Accessibility and Inclusivity at the Frist Art Museum

Andrea M. Boyer
Belmont University, andrea.boyer.316@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.belmont.edu/otdcapstoneprojects

Part of the Occupational Therapy Commons

Recommended Citation
https://repository.belmont.edu/otdcapstoneprojects/45

This Scholarly Project is brought to you for free and open access by the School Of Occupational Therapy at Belmont Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in OTD Capstone Projects by an authorized administrator of Belmont Digital Repository. For more information, please contact repository@belmont.edu.
Accessibility and Inclusivity at the Frist Art Museum
Andrea Boyer, OTD/S
Expert Mentor: Anne Henderson, MA
Faculty Mentor: Sue Iliff, PhD, OTR/L

The Frist Art Museum

Mission
The mission of the Frist Art Museum is to present and originate high-quality exhibitions with related educational programs and community outreach activities.

Vision
The vision of the Frist Art Museum is to inspire people through art to look at their world in new ways.

Identified Needs
- Accessibility assessment of all physical facilities
- Pre-visit materials
- Recommendations for accessibility in the Martin ArtQuest Gallery
- Recommendations to improve assistive technology to better serve all people in the community
- Accessibility and disability sensitivity training resources for security staff

Project Goals
- Review current policies, resources, and facilities at the Frist that support and/or hinder accessibility.
- Develop advanced knowledge of barriers to accessibility and identify museum gap areas through interviews with stakeholders, staff, volunteers, and community members.
- Cultivate relationships with community organizations to explore practices at other agencies.
- Synthesize relevant literature on sensory needs of individuals with autism in a public museum environment.
- Make evidence-based policy and procedure recommendations to support accessibility and inclusion.
- Design specific materials for use by museum staff and visitors (e.g., pre-visit materials, educational resources).

Project Outcomes
- Communicated recommendations for increased accessibility of physical facilities and digital media.
- Met with community leaders and compiled a comparison checklist of accessibility initiatives at other community agencies.
- Conducted review of the literature regarding accessibility in public spaces among a variety of populations.
- Created Museum Accessibility Experience Survey.
- Developed pre-visit materials to be posted on the website as a resource for families (e.g., social stories, visual schedule).
- Made recommendations for sensory kits.
- Attended TRIAD Train-the-Trainer Lab and gained resources and experience to train others in identifying challenges and solutions for those with ASD or IDD.
- Transcribed “Post Office to Art Museum” audio tour and outlined next steps to increase overall accessibility for this tour.

Acknowledgements
I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Anne Henderson and Samantha Andrews, as well as the entire Education Department and all the staff at the Frist, who were unbelievably welcoming and went out of their way to support me during this project. I am also indebted to my faculty mentor, Dr. Iliff, for her unwavering guidance to make this all possible. To all the community leaders who took time out of their busy schedules to help me learn and experience more than I could have hoped for, your perspectives and experience were invaluable.