Voluntary Arts

Here are a few tips from Damien McGlynn of Voluntary Arts to help you make your online activited more accessible.

Tips for making online activities accessible

- When you think about access - it’s a bridge - it's not about trying to anticipate everything - or the person who needs access going all the way across the bridge. It should be about meeting in the middle. It’s different for every person.
- Whenever you start talking - say your name.
- Internet connection can affect how people experience online sessions.
- British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation is a different language and, for people who speak BSL, an interpreter is essential.
- But it's hard to stare at a screen all day - so you need to factor in breaks.
- People are putting lots online - but very few people are putting captions on their videos. Please do that!
- Viva Video - you can make captions for free.
- Zoom doesn’t have automated captions - you need to bring in a palantypist to type in.
- A transcript from a palantypist is useful for anyone with a slow internet connection.
- YouTube - provides captions and you can check through them to make sure they are right.
- Zoom tips - check the light in the room - so that if someone is lip reading that they can see you.
- If you know someone is lipreading - don’t over enunciate. Only 30% of the words you say can be lip read.
- If you have people following through sign language interpretation - there will be a delay. So allow extra time for people to process and reply.
- When using hashtags please start every word with a capital letter to enable screen-readers to make sense of them.
- You should also describe your photos with ‘alt text’ - Twitter offers this as an option.
- Zoom - if you are presenting pictures - think about describing them before you start presenting.
- Zoom - if someone is sharing a screen - you can click on the ‘side by side’ option and pin the other person (e.g. a speaker or interpreter) you want to see next to them.
- Zoom - Useful to describe yourself briefly, for blind and partially sighted participants.