

Accessibility Plan – Thunder Bay Arts Council, Inc.

TBAC operates with an officially stated and adopted philosophy of providing “enrichment opportunities across generations, including children, youth and adults regardless of sex, creed, race or handicap,” thus promoting accessibility and accommodations. All events and activities for this Series are presented in highly accessible state of the art facilities in a broad spectrum of venues throughout the community. Some events are presented at the APlex and some at the Beck Auditorium of Alpena High School; both are barrier-free facilities which house upwards of 800 people if needed. Some events are held at area churches, local art galleries and theatres.

TBAC complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); The Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and Title IX of the Education Amendments, 1972. Priority is given to local artists and support personnel in all planning.

TBAC strives to serve a wide range of interests and audiences in its programming. We focus on filling the void of artistic representation from other organizations in the region who represent other genre, and we constantly shift our attention based on community needs and interests. As the region trends toward older demographics, programming is dictated by audiences and traditions. TBAC is dedicated to younger audiences and maintaining meaningful cultural expressions as well, seeking cross-generational immersion in all programming. In-school and YouthCORE initiatives are manifested in all of our programming. Children and students of all ages receive free admission at all TBAC events.

In planning the TBAC activities, especially Showcase Series, independent artists are sought out based on reputation. Great attention is paid to evidence of experience, diversity and spectrum of genre as well as educational merit and entertainment value. Drawing interest and integrating youth, Generation X, and Millennials has been a major focus in order to pass on generationally the value and appreciation of the arts. Appeal is tantamount, and getting it right is a challenging quest given the demographics of the region and generational enculturation. Priority is given to high quality local talent. Artistic standards used in adjudicating artist selection includes variation in discipline, local Michigan focus, appeal to different age groups, and ability to fulfill community needs not provided by other area cultural organizations. Diversity in performances that promote participation and appeal to a wide audience given the representation of genre in the community’s offerings is of highest order.

TBAC has taken great pride in pursuing quality artistic/cultural merit in its performers given the resources available. TBAC’s objective is to provide a variety of performing arts opportunities to the region, fulfilling the mission of promoting, supporting, and preserving the arts through performance, education and leadership uninterrupted for 45 years.

All artists are contracted on a negotiated basis based on market rates. A committee of TBAC Board members establishes the Series program and negotiates with the artists. A liaison is determined by the committee to work with the artist(s) in preparation, lead-up and execution of contract obligations regarding all programs for successful execution of programs.

All events are open to the public. Children and students of all ages receive free admission to all TBAC events. Programs and artists are given opportunity for immersion within the communities they serve. While the educational merits of each are manifest in each performance, TBAC creates opportunity for expression of artistic contributions, educational achievement, and overall community enrichment through the arts.