

A. Arriving at the Theatre		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>A.1 Drop Off/Pick Up Area</b>			
A.1.a Sufficient dimensions.	Bus drop off zones (min 7925 mm long and min 3050 mm wide) Van drop off zones (min 7315 long, and min 2590 wide).		
A.1.b Overhead clearance.	Min 2490 mm height.		
A.1.c Close to accessible entrance.	As close as possible.		
A.1.d Sheltered.			
A.1.e Well positioned and well-marked by signage.	Good, intuitive location (so that people don't mistake the back-loading zone for the accessible pick up/drop off).		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

A. Arriving at the Theatre		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>A.2 Public Transit</b>			
A.2.a There is a bus stop/ SkyTrain Station close to main entrance.	As close as possible.		
A.2.b Sheltered bus stop			
A.2.c Places for people to sit and rest.	A bench is provided at bus stop.		
A.2.d Space for someone in a mobility device.	Clear space within sheltered bus stop where a person with a disability can sit alongside someone without a disability.		
A.2.e Accessible path of travel.	Accessible, clear path of travel connecting bus stop to main entrance that is not obstructed by garbage bins, signs, etc.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

A. Arriving at the Theatre		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>A.3 Parking</b>			
<b>A.3.a</b> Sufficient amount of disability parking.	4% of parking stalls (or 1 out of every 25 stalls be made accessible).		
<b>A.3.b</b> Off Street Parking - City of Vancouver bylaw - Sufficient dimensions.	Disability parking spaces must be at least: 5.5m long; at least 4.0m wide.		
<b>A.3.c</b> Vertical Clearance to accommodate larger vehicles and side/rear lifts.	Vancouver Bylaw Requires vertical clearance of at least 2.3m.		
<b>A.3.d</b> Off Street - Accessible Parking Stalls meet BC Building Code.	BC Building Code only requires width of 3.7 m (including access aisle) Two adjacent parking stalls can share 1.2 m access aisle (marked by yellow diagonal lines).		
<b>A.3.e</b> Van Accessible Parking Stalls - wider stalls that accommodate wider vans with side/rear lifts.	The combined width of a van accessible parking stall is 4.9m (16ft) including the 3.4m wide parking stall and 1.5m access aisle. Two adjacent van accessible parking stalls with a shared access aisle would take up 8.3m (27ft).		

A.3.f Signage and smooth paved surface.	Painted symbol in parking space and sign on post.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

A. Arriving at the Theatre		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>A.4 Exterior Pathways</b>			
<b>A.4.a</b> Accessible paths of travel connecting all important activity areas.	At minimum they should connect the pickup/ drop off area, parking lot, exterior box office, and public transit stops to main entrance.		
<b>A.4.b</b> Wide and spacious clear pathway.	1500 mm wide - allows 2 people using mobility devices to pass by; 915 mm wide -- the min width of a passageway for someone using a mobility device; 1675 mm - min for a higher traffic pathway.		
<b>A.4.c</b> Clear path of travel is free of obstructions.	When measuring clear path of travel, ensure that obstructions such as mail boxes, garbage cans, sandwich boards, trees and bicycle racks do not obstruct the path of travel.		
<b>A.4.d</b> Surface area is slip resistant, smooth and flat.	Smooth pavement is best (Note: gravel, grass, dirt and cobble stones can create barriers).		
<b>A.4.e</b> Accessible curb ramps are provided as needed	Provide a smooth transition between the sidewalk and street level for people using mobility devices. (Note: this is especially relevant at nearby crosswalks and by accessible parking spaces). Include tactile indicators for people with visual disabilities.		

