



Access Statement

Artlift aims to create an artistic environment which feels safe, relaxed, friendly, inspiring, enjoyable, and comfortable for all.

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access requirements but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer participants, Artist Facilitators, or volunteers.

We are providing information here on existing online / remotely delivered and community based courses and services.

Information about our sessions:

- Sessions are planned by our Artist Facilitators utilising the access information they have about participants from Referral Forms and as provided by participants during initial conversations with referrals administrators and/or the Artist Facilitator. This enables them to ensure for example:
 - Adequate and timely breaks
 - Flexibility to get up and move around if needed during sessions / activities
 - Careful pacing of sessions
 - Accessible activities
 - Provision of materials and/or paperwork in different formats if needed
- Group guidelines are agreed at the outset of each course when you may choose to make others in your group aware of anything that will help you enjoy the course, e.g. ask people to communicate clearly or more slowly.
- For those engaging in online group sessions, Artlift uses:
 - Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) for weekly group sessions and, if you mutually agree with your Artist Facilitator, for 1-1 'Creative Check-ins' (which can also be done by telephone if this better meets your requirements)
 - Sometimes, Facebook / Instagram private groups to share artwork and feedback
 - A central resource hub on our website here: <https://artlift.org/useful-links-and-resources/>

If you prefer, you can access Zoom sessions without switching on the video. You can also leave sessions for a short period or early if you need to (just put a message in 'chat' to your Artist Facilitator to let them know so that they don't worry about you!)

- For those who join us to devise and engage in a tailored Arts on Prescription programme, you will engage with our Creative Navigator via Zoom, post, telephone and/or e-mail.
- For those engaging in our face-to-face community-based sessions, Artlift seeks to select and build partnerships with host organisations in accessible venues, which include:
 - Nearby parking options (including disabled parking spaces)
 - Nearby bus-stops wherever feasible

- Accessible toilets
- Clear signage
- Doorways and corridors wide enough for standard sized manual and electric wheelchairs
- Break away / quiet spaces
- Tea & coffee-making facilities that can be used during breaks
- Large, airy spaces, where windows can be opened / closed
- Adequate heating so that certain conditions affected by the cold are not exacerbated
- Reception and other staff with disability awareness training and/or experience
- Inclusive practice values aligned with those of Artlift
- Filmed / photographic images of venues (or links to this on partner venues' websites) will be provided prior to the start of courses whenever feasible.
- Unless you're informed beforehand, no Artlift sessions will include sudden or loud noises / music.
- Wherever possible, Artlift Artist Facilitators integrate choice into sessions so that, if you struggle with a particular activity (e.g. due to limited dexterity), you can choose another activity or be supported to explore an individualised or adapted approach.

Access support provided:

- Artlift's Artist Facilitators are experienced Creative Health practitioners, with disability and mental health awareness training. They are also supported to share practice and ideas around creating more universal access for a wider diversity of people, as well as to take up training to understand how best to create access for specific disability groups, e.g. neurodiverse participants.

The Artlift team comprises empathetic professionals with lived experience of mental health challenges, cancer and other long-term conditions.

- Artlift runs a Volunteer Scheme so that trained / coached Assistants can support enabling access to our courses and projects.
- For the D/deaf or hard of hearing, where it's feasible to access a budget (either through a local disability focused funder, a health partner, or through participants' own individual budgets), Artlift will work with you to source and arrange a BSL interpreter.
- Free places are available for a Personal Assistant, carer or a family member when needed to support access to our courses – please let us know in advance whether they will be joining in with the activities or present solely to enable your engagement.
- All resources can be made available in large print, or in easy-read format. Please make us aware when either is required.

Pre-course support, or when things are not working well for you:

Our Volunteer Assistants and/or our Programme Assistants can support you with setting up and getting used to using Zoom. Please make us aware in advance if you require this support.

We can also work with you and/or our partners (e.g. Social Prescribers) to try and bring down travel barriers wherever feasible.

You can contact us by telephone or e-mail using the details below with any enquiries, feedback, or further information you may have regarding your access requirements prior to (or during) your course. We will make every effort, within our means, to ensure any barriers to your participation are addressed.

Contact Details

Administrative team: office@artlift.org / 01452 222 726

www.artlift.org