

2021 AEP Virtual Gathering

Are We Advancing Equity for Students With Disabilities?

Presenters

- Betty Siegel - Director of the Office of VSA and Accessibility, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Megan Bostic - Programs Manager, Arts Access, Inc
- LaMondre Pough - Chief Executive Officer, Billion Strong

Session Description

Today's discussions around diversity, equity, and inclusion frequently leave out disability. We believe that the arts and education community is ready for a discussion on the intersectionality of disability with other marginalized communities and that educators who include disability in their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals are critical to improving opportunities for students with disabilities. If we don't talk about it, how will we as a community learn to dismantle ableism, avoid euphemisms, pity, and inspiration, honor and implement differentiation, make your organization and the arts classroom more reflective of the diversity in our communities and welcoming to students with disabilities. This conversation is going to ask participants to discuss complex questions such as: Where does access for people with disabilities live in your work? How can we better include the voices of disabled Black and people of color in our work? Can we dismantle racism and ableism in our organizations and classrooms?

Learning Objectives

Participants will identify and discuss systems and barriers that are in place that prevent the full inclusion of students with disabilities in arts education in their communities. Participants will reflect on their personal perspective of inclusion in arts education, and what barriers may be in place in their own thinking.

Session Outline and Summary

Betty Siegel – Welcome - Statistics around disability - 10 minutes

Megan Bostic - Systems and Questions - 10 minutes

Issues around K-12 arts education and examples of work Arts Access is doing in Wake County

LaMondre Pough - Dialogue with participants on topics and intersectionality - 25 minutes

- How can we better include the voices of disabled Black and people of color in our work?
- Can we dismantle racism and ableism in our organizations and classrooms?

Supplemental Materials

- <https://artsaccessinc.org>,



- [kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/](https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/)
- <https://www.billion-strong.org/>