<p><b>A.4.f</b> If there are stairs, there should be an alternate accessible pathway.</p>	<p>Either a gradual ramp or an elevator.</p>		
<p><b>A.4.g</b> The main pathway and the accessible pathway are the same.</p>	<p>For example, if there are stairs, the ramp/ elevator is located close by and is easy to locate.</p>		
<p><b>A.4.h</b> Ramps meet accessibility standards.</p>	<p>Refer to section on ramps.</p>		
<p><b>A.4.i</b> Stairs meet accessibility standards.</p>	<p>Refer to section on stairs.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

A. Arriving at the Theatre		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>A.5 Main Entrance</b>			
<b>A.5.a</b> Entrance is easy to find and well-marked for people with disabilities.	Intuitive Location, Good colour contrast with surroundings and signage, if glass doors, easy to see for someone with low vision.		
<b>A.5.b</b> Wide and spacious door opening and level threshold.	At least 36 inches (915 mm wide) and level threshold (door threshold should be a maximum of 13 mm high and be beveled).		
<b>A.5.c</b> Power Operated Doors.	Automatic Doors are best, an automatic door opener with a push button control is also good.		
<b>A.5.d</b> Call button for assistance.	A call button for assistance is provided if the door opener is not working or someone requires extra assistance.		
<b>A.5.e</b> Call button and door opener control are easy to find.	Well-marked by signage and located at wheelchair accessible heights.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

A. Arriving at the Theatre		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>A.6 Exterior Box Office</b>			
<b>A.6.a</b> Box office is easy to find.	Well-marked with intuitive location and excellent signage and good colour contrast with surroundings.		
<b>A.6.b</b> Wheelchair accessible counter.	There is a service counter positioned at wheelchair accessible height (between 760 and 865 mm high) that allows people with disabilities to communicate with staff at eye level.		
<b>A.6.c</b> Hearing Loop.	This is a type of sound system for people who are Hard of Hearing and use hearing aids. It would help someone with a hearing disability communicate with box office staff.		
<b>A.6.d</b> Staff training.	Staff are well trained on serving people with disabilities, are knowledgeable about the accessibility features the theatre can provide and can help connect people with disabilities available technology and resources.		
<b>A.6.e</b> Access to information.	The theatre has a brochure of accessibility features that they can share with visitors with disabilities. This should conform to large print standards.		

**Additional Notes:**

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.1 Coat Check</b>			
<b>B.1.a</b> Coat Check is easy to find.	Well-marked with intuitive location and excellent signage and good colour contrast with surroundings.		
<b>B.1.b</b> Wheelchair accessible counter.	There is a service counter positioned at wheelchair accessible height (between 760 and 865 mm high) that allows people with disabilities to communicate with staff at eye level.		
<b>B.1.c</b> Provides information on the Hearing Assist Technology that is available.	Signage advertises available technology. Technology is available to be signed out as needed and is well maintained.		
<b>B.1.d</b> Staff training.	Staff are well trained on serving people with disabilities, knowledgeable about the accessibility features available and can help connect people with disabilities with available technology.		
<b>B.1.e</b> Access to information.	The theatre has a brochure of accessibility features that they can share with visitors with disabilities. It conforms to large print standards.		

**Additional Notes:**

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.2 Concession Stands</b>			
<b>B.2.a</b> Concession stand is easy to find.	Well-marked with intuitive location and excellent signage and good colour contrast with surroundings.		
<b>B.2.b</b> Wheelchair accessible counter.	Counter is 865 mm high and provides clear knee space beneath the counter for someone using a wheelchair to pull up underneath (the clear space 760 mm wide, 685 mm high, 485 mm deep).		
<b>B.2.c</b> Accessible menu for people with low vision/ who are blind.	Provide handheld large print and Braille Menu.		
<b>B.2.d</b> Captioned Television Screens.	Provide captioning on television screens in the common areas to share important announcements to people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (e.g. when the show will start, the 10-minute warning, updates about performance delays, emergency announcements).		

<b>B.2.e Staff training</b>	Staff are well trained on serving people with disabilities, knowledgeable about the accessibility features available and can help connect people with disabilities with available technology.		
<b>B.2.f Access to information</b>	The theatre has a brochure of accessibility features.		
<b>B.2.g Concession and/or Reception desk</b>	Maintain a clear area in front of reception desk.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.3 Washrooms</b>			
<b>B.3.a</b> Washrooms are easy to find and locate	There should be accessible washrooms on each floor that theatre patrons frequent.		
<b>B.3.b</b> Excellent signage directing people to washroom	Signage directing people to the washrooms and signage on washroom doors with Braille/raised lettering.		
<b>B.3.c</b> Accessible entrance	Power operated door, level threshold, doorway is 915 mm wide (to accommodate larger mobility devices).		
<b>B.3.d</b> A universal accessible washroom is provided	This is an accessible washroom that can be used by male, female, transgendered and is particularly useful if a person needs assistance from an opposite gender attendant.		
<b>B.3.e</b> Clear path of travel leading to accessible washroom stall	The accessible washroom stall should be easy to reach for someone using a large mobility device during busy intermissions.		

