

Meeting Place

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Meeting Place

Monday, 16 October 2017

9:00am – 5:30pm

Podewil, Klosterstraße 68, 10179 Berlin

Arts Access Australia in cooperation with Diversity.Arts.Culture – Berliner Projektbüro für Diversitätsentwicklung are pleased to present Meeting Place.

This all-day event provides an inclusive learning space and critical platform to discuss and debate the latest in arts and disability¹. Twelve local and international speakers will engage in powerful presentations, round table discussions and interactive workshops. Topics include planning through disability engagement, networking in inclusive cultural work, interpreting contemporary art from a disabled perspective, and discussing challenges and opportunities for improving access to cultural funding for people with disability.

Meeting Place is part of the Australia & Berlin Arts Exchange October 9-20, which presents a vibrant mix of arts workshops, music, dance and performances. As well as learning forums for cultural exchange between Australian and Berlin artists and arts and culture leaders with disability.

The Program was prepared through intense cooperation with Berlin partners Berlinklusion – Network for Accessibility in Arts and Culture and Förderband e.V. – Kulturinitiative Berlin.

Host and project partner Diversity.Arts.Culture – Berliner Projektbüro für Diversitätsentwicklung is a project by Kulturprojekte Berlin that aims to foster diversity in the Berlin cultural sector.

Meeting Place will be followed by a reception and performance by Australian Indie rock band Rudely Interrupted from 5.30 - 8.00pm in the Podewil Foyer.

¹ We follow the social model of disability – this means that we view disability as a social construct where barriers are imposed on the individual, rather than the individual being defined by their medical condition or impairment. However we also recognise and respect that disability is defined by the individual and their lived experience. When we talk about inclusion and accessibility, we want this for all peoples, however they may identify.

Accessibility and Catering

Wheelchair accessibility is limited at the Podewil. Entry into the building is possible via ramps and elevators and we can offer assistance with opening doors. There are a

wheelchair accessible bathroom and a relaxation room at the Podewil. The event will be translated into spoken German and English. The presentations and select workshops will be translated into German and British Sign language, too. The Program is available in Braille, large print and Plain Language. The admission is to Meeting Place free, but due to space limitations registration is required. Food and drinks are available for purchase at the event.

Program

- 9:00-9:30am **Registration**
- 9:30-10:00am **Welcome & Opening**
Sandrine Micossé-Aikins and Bahareh Sharifi,
Diversity.Arts.Culture – Berliner Projektbüro für
Diversitätsentwicklung
N.N., Berliner Senat
Meagan Shand, CEO Arts Access Australia
- 10:00-10:45am **Keynote**
Disability-Led Arts Practice – Visible and Invisible Spaces
Belinda Locke, Deputy Chair of Arts Access Australia, Theatre
Director and Performer
Sarah Houbolt, Circus/Physical Theatre Performer
- 10:45-11:15am **Break & Coffee**
- 11:15am-12:45pm **Short presentations**
- Kirstin Broussard and Dirk Sorge, Berlinklusion – Building a Disability Arts Network
 - Stefanie Wiens and Charlotte Röttger, “Platz Da!” at nGbK – Interpreting contemporary art from a disabled perspective
 - Janna Harms and Patrick Marx, Nueva – Disability-led evaluations of cultural institutions
 - Anna Seymour, Contemporary Dancer – A Deaf Dancer Shares her Journey ...
 - Andrew Hewitt, Drummer, Teacher, Advocate – From small beginnings, to drumming with the big boys
 - Chelle Destefano, Mixed Media and Watercolour Artist – Visual Imaginations of a Deaf Artist in the World's High Waters
- 1:00-2:00pm **Lunch**
- 2:00-5:30pm **Workshops & Talks**
- 2:00-3:30pm **Working responsibly with artists with disabilities**
Overview of Australian guidelines for finding, recruiting and

working with artists with disabilities
Moderated by Belinda Locke, Deputy Chair of Arts Access
Australia, Theatre Director and Performer

