



GRAEae

The Access Manifesto:

A New Chapter for the Arts

Myth Busters!

The Access Manifesto is a collection of thoughts, ideas, and provocations to develop a practical, step-by-step guide aimed at helping arts organisations and venues take significant strides toward making the arts more accessible or young audiences, participants, and artists.

Following on from this, we wanted to put together a document of all the common misconceptions and myths surrounding accessibility, and give you the facts. We hope this document educates and provides clarity on the realities of accessibility, debunking myths that often prevent organisations from taking meaningful action.

Did you know?

Myth:

‘We don’t need to worry about accessibility until we have more resources.’

Fact:

Delaying accessibility improvements excludes people and violates their rights. Starting with small, manageable changes shows commitment to inclusion and can make a big impact.

Myth:

‘Accessibility compliance means we’re done.’

Fact:

Accessibility is an ongoing process. Regular reviews, updates and feedback from service users are necessary to ensure that facilities and services remain accessible as needs and technologies evolve.

Did you know?

Myth:

‘Accessibility only benefits people with disabilities.’

Fact:

Accessibility improvements benefit everyone. For instance, ramps and lifts help people with prams and luggage, while captions on videos assist non-native speakers and those in noisy environments.

Myth:

‘We’ve never had any complaints, so we must be accessible.’

Fact:

The absence of complaints doesn’t mean it’s accessible. Many people may not complain but simply avoid inaccessible places. Use The Access Manifesto to review your venue/service and reach out for specific feedback.

Did you know?

Myth:

‘Accessible content is boring and isn’t engaging.’

Fact:

Accessible content can be dynamic and engaging. Simple adjustments, such as adding captions, using plain language, and ensuring visual contrast, can make content more accessible without compromising creativity.

Myth:

‘Only buildings need to be accessible.’

Fact:

Accessibility goes beyond physical spaces. It includes accessible websites, communication methods, and inclusive policies and practices so everyone can participate fully.



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The Access Manifesto is now available on the websites and social media channels of 20 Stories High and Graeae Theatre Company. Additionally, the manifesto can be accessed in various formats on 20 Stories High's website, such as large print, dyslexia friendly, easy read and plain text.

The Access Manifesto is our response to the lack of accessibility in the arts. A beacon of change, developed by those directly impacted, to inspire and guide the arts sector towards a more inclusive future. We invite you to join us in embracing this new chapter for the arts. Together, we can create a world where every young person, regardless of their abilities, can enjoy and participate in the arts.