<p><b>B.3.f</b> Space to maneuver within accessible washroom stall</p>	<p>Accessible washroom stall should be a minimum of 1500mm by 1500mm (Note: As more people use larger mobility devices such as scooters, the dimensions of 1700mm by 2440mm are preferred as it allows for a 1700mm by 1700mm clear turning space by toilet).</p>		
<p><b>B.3.g</b> Accessible toilet and transfer space</p>	<p>Toilet seat height -- Approximately 475 mm; Transfer space by toilet -min width 1020 mm. The transfer space alongside the toilet is kept clear of obstructions such as cleaning supplies and garbage cans.</p>		
<p><b>B.3.h</b> Stall door opens outwards and does not obstruct the washroom stall</p>	<p>There is an interior door handle so that it is also easy for people with disabilities to grab onto the stall door and close it; the lever style latch system on the stall door is easy to lock and unlock for someone with limited hand dexterity. Coat hook is no higher than 1200 mm.</p>		

<p><b>B.3.i</b> Grab bars are provided which allow someone to safely transfer</p>	<p>Grab bar location should be located by the toilet on the non-transfer area side. Grab bars that angle up from mid-point are preferable. Mounted horizontally between 840 mm and 920 mm above floor. Midpoint in line with the front edge of water closet, mid-point angles up not more than 60°. Grab bar diameter (30 mm - 40 mm); grab bar clearance from wall (35 - 45 mm) (Grab bar length at least 900 mm long). Grab bars have a nonslip finish.</p>		
<p><b>B.3.j</b> Water closet has a bolted-on lid to grasp on to when transferring</p>	<p>Or if no water closet, a second grab bar behind toilet - Bar is 600 mm long, mounted behind toilet between 815 and 865 above finished floor.</p>		
<p><b>B.3.k</b> Toilet paper should be easy to reach</p>	<p>Toilet paper should be positioned by grab bar so that a person can grasp onto bar for extra support when reaching.</p>		
<p><b>B.3.l</b> Someone using a mobility device can easily use the sink area</p>	<p>The sink is no higher than 865 mm above the finished floor; there is knee space (at least 250 mm high) underneath the sink which allows a person in a wheelchair to pull up underneath; Automatic or lever style faucet handles provide easy access for people with limited hand dexterity or strength, the soap and towel dispensers located close to the sink and at accessible heights. (Note: No more than 1200 mm high off the floor). The mirror is mounted 1000 mm from the floor.</p>		

<b>B.3.m</b> Emergency Call Button for Assistance	There is an emergency call button for assistance in accessible washroom stalls.		
<b>B.3.n</b> Lights with Motion Sensors	Install motion sensor switched lighting to minimize maneuvering.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.4 Wayfinding and Lighting</b>			
<b>B.4.a</b> Map directing people to different areas of the theatre (including accessibility features).	Larger theatre complexes can have Tactile/ Braille maps to help people orientate themselves.		
<b>B.4.b</b> Handheld Map showing the location of accessibility features	The theatre has a brochure of accessibility features that they can share with visitors with disabilities. This conforms to large print standards & includes a map of accessible washrooms.		
<b>B.4.c</b> Voice Guide Systems	Some larger theatre complexes are using voice guide systems (e.g. small transmitters give information to people on visual disabilities about the location of elevators).		
<b>B.4.d</b> Staff training	Staff are well trained on serving people with disabilities, knowledgeable about the accessibility features available and can help direct people with disabilities to their seat (especially in low lighting situations).		