- 2:00-3:30pm **Money matters**
Roundtable discussion with invited experts from funding boards
and disabled artists on role of people with disabilities in cultural
funding practices and consultancy
Moderated by Imke Baumann, Förderband e.V.
- 3:45-4:45pm **Klick!**
Brainstorming session for all kinds of ideas on working inclusively
in the arts and culture
Moderated by artist and art educator Kirstin Broussard
- 3:45-4:45pm **Disability-only session**
A space for people with disabilities to come together and candidly
express opinions and ideas on working in the arts and culture
Facilitated by artist and art educator Dirk Sorge
- 5:00-5:30pm **Round-up Discussion**
Facilitated by Meagan Shand, CEO Arts Access Australia
- 5:30-8:00pm **Reception and performance by Australian Indie rock band
Rudely Interrupted**

Keynote

Disability-Led Arts Practice – Visible and Invisible Spaces

Belinda Locke, Deputy Chair Arts Access Australia, and Sarah Houbolt, Circus/Physical Theatre performer, share their experiences of disability-led performing arts practices in Australia. Acknowledging that disability leadership is vital for the genuine inclusion and representation of people with disability in the arts industry, this session considers unique pathways, approaches and access to leadership from the perspectives of creative practitioners. The speakers highlight the interplay between visibility, invisibility and access, within these innovative spaces of performance and representation.

Workshops

Working responsibly with artists with disabilities

Overview of Australian guidelines for finding, recruiting and working with artists with disabilities; Participants have the opportunity to learn how they can include artists

with disabilities in their own programs whether in visual or performing arts, music, dance, theatre, writing. How can artists be found? Paid fairly? Provided with the right practical and emotional support?

Money matters

Roundtable discussion with invited experts from funding boards and artists with disability on the role of people with disabilities in cultural funding practices and consultancy. Short inputs about funding practice as a start; How are people with disability involved in funding practice? And how in Australia? What experiences do they have or do the funding experts have on this matter? What are difficulties? What are chances? How could things improve? Or what would be improvement? Shall we have a special fund for disabled people in culture? Shall we have a disabled funding board?

Disability-only session

This is a space for people with disabilities to come together and candidly express opinions and ideas on working in the arts and culture. In what spaces do you feel at home? What do you need in order to work creatively? And what does “access to culture” actually mean? We have personal needs in regards to cultural spaces that go beyond regulations and legal frameworks addressing accessibility. This workshop provides the opportunity to express our desires free from worries about money, time and other constraints. We can also speak about bad experiences and fears.

Klick!

Klick! is a Brainstorming-Speed dating session for all kinds of ideas and questions from all kinds of people on working inclusively in the arts and culture. This event invites any and all dreams, concepts, inquiries and solutions for open “borders” and barrier-free encounters in the realm of art and culture. Come prepared to share your thoughts, move a little and meet new people. This collective mind-map will be shared during Meeting Place's final round-up discussion.

Who is who?

Arts Access Australia

Arts Access Australia (AAA) is Australia's national peak body for arts and disability. It works to increase national and international opportunities and access for people with disability as artists, arts-workers, participants and audiences. Established in 1992, AAA is a disability-led company limited by guarantee. The CEO and at least 50% of the board members identify as a person with disability. AAA provides three main services: Information and Advice, Research and Advocacy and Leadership and Development. AAA adopts an inclusive approach and works across all disability types, all age groups, all art forms and across all states and territories of Australia.

Imke Baumann

For many years Imke Baumann worked as a director and dramaturge for German theaters before beginning her tenure as fundraising and project manager at Förderband e.V. For the past ten years the focus of her work has been access to the

arts, culture and society at large for people with disabilities. Since 2006 she manages the twice awarded Reiseportal Berlin für Blinde (Travel Guide Berlin for Blind People). She also heads the museum project Neue Perspektiven Gewinnen (Gaining New Perspectives) and authors audio descriptions for various museums.

Berlinklusion

Berlinklusion – Network for Accessibility in Arts and Culture is an initiative founded by a group of artists, curators, arts educators, mediators and supporters with and without disabilities who want to make Berlin’s vibrant art scene accessible to a wider audience. Its goal is to implement positive change in Berlin’s cultural sector by furthering inclusion and improving accessibility for artists, cultural workers, participants and audiences with and without disabilities. Berlinklusion supports individuals, museums, galleries, other arts organizations and communities through knowledge-sharing, collaboration and by raising awareness about inclusion and accessibility in the arts.

