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About the Sensory-Friendly Access Symbol

As part of its "All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids" initiative and in coordination with the 2012 release of the <u>Going to the Show</u> guide to preparing new audiences for a live performing arts experience, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs created the "<u>Sensory-Friendly</u>" disability access symbol together with a set of guidelines for producing a Sensory-Friendly cultural event.

The <u>Sensory-Friendly</u> disability access symbol features an umbrella to represent all Sensory Processing Disorders as well as inclusiveness, and integrates puzzle pieces to symbolize Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The <u>Sensory-Friendly</u> disability access symbol is intended to be used in marketing and promotional materials in the same way as other standard access symbols, such as the wheelchair access symbol or American Sign Language (ASL) symbol.

Using the <u>Sensory-Friendly</u> symbol to promote a cultural event or performance indicates that the advertised event or performance will provide accessible accommodations and appropriate modifications for individuals with Sensory Processing Disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). These include a pre-show / pre-visit preparatory guide to preparing audiences and visitors for the experience, an accepting and inclusive environment, adjustments to sound and lighting levels, noise cancelling headsets, and a "quiet room" where individuals can take a break. Other accommodations may include autism specialists on hand to assist patrons and remote viewing of the main stage performance.

For information and to learn more about how cultural organizations can present a <u>Sensory-Friendly</u> cultural event or performance, call the <u>Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs</u> at (305) 375-4634.



The Sensory-Friendly access symbol and "Going to the Show" were developed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs as part of its "All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids" (AKI) program. AKI is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and in part through grant funding provided by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future.