

National Disability Employment Awareness Month...Lets think about Internships.

Every October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), is a time to celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. In support of greater inclusion and access, has your arts organization ever thought about supporting an internship opportunity for an individual with disabilities? Even more specifically, supporting an internship opportunity for a young adult with disabilities?

Transitional age students, 18-21 year olds, are a population that can have, with the proper guidance, a great deal to offer your arts organization. Sharing your organization with a young adult with disabilities can be a mutually beneficial experience. An internship opportunity for a young adult with disabilities can assist the particular individual with developing pre-professional skills, but can also guide an organization with progressing further along the path to greater access and engagement with the disability community.

For more information, check out these resources on creating or finding internships for young adults with disabilities:

- From The Ohio State University, [information on coordinating internships for students with disabilities](#).
- From the University of Washington, [resources for helping students with disabilities locate work-based experiences](#)
- From the Employer Assistance & Resource Network/The Viscardi Center, [an article on the value of interns with disabilities](#)
- From the VSA Webinar Series (Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), [How to Prepare for Hosting an Intern with a Disability](#) (you will be prompted to enter your name and email address before viewing the free webinar recording).