



THE INCLUSIVE ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECT Invites YOU!!!

Dear Friend,

Please join us at a series of workshops offered by the Open Doors Organization, located at cultural venues throughout Chicago. The four workshops, taking place from October 2009 through January 2010, are **free of charge** thanks to a generous grant from the **Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust**. They will focus on how arts and cultural organizations of all types can better meet the customer service needs of older patrons and those with disabilities, through simple, inexpensive accommodations and longer term program and facility development.

Your Host

Open Doors Organization, located in Lincoln Park, was founded in 2000 by Executive Director Eric Lipp after he developed a disabling condition. ODO's mission is to help businesses become more inclusive and welcoming. We are best known nationally for our pioneering **2002 and 2005 Market Studies of Travelers with Disabilities** and locally for our **Easy Access Chicago** guide (www.easyaccesschicago.org) which includes numerous theatres, museums and other cultural institutions.

Join the Project

Please accept our invitation to be an integral part of the ODO Inclusive Arts and Culture Project. Participants must attend at least 3 of the 4 workshops featuring top experts from **Walt Disney World**, the **Kennedy Center** and other leaders in disability access. As an added incentive, participants may request a free onsite audit by ODO accessibility specialists and the opportunity to be listed in *Easy Access Chicago*. Details on the workshops, each of which include a complimentary luncheon, are attached.

RSVP Now!

This opportunity is limited to the first 50 organizations to RSVP. Contact Brittany Stern at 773-388-8839 or brittany@opendoorsnfp.org.

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE CHICAGO ARTS AND CULTURE
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL!**

THE INCLUSIVE ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECT



WORKSHOPS

Workshop I: Attracting and Embracing the Community

October 20th, 2009, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Victory Gardens Biograph Theater

Research conducted by ODO reveals that people with disabilities and seniors have significant disposable income that they want to spend on cultural activities. At this workshop you will learn how to communicate your accessible features to these guests through simple yet effective marketing, media and community outreach strategies. Victory Gardens Access Project will reveal their secrets to success. Also participating: Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Life Center at Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Lighthouse for the Blind, Access Living and Department of Aging: Renaissance Court

Workshop II: Enhancing the Customer Experience

Roosevelt University

November 10th, 2009, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This workshop will focus on customer service strategies and techniques and show you how little changes can make a big difference in your facilities, reservations, ticketing practices, websites, etc. You will learn the appropriate language regarding disability and how to create shows, programs, and exhibits that meet the specific needs of these populations. Jay Cardinali of Walt Disney World will share their best practices including new technology. Also participating: Chicago Children's Museum, Art Institute of Chicago and members of the disability and senior communities.

Workshop III: Not Just Nuts and Bolts

Art Institute of Chicago or Chicago History Museum (TBD)

December 8, 2009, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

During this session presenters will discuss fundraising and grants to help your venue meet legal requirements as well as tax benefits for renovations and capital improvements. Speakers will cover inclusive building practices, accessible design and information on ADA guidelines and Illinois State requirements. Participants will include law firms Equip for Equality and Chuhak & Tecson; Naughton & Associates, Wright Architects and Open Doors Organization.

Workshop IV: Victories and Challenges

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

January 13, 2010, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

At this final workshop, Betty Siegel, Director of Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, will deliver a keynote speech on the progressive steps made by Chicago's Arts and Culture Community and the challenges that still remain. She will be available to answer questions during the breakout sessions. Open Doors Organization will also review the findings of their site visits.

Participants must attend a minimum of 3 workshops. A complimentary luncheon is included. To learn more, contact Brittany Stern at 773-388-8839 or brittany@opendoorsnfp.org.

