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FILM EVENT ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP LAUNCHES FREE ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES FOR FILM FESTIVALS

Chicago, IL — The [Film Event Accessibility Working Group](#) (FEAW) announces the launch of the **Film Exhibition Accessibility for Patrons Checklist and Film Accessibility Vendor Database**. Following the success of the [Film Event Accessibility Scorecard](#); created by FEAW, Documentary Filmmakers with Disabilities (FWD-Doc) and the Film Festival Alliance (FFA) in July 2022, FEAW is launching a set of **free, comprehensive accessibility tools** to help film event organizers and film festivals identify areas of growth in accessibility and to create strategic plans that increase accessibility year-over-year.

The [Film Exhibition Accessibility for Patrons Checklist](#) is a perfect companion tool to the **Film Event Accessibility Scorecard** from which an organization receives feedback on the current accessibility of their events. Organizers can use the Scorecard data, this Checklist and their organizational budget to create a multi-year plan to increase accessibility. The Checklist is broken down into categories like Website Accessibility, In-Person Event Accessibility and Virtual Accessibility. Each category is then broken down into Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels to help organizers of all capacities easily find the best path for their organization. The Checklist also includes robust [Terminology](#) and [Resource](#) Addendums that provide more context and information on specific topics.

The [Film Accessibility Vendor Database](#) is an ever-expanding collection of film accessibility consultants across the globe for film event organizers and filmmakers. Categories range from American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and Live Captioners to film Production Access Coordinators (PAC) to Accessibility Consultants. The list continues to grow and is an essential tool to help bridge the resource gap for event organizers and filmmakers looking to implement accessibility on their films and events.

"The New Orleans Film Society has been struggling to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to our live events and programs. These tools are essential in understanding where we are now and what we can strive for in the future and guiding us in creating a long-term accessibility strategy for NOFS." - *Monika Leska, Managing Director New Orleans Film Society and founding member of FEAW*

"Coming off of the Accessibility Congress that SFFILM hosted in July, we really hear the need from our community for consolidated, standardized resources and guidelines that can support organizers and filmmakers no matter where they are in their accessibility work. We hope these tools are the first step to increasing education, formalizing industry standards, and ultimately helping us all grow towards more accessible programs and events." - *Jordan Menashe, Director of Operations at SFFILM and founding member of FEAW*



"I founded FEAW in the Spring of 2021 out of a need to build community in the film exhibition space around accessibility. At FEAW we want to harness the power of shared knowledge and collective action to increase accessibility in our industry. We aim to make film festivals, awards shows, conferences and more a more welcoming and inclusive space for all filmmakers and their audiences." - *Cassidy Dimon, Director of Accessibility at Full Spectrum Features and Founder of FEAW.*

About FEAW:

The FEAW (Film Event Accessibility Working Group) was formed as a collaborative effort by film event representatives seeking to unify and enhance accessibility in film festivals, screenings, and programs across the industry. Through varied experiences and backgrounds, we identified a need to enhance the quality and availability of accessibility in film exhibition to better serve and represent the disability community.

We believe that long-lasting sustainable change is made and strengthened by working together, sharing resources, experience, and vision. We are determined to expand our impact to support any film event organization that wishes to increase their accessibility and inclusion efforts.

Members Include: [Film Festival Contractors](#) - Yaara Kadem, [Full Spectrum Features](#) - Cassidy Dimon, [New Orleans Film Society](#) - Monika Leska, [Reel Abilities: New York](#) - Isaac Zablocki, [SFFILM](#) - Jordan Menashe and Masashi Niwano, [Sundance Institute](#) - Burchie Benton and Laura Bengé

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