

Arts For All Network Report 2026

Plain language summary

About this report

Every year, Arts Access Aotearoa asks Arts For All Network members to answer some questions.

This survey happened between December 2025 and February 2026.

We asked members about:

- accessibility
- what worked well
- what was difficult
- what support they need.

Your ideas help us plan our work.

This report explains what members told us.

Not many members answered the survey this year.

This means:

- we cannot include everyone's views
- we cannot give reliable numbers
- we cannot compare this year with last year.

We also used feedback that members shared during 2025. This helped us create a report that shares more people's views.

About the Arts For All Network

At the end of 2025, the Network had **1,101 members**.

Members include:

- artists and arts lovers
- theatres and festivals
- museums and galleries
- libraries
- councils
- universities
- disability organisations

- creative spaces.

Anyone who wants to improve accessibility in the arts can join.

Members can:

- come to hui
- join online meetings
- attend workshops
- use online resources
- ask for advice.

What members told us

Most members enjoy improving accessibility.

They said accessibility makes the arts better for everyone.

Many people said even small changes make a big difference.

Members also said accessibility helps them:

- welcome more people
- learn new things
- create more inclusive spaces.

Accessibility can be difficult

Members also told us about challenges.

Some challenges are:

- not enough money
- not enough time
- not enough staff
- other work taking priority.

Some people do not understand why accessibility is important.

Some organisations ask for feedback but do not make changes.

Some members worry about meeting everyone's different access needs.

Even with these challenges, members want to keep improving.

What members achieved in 2025

Many members increased accessibility.

They:

- improved accessibility information
- made communication easier to understand
- offered NZSL interpreted events
- offered audio described events
- offered relaxed events
- improved signs
- improved buildings
- reviewed their systems and made them easier to use.

Many people started by improving what they already had.

They said this was easier with limited money and time.

What helped members

The biggest help was learning.

Many members said:

"We don't know what we don't know."

Learning from Deaf and disabled people was the most valuable.

Members also learned from:

- each other
- accessibility experts
- workshops
- practical resources.

Funding also helped organisations make changes.

Making small improvements over time worked well.

What made accessibility harder

The biggest barriers were:

- not enough funding
- not enough knowledge.

Some members did not know:

- where to start
- who to ask
- where to find information.

Some people worried about getting things wrong.

This made them less confident.

Members' dream for the future

Members want accessibility to be normal everywhere.

They want everyone to enjoy the arts.

Members want:

- accessible buildings
- accessible websites
- Easy Read information
- NZSL interpreted events
- captioning
- audio description
- relaxed events.

They also want more Deaf and disabled people to be:

- artists
- performers
- leaders
- staff
- decision-makers.

What members want from Arts Access Aotearoa

Members want us to keep providing:

- advice
- workshops
- mentoring
- accessibility reviews
- resources
- advocacy.

They also want:

- more chances to meet other members
- more training
- more practical information
- help finding funding

- stronger connections with Deaf and disabled communities.

What we learned

Members told us they want to keep learning.

Our focus for 2026 is growing knowledge together.

A whakataukī is a Māori proverb that helps us express an important idea. Our guiding whakataukī this year is:

Whaiwhia te kete mātauranga

Fill the basket with knowledge.

This reminds us that learning helps create lasting change.

We want to help members:

- build confidence
- learn new skills
- recognise barriers
- improve accessibility.

What we are doing in 2026

We have:

- created more workshops
- added more online learning
- increased regional visits
- started monthly newsletters
- improved our website
- created more opportunities for members to learn from each other
- continued speaking at conferences and events.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas.

Your feedback helps shape our work.

We will continue helping people make the arts more accessible.

If you need advice or support, please contact Arts Access Aotearoa.

Together, we can make the arts more welcoming for everyone.

Find out more

Visit the Arts For All Network webpage.

You can learn about:

- online hui
- regional hui
- workshops
- learning opportunities
- resources.