<p><b>B.4.e</b> Signage is easy to read for someone with low vision</p>	<p>Large colour contrast between text and background colour (e.g. white lettering on a black background); Signs use accessible san-serif fonts, such as Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, or Calibri; The lettering is large enough: Internal direction signs - minimum height of 30 mm, Door signage - minimum height of 17 mm; Glare is minimized by using a non-reflective coating.</p>		
<p><b>B.4.f</b> Signage is easy to read for someone with a cognitive disability and/or lower levels of literacy</p>	<p>The signs use simple and clear language that is easy to understand; Words are paired with clear and concise graphic symbols for people with low levels of literacy.</p>		
<p><b>B.4.g</b> High colour contrast helps people with low vision navigate</p>	<p>High colour contrast between floors and walls helps someone with low vision navigate. Similarly, high colour contrast between furniture and surroundings is also important. (Avoid clear/glass furniture).</p>		
<p><b>B.4.h</b> Pathways are kept clear of clutter</p>	<p>Potential obstacles such as garbage/recycling/ displays are located against wall so that they are easier to detect by cane.</p>		
<p><b>B.4.i</b> The accessible pathway connecting different activity areas should be intuitive</p>	<p>Ideally the accessible pathway connecting different activity areas is the same as the pathway that the general public uses. However, if a separate route is necessary because of stairs, the ramp/elevator should be located close by.</p>		

B.4.j Areas are well lit	Avoid fluorescent lighting and/or lighting that can inadvertently cause seizures (flashing lights most likely to cause seizures between 5 to 30 flashes per second (Hertz). Avoid lighting that causes glare or pools of lighting.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.5. Emergency Wayfinding</b>			
<b>B.5.a</b> Emergency Signage	Emergency exits are well marked by well-lit exit signs that blink in an emergency (for people who are Hard of Hearing) and areas of refuge are well marked with appropriate signage. Exit signs and fire alarms are connected to emergency power system. Graphic for exit signs should be consistent throughout the building.		
<b>B.5.b</b> Emergency Lighting	Evacuation guide lights are provided that help to direct people to the emergency exits (e.g. small lights by base of seats alongside aisle).		
<b>B.5.c</b> Emergency Fire Alarm	Incorporates visual signals (blinking lights) for people who are Hard of Hearing/Deaf and are located in all activity areas and common areas (including washrooms).		

<b>B.5.d Captioned Television Screens</b>	Provide captioning on television screens in the common areas to share important announcements to people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (e.g. emergency announcements when the show will start, the 10-minute warning, updates about performance delays).		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.6. Accessible Pathways and Circulation</b>			
<b>B.6.a</b> Wide and spacious clear pathway.	1500 mm wide - allows 2 people using mobility devices to pass by; 915 mm wide -- the min width of a passageway for someone using a mobility device; 1675 mm - min for a higher traffic pathway.		
<b>B.6.b</b> Clear path of travel is free of obstructions.	When measuring clear path of travel, ensure that obstructions such as garbage cans, displays do not obstruct the path of travel.		
<b>B.6.c</b> Surface area is slip resistant, smooth and flat.	Use low texture carpets (or no carpet) which is easier to wheel over.		
<b>B.6.d</b> If there are stairs, there should be an alternate accessible pathway.	Either a gradual ramp or an elevator.		
<b>B.6.e</b> The main pathway and the accessible pathway are the same.	For example, if there are stairs, the ramp/ elevator is located close by and is easy to locate.		

<p><b>B.6.f</b> Signage directs people to important activity areas</p>	<p>(Refer to section on wayfinding)</p>		
<p><b>B.6.g</b> There are places to sit and rest.</p>	<p>Benches and chairs are provided in lobby and in hallways throughout the theatre so that people have a space to sit and rest.</p>		
<p><b>B.6.h</b> Ramps, stairs and elevators meet accessibility standards.</p>	<p>(Refer to relevant sections)</p>		
<p><b>B.6.i</b> All door ways are easy to open for someone with limited hand strength and dexterity.</p>	<p>Ideally - left open or automatic opening doors. Also accessible - power operated doors with a push button. Otherwise, lightweight doors with lever style handles.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