Kirstin Broussard

Kirstin Broussard is a visual artist and arts educator who splits her time between New York City and Berlin. She holds a Master’s Degree in Interdisciplinary Arts in Arts Education. Since 2004 she has worked as a consultant, lecturer and teaching artist at numerous museums including but not limited to The Museum of Modern Art, The Jewish Museum and The Museum of Arts and Design. In her capacity as a Museum Educator for Community and Access Programs at MoMA, she has contributed to the design and implementation of internationally recognized and award winning programs such as Meet Me at MoMA, Create Ability and Prime Time. Her work with special needs audiences has a huge impact on both her approach to education and her work as a visual artist.

Chelle Destefano

Chelle Destefano’s artworks have been described as “poetic masterpieces” that “give life to a wonderful orchestra of shades, sounds and remote flavours that stimulate and unleash the ... imagination imprisoned in our souls” (Timothy Warrington). Chelle has exhibited at the Melbourne Art Gallery, and had solo exhibitions in London and Paris. Her work was twice selected for Venice Biennale in 2015 and 2016, as well as the London Biennale 2017. Chelle has received numerous national and international awards, including ArtSlant 2016 Showcase Winner Finalist in “The Healing Power of Art Exhibition”, Manhattan, New York.

DIVERSITY.ARTS.CULTURE – Berlin Project Office for Diversity Development

The organization’s goal is to work towards a greater representation of diversity in Berlin’s cultural sector, which reflects the diversity within the society at large. To realize this goal the Berlin Senate Chancellery for Cultural Affairs and Europe created DIVERSITY.ARTS.CULTURE – Berlin Project Office for Diversity Development under the umbrella of Kulturprojekte Berlin. The project office consults cultural institutions on diversity related topics. Simultaneously it empowers artists and cultural workers from underrepresented communities and supports the cultural administration with developing a diversity-oriented approach. Its mission, in the long run, is to disintegrate structural and institutional entrenched forms of discrimination and to establish processes that promote diversity and take demographic developments into consideration.

Förderband e.V. – Cultural Initiative Berlin

Förderband e.V. – Cultural Initiative Berlin was founded as a non-profit organization in 1990 by artists and cultural workers in Berlin. Since its beginning its aim has been to develop, advise, and promote a variety of different artistic, sociocultural and media projects. The organization develops and operates cultural sites, sponsors cultural projects and supports artistic, cultural and community-oriented ideas and initiatives. It also promotes cultural education and participation in the arts by people with disabilities or people facing difficult social realities. Since 1993, practice-oriented professional training has been one of Förderband e.V.'s main activities. Together with its over 300 partners it helps to stabilize the cultural infrastructure in Berlin.

Janna Harms

Janna Harms (Curative Educator, M.A) heads the organization nueva.berlin. Prior to her job at nueva.berlin she was working for various disability care providers and as a research assistant. She received a Master's Degree in Curative Education and "European Perspectives on Social Inclusion" from the University Magdeburg-Stendal.

Andrew Hewitt

Andrew Hewitt was named one of the most inspirational and remarkable musician in the world by UK music magazine Raw Ramp. He works as a successful Performing Artist, Drum Teacher, Motivational Speaker, Workshop Facilitator, and Disability Advocate; and has performed at major arts festivals on the east coast of Australia, including Club Wild at the Sydney Opera House in 2004 and 2005. Andrew was a regular visitor to the USA, performing at the world's largest music expo The NAMM Show in Anaheim, California. Andrew is one of the founding members of Can-Do Musos a global voice for musicians living with a disability from across the globe.

Sarah Houbolt

Sarah Houbolt is an accomplished circus and physical theatre performer, specialising in aerials, acrobatics, hula hoop and side show. She trained and performed with Vulcana Women's Circus and has worked on various productions and freelance projects in Australia and New Zealand. Sarah is one of the original graduates of the Australia Council for the Arts 2015 Sync Leadership program. She is currently working on projects around blindness, the aesthetics of access, and dance, as well as doing corporate entertainment.

Belinda Locke

Belinda Locke is a theatre director, performer, and arts leader based in Melbourne, Australia. She has been acknowledged for her work as a young artist and emerging leader by her selection for Australia Council for the Arts' Sync Leadership program (2014), and award of the Rose Byrne Scholarship for an Emerging Female Leader in the Arts (2016). Belinda has curated and produced a number of national independent arts festivals in Australia. Her artistic practice brings to light hidden stories and experiences through performance. Belinda is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy with Queensland University of Technology, serving as Chair of Crack Theatre Festival, and as Deputy Chair of Arts Access Australia.

