


Great Lakes EDCs 800-949-4232 (VTTY) www.adageatakes.org

Arts~n~Rec 

Building an Inclusive Museum from the Ground Up

Thursday, August 10, 2023



EEC National Network Great Lakes EDCs **1**

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The ADA National Network (ADANN)

The ADANN consists of 10 Regional ADA Centers

- Phone: 800-949-4232
- Website: www.adata.org

Find and Contact a Regional ADA Center:
adata.org/find-your-region




EEC National Network **NIDILRR** Funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). **2**


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Presenter



Dawn Kocuja
Community Engagement
& Advocacy Officer




MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

EEC National Network **3**

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Dawn Koceja
 She/Her/Hers
Koceja@mpm.edu

- ✓ Diversity Practitioner
- ✓ ADA Coordinator
- ✓ Interpretive Guide
- ✓ LGBTQ+ Ally
- ✓ NextGen Getty Leadership Institute
- ✓ Leadership Award, John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts – LEAD




Objective 1: To provide a safe space for learning, questions, and growth.

Objective 2: To offer information on how you can create an environment of welcoming and belonging through museum design.


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Accessibility in Museums - Resources




<https://adata.org>



www.ada.gov



The Kennedy Center
 Leadership Exchange in Arts & Disability (LEAD)
www.kennedy-center.org



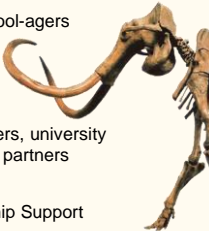
www.adacoordinator.org

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Milwaukee Public Museum

- Most visited museum in the state:
 - 500,000 visitors including 155,000 school-agers
- 4M+ artifacts and objects
- 200,000 square feet
- Planetarium
- Active laboratories for 29 adjunct researchers, university students and other academic and museum partners
- Focus on Accessibility started in 2015
- Substantial Accessibility Budget / Leadership Support



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**Daniel M. Soref National Geographic
Dome Theater and Planetarium**



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Why build a new museum?



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Future Museum 2020 - 2027



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Project Specs

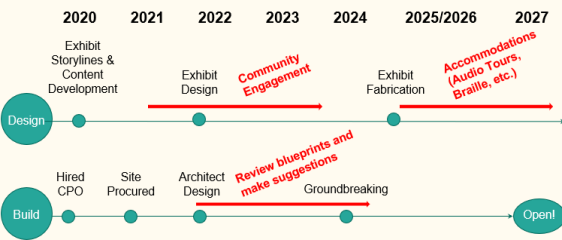
- 2.4 acre development.
- The five-story building will cover about 200,000 square feet, 80k exhibit space.
- Ground floor: common areas, ticketing, cafe, classrooms, planetarium, student lunchroom, wellness room.
- Four exhibit floors with visual access to collections areas.
- Rooftop live butterfly garden and outdoor plaza.
- Outdoor education spaces, gardens, and public art components.
- 50k sq. ft offsite storage facility.



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Project Timeline



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Project Goals

Future Museum Architectural Vision:

- Uniquely Wisconsin + Milwaukee
- Instill a Sense of Pride + Ownership
- Evoke a Sense of Curiosity
- Welcoming + Accessible



Accessibility Project Team:

- Internal ADA Coordinator
- LCM Architects, Accessibility Consultants
- Chris Downey, Architecture for the Blind



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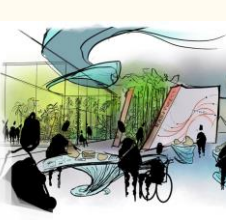
Core Principles of Accessibility at MPM

- Access to cultural programs is a *federal law* and a *legal requirement* of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Accessibility is an *organizational asset* and must be integrated into all facets and activities, from day-to-day operations to long-range goals and objectives.
- Accessible accommodations and services must be given a *high priority* and earmarked in the budget process.
- Accessibility has *economic benefits* because people with disabilities and older adults are a significant part of the population and constitute a large market.
- Accessibility is a *social issue*. People with disabilities are included in the definition of diversity. Promoting diversity and inclusion ensures broader access for all people.

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Accessibility from the Start!



- Embed access in organization culture
- Identify and engage with community partnerships and advocates
- Require accessibility expectations and experiences in bids/contracts
- Make accessibility references or examples required in project proposals
- Have a clear understanding of expectations between all teams (designers, consultants, architects, vendors)

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Expectations: Beyond Compliance

Architectural Barriers Act (1968)
Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

- Identify and prioritize accessible features and built elements.
- Be prepared for conflicts of interest (design vs equitable use).
- Identify who the project influencers are.
- Include accessibility consultants in planning.

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Outdoor Site Plan

- Accessible outdoor pathways
- Benches with backs/armrests
- Service animal relief area
- Van accessible parking spaces
- Bus stop locations (pathways)
- Audio cues at traffic signals
- Address and location for Uber/Lyft

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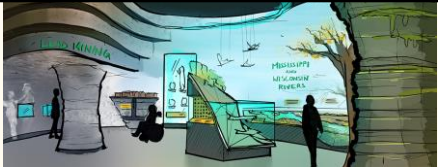


Exhibit Experience Examples

- Sensory room / kits
- Tactile maps / learning experiences
- Multisensory (audio/visual/scent, etc.)
- Color coding for wayfinding
- Signage will signal immersive (opt in or out)
- Accessible exhibit interactives
- Adult changing restrooms
- Family restrooms
- Evacuation assistance
- Accessible play area

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Community Engagement

A Board committee was created to oversee the exhibits and content decisions. This committee was built with equity and inclusion in mind.

We employed two specialty firms to work on access for people with disabilities, including LCM Architects (a disability-owned architecture firm) and Architecture for the Blind.

We held multiple sessions with community groups representing people with various disabilities to discuss how to make the Future Museum meaningful and navigable for all visitors.



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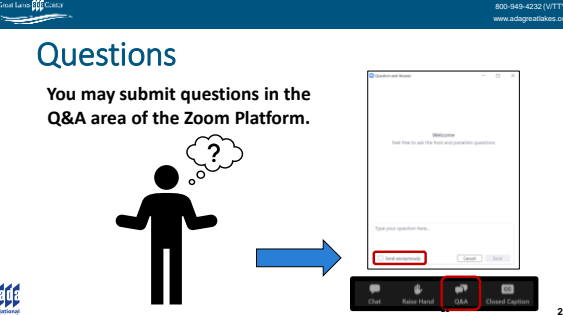


Lessons Learned

- Not everyone understands the ADA.
- People find change difficult.
- Support from leadership is key.
- Community involvement is critical.
- Transparency is necessary.
- Accessibility elements can be costly.
- Stay open-minded.
- Plan for accommodations when built elements are not fully accessible.

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Questions


You may submit questions in the Q&A area of the Zoom Platform.

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Contact Information



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Still Have Questions?

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Session Evaluation


Your feedback is important to us

You will receive an email following the session with a link to the on-line evaluation.

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Next Session:

Adaptive Strength and Endurance

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Registration available at:
www.ada-artsnrec.org



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