B. Theatre Patron Areas		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>B.7. Ramps</b>			
<b>B.7.a</b> Ramps are cane detectable for people with low vision.	There are tactile warning strips at the top and bottom of ramps that warn people with low vision about a change in elevation.		
<b>B.7.b.</b> The ramp has an accessible non-skid surface and is wide enough.	Ramp is a minimum width of 1500 mm to allow mobility devices to pass by each other (unless it is shorter than 6 m when 915 mm is a permitted width).		
<b>B.7.c.</b> The ramp has a gradual slope which allows people to use the ramp safely and independently.	The more gradual the gradient the better - a gradient of 1 in 20 is ideal; however, other gradients can be used for shorter ramps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramp of maximum length of 6 m (gradient of 1 in 12)</li> <li>• Ramp of maximum length of 9 m (gradient 1 in 16)</li> </ul> Ramp of maximum length of 12 m (gradient of 1 in 20).		
<b>B.7.d</b> Longer ramps have flat and level landing areas at regular intervals where people can rest.	The dimensions are 1500 mm long by the width of the ramp (located at bottom and top of ramp and at abrupt changes in direction.		

<p><b>B.7.e</b> Avoid curved ramps.</p>	<p>Curved ramps should be avoided unless the radius is extremely large because it is challenging to negotiate a corner while ascending or descending a ramp.</p>		
<p><b>B.7.f</b> Provide safety barriers.</p>	<p>When a vertical drop at the side of the ramp exceeds 75 mm, provide a barrier such as a 75 mm curb, pipe rail, or solid barrier - this prevents the front guide wheel of a wheelchair from accidentally going over the edge.</p>		
<p><b>B.7.g</b> Provide handrails.</p>	<p>Handrails should be provided on both sides of the ramp.</p>		
<p><b>B.7. h</b> Provide handrails that are easy to grasp onto and that help guide people with visual disabilities.</p>	<p>They should be smooth and round (approx. 35 mm in diameter) with extensions to signal the start and end of the ramp.</p>		
<p><b>B.7.i</b> Provide handrails at accessible heights</p>	<p>The preferred railing height is between 865 mm to 965 mm above the ramp surface (920 mm preferred). An additional handrail that is 450 mm high improves access for people seated at wheelchair height and children.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

B. Theatre Patron Areas		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>B.8. Stairs</b>			
<b>B.8.a</b> Ensure that staircases are detectable for people with visual disabilities.	Incorporate tactile warning strips at the top and bottom of the staircase and on stair nosing's.		
<b>B.8.b</b> Provide handrails that help to guide people with visual disabilities.	Handrails should be located on both sides of the staircase and be continuous. Handrails that level off at the top and bottom of the staircase can help to indicate that the staircase has ended.		
<b>B.8.c</b> Position handrails so that they are easy to grasp on to.	Round handrails that are approximately 35 mm in diameter are easiest to grasp onto. Handrails should be positioned approximately 865 -965 mm above the nose of each step		
<b>B.8.d</b> Provide safe stair risers.	Use closed risers with a stair riser height between 125 -180 mm and a min depth of approximately 280 mm.		
<b>B.8.e</b> Avoid curved staircases.	Curved staircases are less safe because the depth of the stair riser varies.		

<b>B.8.f</b> Provide safe landings at the top and bottom of the staircase.	The landing should be at least the width of the staircase unless the staircase is more than 1100 mm wide.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.9. Elevators</b>			
<b>B.9.a</b> Freight sized elevator	Ideally in larger theatres the elevator should be freight sized and accommodate at least 4 mobility devices at once.		
<b>B.9.b</b> Accessible entrance and doors.	Doors are open for a minimum width of 910 mm, they remain open for 4 seconds and doors reopen upon meeting obstacle.		
<b>B.9.c</b> Control Panel is accessible.	Centre line for panel is located at 890 mm and it incorporates Braille and/or raised lettering on the buttons. Use a consistent layout for elevator buttons to make it intuitive (e.g. Main above Parking 1).		
<b>B.9.d</b> Elevator provides auditory signals for people who are blind or have low vision.	The elevator verbally announces the floor level and beeps at each floor.		
<b>B.9.e</b> Elevator provides visual signals for people who are deaf/Hard of Hearing.	Floor numbers light up when the elevator reaches a floor level or a digital screen displays the floor number.		

