

Please Touch the Art

Karissa Coady, Matt Jatkola, Tanja Milojevic, Aneleise Ruggles



“Please Touch the Art” is a tactile art exhibit and companion humanities exhibit accompanied by a curator’s talk and panel discussion at the Mosesian Center for the Arts. The exhibit will provide a multi-sensory art experience that is accessible to all audiences taking special care to provide an immersive, tactile experience for visually impaired community members.

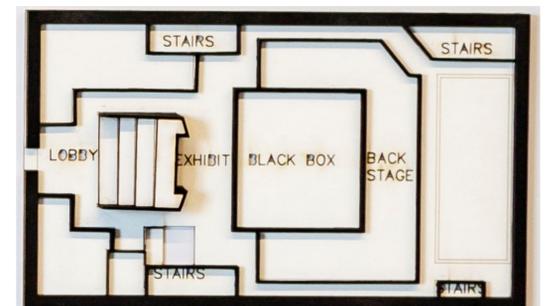


ART FOR ALL THE SENSES



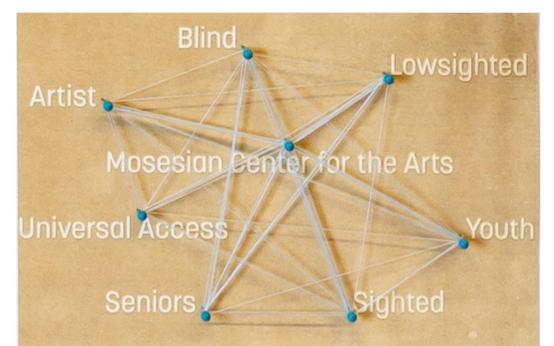
Where we started...

- Art for both: sighted and visually impaired
- We want to learn how accessibility programming for the arts has evolved over the years from a technology and community acceptance perspective, and what lies ahead.
- The exhibit will serve as an opportunity to build a broader awareness and understanding of the challenges the visually impaired community faces on a day-to-day basis creating empathy by providing a contextual, organic experience to sighted exhibit visitors.
- Engaging blind disabilities studies scholar and author Georgina Kleege to lead the curation of the Exhibit.



Where we are...

- Selecting artwork in a variety of mediums, which all have considerations for sensory experiences beyond sight.
- All visitors of the exhibition will be encouraged to not only touch the art, but to experience it through their other senses as well. “What sounds are created when touching the artwork?” “What smells do you encounter?”
- New question: how can our organization build a more accessible model for all of our programming?
- Developing resources that will help any new visitor navigate our spaces safely and efficiently. These resources will include physical maps (2D and 3D), braille and large print resource guides, audio guides, and tactile indicators.



Where we are going...

Creating a more inclusive and accessible model for our operations has greater implications beyond having a successful “Please Touch the Art” exhibition. The Mosesian Center for the Arts stands to be a landmark for universal participation in the Greater Boston area and beyond. We also see “Please Touch the Art” as a fantastic community building opportunity for our region where visual artists can be challenged to consider how one work of art can impact a diverse range of audience members. This project is providing an opportunity for our organization to work toward changing perceptions around blindness and disabilities in general.

