

Deaf Visitors: Going Beyond the ADA

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The ADA: “Good Enough?”

- Captions
- Interpreters
- Transcripts
- Audio Loops

.....what else?

Captions

- Be sure to label captioned videos 
- Follow FCC captioning standards for appearance and content
- Don't require a button to start captions

Interpreters

- Interpreters are expensive – ways to handle this
- Advertise with every event
- Guided tours vs. self-exploration

Transcripts

- Videos, performances, audio tours
- Booklets vs creative design
- Functional equivalence and language access

Audio Loops

- Schedule regular system checks for all equipment
- Train all staff – not just visitor services
- Neckloops and headphones

More Ideas

- ASL version of permanent exhibitions
- Tours offered in ASL for the signing community
 - Deaf docents vs interpreted tours
- Descriptions of ambient sound

Theory of Being Deaf

- Deaf people are not just "hearing people who don't hear"
- Differences in brain development
 - Linear vs spatial thinking
 - Peripheral vision and lighting
- Seeing yourself in the museum

DeafBlind Visitors

- Large print version of transcripts
- Web-connected Braille devices
- No admission fees for sighted guides
- Tactile exhibits in the age of COVID-19

Contact Me

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