



## LEAD 2012 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Conference Sessions

The Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) network is accepting session proposals for the 2012 LEAD conference, which will take place August 21-24 in Boston, Massachusetts.

LEAD is a national professional network focused on expanding the breadth and scope of accessibility services and programming across the country. LEAD's work is focused on exploring practical methods for implementing accessibility in cultural environments; providing up-to-date information; and sharing resources and knowledge among professionals in the field of accessibility.

Conference sessions will be between 60 and 90 minutes in length. Selected sessions will be on topics relevant to the mission and goals of the LEAD network and be of interest to ADA/504 Coordinators, Accessibility Managers, Arts Administrators and other cultural professionals. Please see the following page for a select list of previously offered sessions.

Presenters of selected sessions should be prepared to cover their own travel and hotel expenses, meals, and applicable conference fees.

For more information on LEAD, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/education/lead/home.html](http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/education/lead/home.html)

### To submit a proposal:

Please fill out the form below and send it via email to [access@kennedy-center.org](mailto:access@kennedy-center.org). Proposals must be submitted to the Kennedy Center Accessibility Program by **February 10, 2012**. Sessions will be selected by and at the sole discretion of the LEAD program committee under the supervision of the Kennedy Center. Notification of acceptance will be sent by March 5, 2012.

**For more information or to discuss your proposal prior to submitting a form, please contact the Kennedy Center's Accessibility Program:**

**Mail:**

Accessibility Program  
The John F. Kennedy Center  
for the Performing Arts  
P.O. Box 101510  
Arlington, VA 22210

**Phone:**

(202) 416-8727 (voice)  
(202) 416-8728 (TTY)

**Fax:**

(202) 416-8802 (fax)

**Online:**

[access@kennedy-center.org](mailto:access@kennedy-center.org)  
[www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility](http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility)

## Previous LEAD conferences have included the following sessions:

- **Building Blocks of Access:** This introductory session is strongly recommended for LEAD attendees who are new or relatively new to the field of cultural arts access. Presenters will cover the foundation services and programs that you should be thinking about as you begin, continue, develop, and maintain your institution's accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities.
- **Enhancing Perception:** It's impossible to capture an entire exhibition or performance with one tactile element or a Braille program. This session will look holistically at inclusion of patrons and visitors who are blind or have low vision in cultural arts environments and how to improve the customer experience from the moment they approach the front door until they walk out.
- **An Intro to ALDs:** This session will cover the ins and outs of Assistive Listening Devices and the people who use them. Find out what assistive listening system will work best in your environment and how can you use it to provide the highest quality of experience for patrons and visitors regardless of their level of hearing loss.
- **Cultural Tourism: A Market Focus:** A whole new market waiting to find you or for you to find it! Discover how you can connect with the cultural tourism industry and make your organization the "go-to" place for visitors and tourists with disabilities.
- **A Look Backwards to Look Forward:** The way we approach creating accessible cultural experiences is driven by the evolution of the disability rights movement over time and through the various models of disability. Put things into perspective before you jump into the exciting and challenging sessions at LEAD. Start with a complete understanding of the history and background of the disability rights movement.
- **Woof, Meow, Oink? Accommodating Visitors and Patrons with Service Animals:** Are there limits on what constitutes a service animal? How do you know what animals to allow into your facility? Get answers to these questions and participate in a guided discussion so that you can develop policies and procedures that will make everyone comfortable.
- **Usher Training 101:** Whether paid or volunteer, your ushers make a lasting impression on your older patrons and your patrons with disabilities. You will have confidence in them when you've provided them with a solid training in customer service. This session gives you step by step advice on how to train your ushers.
- **Autism: The Unique Museum and Theater Experience:** Hear different perspectives – personal, professional, and familial – on autism from this panel interview. Discussion will range from an introduction to autism to the various challenges that individuals and families face when attending events at cultural institutions.
- **Expect the Unexpected:** It is essential to be prepared but there is no predictability when it comes to accommodating the full range of access issues the public can place in front of you. From visitors with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity to those who come in a hospital bed, this session provides insight on accommodating individuals with unique needs or unusual circumstances, as well as handling all situations with diplomacy and grace.
- **The Future of Accessible Technology:** Where is technology going to take us? Find out during this discussion on the explosion of new technologies and how those technologies will change and shape the way we provide accommodations in museums, theaters, and other cultural venues.

**Proposal Submitted by:**

_____ Name	_____ Mailing Address
_____ Organization	_____ City                      State                      Zip Code
_____ Phone Number	_____ E-mail Address

**Session Title:**

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Would you be willing to present your session multiple times?

- Yes
- No

**Session Presenter(s):**

Please list name, job title, and organization for each individual. (Please limit the number of presenters to three.)

**Presenting Experience:**

Please briefly describe the presenting experience and credentials and/or attach a resume or vita for each presenter. If you have presented this session before, please list the date(s) and location(s).



**Session Description:**

*(Please include information on how this session will be interactive.)*

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**Learning Objectives:**

*(What will participants gain from attending?)*

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**Who would benefit from attending this session?**

*(Examples: Arts Administrators, Box Office Managers, Exhibit Curators, Marketing Directors)*

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