

# Vendor Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Attached are some guidelines taken from the publication, *Accessible Temporary Events: A Planning Guide* for your consideration. This publication is a national resource used for events throughout the country. If we all do our part in providing the best service to all of the visitors, this year's Sidewalk Arts Festival will be even more successful.

Please take a look at this document prior to designing your booth. Whether you have a fine arts, crafts, non-profit, or food booth, your role in making our event equally accessible is important. Making changes to your booth for accessibility of all people will help increase your sales because more people will see what you're offering – everywhere you go!

We look forward to your participation in the Sidewalk Arts Festival. While you have many things to consider in preparation for this event, please take some time to ensure your booth is as accessible as can be for all patrons.

---

## Temporary Structures and Features

Structures, such as booths, tents, bleachers, stages, or similar features, set up for the event, are integral parts of the activities offered and should be usable by people with disabilities. Critical services such as information and first aid booths, as well as portable toilets must not be overlooked. While not containing actual "activity," these are integral to the health, safety, and enjoyment of all participants. When fabricating or selecting temporary structures, remember to factor in the accessibility requirements.

Likewise, portable exhibits and performing areas where entry for participants is intended should be designed to be accessible. While it may not be possible to make all exhibits accessible (for example, experiential sculptures that one enters), an attempt should be made to make a portion of the exhibit accessible or, at the very least, allow participants with disabilities to get close to and touch the sculpture.

## Artwork, Crafts, and Other Wares for Sale

How items are displayed for sale is critical. The ability to see, reach, and study objects or images is key to selecting an item to purchase. Ideally, a person with a mobility disability should be able to move about the vendor's entire display space. Space limitations within the booth and the design of displays are common problems.

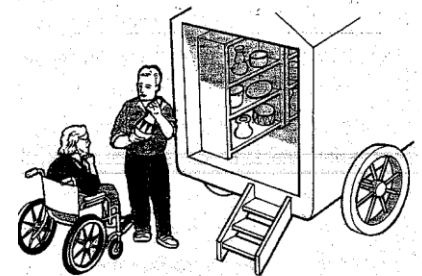
The recommended criteria to use for spatial layout when displaying items for sale is the same as for other exhibits on display.

Until a vendor can remedy such barriers or where display spaces cannot be modified, such as a mobile cart on a chassis, then an alternative method providing the service must be offered so informed choices can be made. This may include taking items down from higher shelving, bringing small items closer to an individual, or even

carrying an object completely out of the display space and onto adjoining walks or into adjacent rooms.

## Exhibits and Displays

Exhibits are common features of temporary events. Exhibits may be as simple as pieces of pottery set on a picnic table or elaborate traveling display cases exhibiting precious stones or jewelry for sale. Whether two-dimensional images or three-dimensional objects, these static items are usually displayed for the duration of the event with little physical manipulation expected of or by the observer.



**Alternate Method of Providing Service**

The ADA Standards do not cover the design of elements that are not part of or attached to a building. Thus, portable display tables, cases, shelves, or panels that are generally transported into a space where a temporary event is to be held are not specifically required to meet the specifications of the ADA Standards. However, under Title II and III of the ADA, it is expected that participants will be able to experience full enjoyment of the event. The following information is recommended guidance for making exhibits and displays accessible and should be considered when meeting the provisions of the law.

Display tables, cases, shelves, panels, to be accessible, should be located adjacent to an accessible route and have adequate space for a person using a wheelchair or scooter to pass behind other participants who have stopped to examine an object.

In addition, there should be sufficient clear floor or ground space on the viewing sides of the display to permit the same level of scrutiny of objects as afforded (OVER)

other participants. Along with the availability of clear floor space, the height of objects dramatically affects successful viewing for seated people.

### Concessions

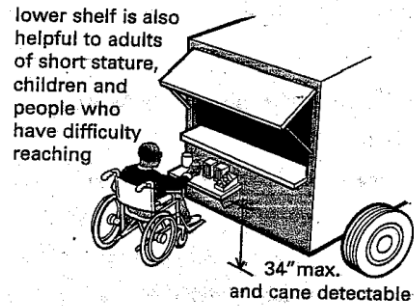
Staple attractions at many temporary events are the refreshments offered for sale. Being able to purchase and enjoy food and drinks is certainly part of the total experience at most events. Both concessions offered by the event organizer and those offered by individual vendors should be accessible.

### Food and Drink

The ADA Standards give specifications for accessible cafeterias, restaurants, and similar facilities that serve food. Many of the specifications for fixed facilities (restaurants, cafeterias, etc.) can be used in making temporary food service counters, trailers, and tables accessible. A key specification from the ADA Standards is

the height of service counter which must not exceed 34 inches. However, it may be difficult to provide service counters at this height when food and drink are offered from mobile trailers. A solution is to install a low folding shelf.

While other accommodations may still be needed when actually serving food, condiments and menus can be placed on this auxiliary shelf within easy reach. It also may be possible for event vendors to jointly provide a condiment table in or adjacent to nearby eating areas.



**Lower Auxiliary Folding Shelf**

### Features of Accessible Exhibits