<p><b>B.9.f</b> Handrails are provided for extra stability and support.</p>	<p>Handrails are provided along all non-access walls and are located between 800-920 mm from the floor.</p>		
<p><b>B.9.g</b> Emergency Preparedness</p>	<p>Include a text number to call if a person who is deaf and/or hard of hearing is stuck in an elevator.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.10. Seating Options</b>			
<b>B.10.a</b> Provide choice in wheelchair seating options.	Try to provide choice to people with disabilities around seating options - in the front row, middle of the theatre, back of the theatre, gallery.		
<b>B.10.b</b> Provide enough wheelchair seating to accommodate productions that are targeted at people with disabilities.	For example, one Realwheels performance attracted 20 audience members with a disability for a total audience size of 150 (2 out of 15 seats were wheelchair accessible). This can be accomplished through theatres with flexible seating configurations.		
<b>B.10.c</b> Provide seating options that allow people with disabilities to sit beside friends and family members.	Wheelchair seating should not be segregated - there should be removable seats in wheelchair seating areas for friends/family/companions.		

<p><b>B.10.d</b> Provide ample multifunctional space that can serve as additional wheelchair seating.</p>	<p>Create a wheelchair seating area/videography area at the front of the theatre (Note: both wheelchairs and film crews using tripods are challenging to position because they take up more vertical space). Provide a multifunctional space at the back of the Orchestra that can be used either as wheelchair seating and/or technician control point.</p>		
<p><b>B.10.e</b> Explore the feasibility of removable seats and/or hydraulic seating systems.</p>	<p>Some theatres can remove their front row of seating and open their side exits to create more wheelchair accessible seating. Newer theatres with hydraulic seating can adjust their configuration to allow for more wheelchair seating.</p>		
<p><b>B.10.f</b> Consider the needs of overweight people when selecting seats.</p>	<p>Provide seating that can accommodate people with who are overweight.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

<b>B. Theatre Patron Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>B.11. Adapted Technology and other Accessibility Supports</b>			
<b>B.11.a</b> Assisted Listening System	<p>Provide an Assisted Listening System for people who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. There are three main types of Assisted Listening Systems: 1) Induction loop systems, 2) Infrared (or IR) Systems, 3) FM Systems</p> <p>If the system relies on receivers, ensure that these devices are on hand at all times and available. Provide staff with training on how to maintain and use these devices so that they can properly assist patrons with disabilities.</p>		
<b>B.11.b</b> American Sign Language Interpretation	<p>Provide space with adequate lighting at the front of the theatre for an American Sign Language Interpreter. Reserve some seats for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing that have a good sightline of both the interpreter and the stage (for lip reading). Provide Ushers with training on appropriate non-verbal gestures (sign language) to guide people who are deaf/hard of hearing.</p>		

<p><b>B.11.c</b> Audio Description</p>	<p>Work with Vocal Eye Descriptive Arts Society to offer their live audio description service at shows. It is the first of its kind in Canada and professionally trained describers provide the visual details of live theatre performances to blind and low vision audiences in BC.</p>		
<p><b>B.11.d</b> Low Impact Shows.</p>	<p>These types of shows are autism friendly and usually involve the following characteristics - reduced sounds, brighter lights, an opportunity to learn about the show in advance, a non-judgmental environment where the audience is encouraged to move around and make noise.</p>		
<p><b>B.11.e</b> Cry Room/Low Sensory Rooms/VIP Rooms.</p>	<p>Some theatres, such as the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, provide a sound proof enclosed room overlooking the performance stage that has audio piped in. This room serves multiple purposes, it can be a discreet VIP room for famous guests, a room for people with crying babies, or a low sensory room for families with autistic children who may be concerned about a tantrum during a performance.</p>		

<b>B.11.f</b> Access to the stage during awards ceremonies.	Some theatres without raised stages have an easy route to the stage for awards ceremonies. Other theatres with raised stages may need to install temporary ramps or use an indirect route outside of the theatre. If an indirect route is the only way to access the stage, all the presenters and award recipients should use the same route.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