Patrick Marx

Patrick Marx has been working as a nueva evaluator with nueva.berlin for the past four years. His areas of focus are: accessibility to social and cultural services for deaf

people and conducting interviews in sign language. He also offers introductory sign language courses for inclusive groups.

Nueva

Nueva – Nutzer evaluieren – evaluates social services from the perspective of its users. They evaluate services for people with disabilities and identify how inclusive and accessible social and cultural services are for people with disabilities. The nueva evaluation model is unique because all of its evaluators are individuals with disabilities who have experience using social and cultural services, completed a two year training program and are nueva employees with permanent work contracts.

Platz da! – Move out the way!

The art education project examines the questions: Who mediates art? What kind of people mediate art and is there a shift in perspective when the art mediation is done by people with disabilities? Platz da! is a project developed by Stefanie Wiens and, first and foremost, addresses women art mediators who engage works exhibited by the nGbK (neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst Berlin) and who want to create own ways of art mediation. Together with nGbK visitors they develop new approaches to art. The project's core belief is that inclusion only works if practiced in front of and behind the scenes.

Charlotte Röttger

Charlotte Röttger was born profoundly deaf. When she was 17 years old she received her first Cochlea implant (a hearing prosthesis). She was raised learning spoken language and attended mainstream schools prior to completing her Abitur. After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Art History in Vienna, she completed a Master's at the HTW in Museum Management and Communication followed by a two-year traineeship at Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin. She also offers tours in sign language and writes about art, artists, galleries and museum on her blog "Steps To Art".

Rudely Interrupted

Rudely Interrupted are one of Australia's most unique independent rock acts (4-piece band), touring and releasing their brand of pitch perfect indie/rock/love/pop anthem across the Globe. Fronted by Rory Burnside, Rudely Interrupted was nominated for the most prestigious music prize in Australia, the Melbourne Music Prize 2016. Carving out a worldwide profile with their music and passion for performance, the band has toured the east coast of Australia, New Zealand, China, North America, Canada, Europe and the UK. In 2008, they were the first independent band to receive an invitation to perform at the United Nations in New York City.

Anna Seymour

Anna Seymour is a contemporary dancer based in Melbourne. Her larger than life image can be seen on a 7-story high building in the City, painted by award winning international street artists Guido van Helten. Anna received a Green Room nomination in 2016 for Best Performer in Black is the Colour, an Australian play in Auslan (Australian Sign Language) with English subtitles. Anna has performed in the UK, Vienna, Berlin, with a New York dance residency and performances in the Bay Area International Dance Festival in San Francisco scheduled in 2017. Anna teaches dance workshops for Deaf children and youth, and co-founded contemporary dance company The Delta Project.

Meagan Shand

Meagan Shand is CEO of Arts Access Australia, an art lover and enthusiast with over 20 years experience working in the NGO sector. Meagan lives with disability, and in the year 2000 received a Centenary Medal of Australia for her vision and commitment to creating a disability-led advocacy group. Meagan holds a Masters in Social Science, her thesis explored how participation in art contributes to individual and community resilience. She is interested in the social and economic impact of the arts, the contribution it makes to social cohesion, inclusive practice and policy and the role arts and creativity play in advancing humanity.

Dirk Sorge

Dirk Sorge (M.A.) works as an artist and cultural mediator in Berlin, Leipzig and Chemnitz. He studied visual art at the University of the Arts Berlin and Culture and Technology Studies and Philosophy at Technical University Berlin. He has offered inclusive workshops and guided tours for Staatliche Museen Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin Biennial and other institutions. He worked as project team member and moderator for Neue Perspektiven Gewinnen, a series of workshops on the topic of inclusion in Berlin museums. A member of the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Berlin he consults museums that seek to make their exhibitions more accessible. Currently he works as a museum educator for the Industry Museum in Chemnitz.

Stefanie Wiens

Stefanie Wiens works as a cultural manager and mediator with a focus on inclusion and her research centers on the topic of inclusion within museums. Her Master's thesis on the subject received an award nomination and she was involved in the evaluation program Inclusive Museum at the GETEQ, an organization dedicated to the equal participation of people with disabilities. She is also involved in the projects Neue Perspektiven Gewinnen! and Platz da! at the nGbK. Stefanie does freelance work for a variety of organizations and is regularly invited to give talks on inclusion. During her first years in college she started working as a museum educator and spent one semester studying at Jagiellonen-Universität in Kraków.