming.

Our annual Showcase Series seeks independent and professional artists locally and from around the state and nation. A committee of TBAC's volunteer Board members establishes the annual Showcase Series program and negotiates with the artists. A liaison is assigned by the committee to work with each contracted artist(s) so as to assure the successful development and execution of all programs.

TBAC accordingly endeavors to create multiple opportunities for the expression of artistic contributions, educational achievement, and overall community enrichment. TBAC's overarching philosophy is to provide arts opportunities across generations to include children, youth and adults regardless of sex, creed, race or handicap. Accessibility and the accommodation of physical access are consistently sought and achieved. All TBAC programming and gallery events occur in highly accessible state-of-the-art facilities. Some are presented at the Alpena APlex, a modern convention center, and some at the Beck Auditorium of Alpena High School; both are barrier-free facilities which house at least eight hundred people comfortably. Some events are held at our own ground floor, street-front gallery in downtown Alpena, in area churches, or in other area art galleries and theatres, all meeting accessibility standards and having adequate to large capacities.

In scheduling our programming, we focus on filling any voids of artistic representation left by other area arts organizations, in addition to presenting entertainment options of proven or likely popularity in our area. We constantly shift our booking types and scheduling based on perceived community needs and interests. Our balanced programming is necessarily dictated by audience preferences, including the demographics of an aging population, yet TBAC remains dedicated to younger audiences. The underwriting and presentation of arts programs through our YouthCORE visual arts initiatives at area schools as well as within a dedicated portion of our downtown gallery remain a principle part of our annual offerings, extending a tradition of nurturing young artists that dates to when TBAC was incorporated in 1971.

Beyond Integrating youth, reaching out to Generation X'ers and Millennials has also become a principle focus of the annual visual and performing arts programming at TBAC. Great attention is paid to artist experience, performance skill, diversity and spectrum of genre as well as to the educational merit and quality entertainment value that they represent. Additionally, artistic standards used in adjudicating artist selection include variations in discipline and appeal, ideally across age groups.

It is our view at TBAC that our program offerings as briefly described above reflect not only a longstanding commitment to diversity and accessibility. We believe that they also confirm a measured and community-focused standard of excellence in effecting our mission statement to “*promote, support and preserve the arts through performance, education and leadership*”.