C. Backstage Areas		Comments	Improvement Recommendations
<b>C.1 Backstage Entrance</b>			
C.1.a Provide a separate backstage entrance for performers/technicians with disabilities.			
C.1.b Backstage entrance is easy to find and well-marked for people with disabilities.	Backstage entrance is well marked, but not confused as main entrance by patrons.		
C.1.c Wide and spacious door opening and level entrance.	At least 36 inches (915 mm wide) and level threshold (door threshold should be a maximum of 13 mm high and be beveled).		
C.1.d Power Operated Door	Automatic doors are best, an automatic door opener with push button provides a high level of accessibility. At minimum, it should be a low weight door with a lever style handle that is operable using a closed fist with a kick plate.		
C.1.e Call button for assistance	Provide a call button for assistance in case the door opener is not working or if someone requires extra assistance.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>C. Backstage Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>C.2 Wayfinding and Circulation and Access to the Stage</b>			
<b>C.2.a</b> Locate dressing room, stage, backstage accessible washroom on the same level for performers with disabilities.			
<b>C.2.b</b> Provide wide spacious pathways.	Pathways need to be at least 1500 mm wide in order for mobility devices to pass one another back stage. (Note: Spacious backstage areas are also better for moving heavy theatre equipment).		
<b>C.2.c</b> Provide gradual ramps if needed.	Provide gradual ramps (see ramps section) that allow performers to use the ramps safely and independently (Note: gradual ramps are also safer for moving heavy theatre equipment).		
<b>C.2.d</b> Provide spacious wings.	The wings should be at least 1500 mm wide so that two people using mobility devices can pass each other.		

<p><b>C.2.e</b> Incorporate safety features on front of stage.</p>	<p>The front of the stage should be well marked by soft LED lighting or a raised lip which reduces risk of performers wheeling off the stage by accident.</p>		
<p><b>C.2.f</b> Provide cue lights.</p>	<p>Cue lights at stage entrances can help direct performers who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.</p>		
<p><b>C.2.g</b> Performers with disabilities have access to all the same backstage areas as performers without disabilities.</p>	<p>Access should be provided to all of the key activity areas such as dressing room, washrooms, green room, and rehearsal space. If these are located on multiple floors, an elevator should be provided.</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

<b>C. Backstage Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>C.3 Dressing Rooms and Washrooms</b>			
<b>C.3.a</b> Accessible entrance	Power operated door, level threshold, doorway is 915 mm wide (to accommodate larger mobility devices).		
<b>C.3.b</b> Wide spacious dressing rooms.	There should be wide spacious dressing rooms that provide enough spaces for large mobility devices to maneuver - larger devices require a 1700 mm by 1700 mm turning radius).		
<b>C.3.c</b> Visual paging system.	Incorporate a visual paging system in dressing rooms for performers who are Hard of Hearing and/or deaf.		
<b>C.3.d</b> Provide a ceiling lift system.	Provide a ceiling lift system to help people transfer in and out of their chairs.		
<b>C.3.f</b> A universal accessible washroom is provided.	This is an accessible washroom that can be used by male, female, transgendered and is particularly useful if a person needs assistance from an opposite gender attendant.		
<b>C.3.g</b> Provide roll in shower			

<p><b>C.3.h</b> Space to maneuver within accessible washroom stall</p>	<p>Accessible washroom stall should be a minimum of 1500mm by 1500mm (Note: As more people use larger mobility devices such as scooters, the dimensions of 1700mm by 2440mm are preferred as it allows for a 1700mm by 1700mm clear turning space by toilet).</p>		
<p><b>C.3.i</b> Accessible toilet and transfer space.</p>	<p>Toilet seat height -- Approximately 475 mm; Transfer space by toilet -min width 1020 mm. The transfer space alongside the toilet is kept clear of obstructions such as cleaning supplies and garbage cans.</p>		
<p><b>C.3.j</b> Stall door opens outwards and does not obstruct the washroom stall.</p>	<p>There is an indoor door handle so that it is also easy for people with disabilities to grab onto the stall door and close it; the lever style latch system on the stall door is easy to lock and unlock for someone with limited hand dexterity. Coat hook is no higher than 1200 mm.</p>		

