

EIF Mid-term Report August 2023

Intro

In January 2023 EIF awarded a grant of £9,350.00 to provide training to help make smaller events more accessible to disabled audiences, artists and employee/volunteers.

The project involved Attitude is Everything working with the 3 major festivals associations (AIF, BAFA, AFO) and community festivals and events, supported by LAEOG, to provide training to help make smaller events more accessible to disabled audiences, artists, and employee/volunteers.

This included delivering bespoke disability equality training courses for customer-focused and production and operations teams, providing attendees the opportunity to join our Live Events Access Charter, as well as receiving additional support through guidance documents developed. This included developing a community focused access section for the Purple Guide Lite.

Campaign launch

In February 2023, BAFA, AIF, AFO and LAEOG launched the project at industry conferences which were all attended by some of our staff members working on the project.

The project was promoted alongside our #FestivalsWithoutBarriers campaign to increase engagement with our training sessions that launched in March officially.

Unfortunately, we were unable to deliver the 3 planned symposium events due to staff changes and capacity. However, we do plan to carry out said symposium events in the autumn.

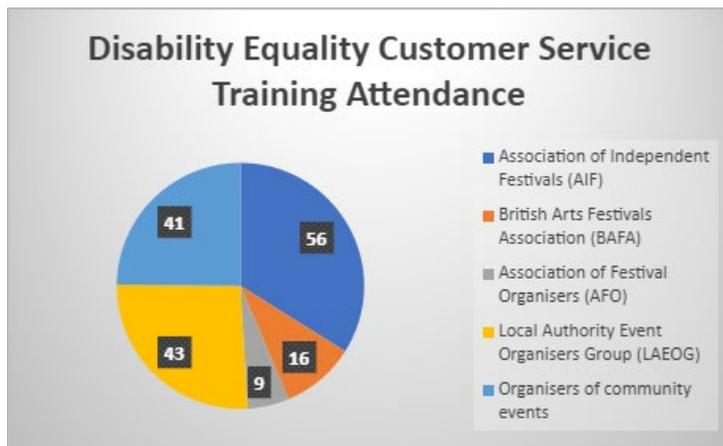
EIF Disability Equality and Customer Care training sessions

Since 10th March 2023, when our DECS training sessions started, we have had 165 individuals from 124 different organisations join the training sessions; our original target was 190 which we believe will be reached by the end of all our training sessions. By the end of September, 13 out of 17 sessions will have been completed. In our original proposal we had planned to run less sessions in the early part of the project but due to demand we accelerated the programme.

| Attended: | Count: | % of Totals: |
|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Association of Independent Festivals (AIF) | 56 | 34% |
| British Arts Festivals Association (BAFA) | 16 | 10% |
| Association of Festival Organisers (AFO) | 9 | 5% |
| Local Authority Event Organisers Group (LAEOG) | 43 | 26% |
| Organisers of community events | 41 | 25% |
| TOTAL: | 165 | |

*Inclusive of those signed up through September (7th September is full, 11th and 19th still have availability)

With the EIF Purple Guide funding, we have successfully been carrying out these training sessions and ensure that we can run these regularly whilst reaching over 100 different organisations.



Future plans

Unfortunately, we were not able to deliver the symposiums as planned at the start of 2023, however we are currently looking at various models of delivering symposiums in the autumn.

As we have completed 10 training sessions since March, we have 4 more scheduled in the autumn and our new Training Manager, Dominique Gibson, will complete the final 3 training sessions by the end of autumn. After this, all 17 training sessions will be completed. We plan to stay in contact with those who have attended our DECS training sessions to build on these relationships. From Autumn until the end of the year, we will be doing a review of our Live Events Access Charter, so we plan to invite those that have attended our DECS training sessions to our Live Events Access Charter intro sessions in 2024.

We're currently working on the section in the Purple Guide Lite for community events focused access, which is currently in its final edits.