<p><b>C.3.k</b> Grab bars are provided which allow someone to safely transfer.</p>	<p>Grab bar location should be located by the toilet on the non-transfer area side. Grab bars that angle up from mid-point are preferable. Mounted horizontally between 840 mm and 920 mm above floor. Midpoint in line with the front edge of water closet, mid-point angles up not more than 60°. Grab bar diameter (30 mm - 40 mm); grab bar clearance from wall (35 - 45 mm) (Grab bar length - At least 900 mm long). Grab bars have a nonslip finish.</p>		
<p><b>C.3.m</b> Water closet has a bolted-on lid to grasp on to when transferring.</p>	<p>Or if no water closet, a second grab bar behind toilet - Bar is 600 mm long, mounted behind toilet between 815 and 865 above finished floor.</p>		
<p><b>C.3.n</b> Toilet paper should be easy to reach.</p>	<p>Toilet paper should be positioned by grab bar so that a person can grasp onto for extra support when reaching.</p>		
<p><b>C.3.o</b> Someone using a mobility device can easily use the sink area</p>	<p>The sink is no higher than 865 mm above the finished floor; there is knee space (at least 250 mm high) underneath the sink which allows a person in a wheelchair to pull up underneath; Automatic or lever style faucet handles provide easy access for people with limited hand dexterity or strength, The soap and towel dispensers located close to the sink and at accessible heights (Note: No more than 1200 mm high off the floor), The mirror is mounted 1000 mm from the floors.</p>		

C.3.p Emergency Call Button for Assistance	There is an emergency call button for assistance in accessible washroom stalls.		
C.3.q Lights with motion sensors	Install motion sensor switched lighting in washrooms		
C.3.r Rest area	Provide separate room adjacent to dressing rooms large enough for bed.		
C.3.s Accessible furniture	Make-up counter and sink is no higher than 865 mm above the finished floor with knee space. Provide lower height coat rack in each dressing room. Lockers (if provided) should have tactile labels to be easily identifiable by people with vision impairment.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>D. Technician Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>D.1 Accessible pathways leading to Fly Rail, Suspension Grid, Tech Booths</b>			
<b>D.1.a</b> Provide accessible pathways connecting all the main activity areas.	There should be accessible pathways leading to the fly rail, suspension grid, technician control booths and other areas used by technicians.		
<b>D.1.b</b> Provide wide spacious pathways.	Pathways need to be at least 1500 mm wide in order for mobility devices to pass one another back stage. (Note: Spacious backstage areas are also better for moving heavy theatre equipment).		
<b>D.1.c</b> Provide gradual ramps if needed.	Provide gradual ramps (see ramps section) that allow technicians with disabilities to use the ramps safely and independently (Note: gradual ramps are also safer for moving heavy theatre equipment).		
<b>D.1.d</b> Provide an elevator backstage.	Elevators are useful in backstage areas for moving heavy technical equipment, providing access to back office administrative spaces and providing access for performers and technicians with disabilities.		

<p><b>D.1.e</b> Provide access to Tech Control Booth</p>	<p>If the tech booth is only going to be slightly raised, provide an accessible ramp and entrance leading to the tech control booth. In a larger theatre explore having the gallery seating and tech booth located on the same level so that they can share an elevator.</p>		
<p><b>D.1.f</b> Install a suspension grid</p>	<p>Instead of using a catwalk system, install a wheelchair accessible suspension grid system - this also reduces health and safety risks of individuals without disabilities falling below.</p>		
<p><b>D.1.g</b> Have fly systems/ line systems</p>	<p>Bars for hanging lights, scenery, etc. should have the ability to lower to the floor level for adjustment at floor level</p>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>			

<b>D. Technician Areas</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>D.2 Accessible Control Booths</b>			
<b>D.2.a</b> Entrance is wheelchair accessible	At least 915 mm wide, level threshold		
<b>D.2.b</b> Enough room for larger mobility devices to maneuver	(larger devices require a 1700 mm by 1700 mm turning radius)		
<b>D.2.c</b> Control window and controls are located at wheelchair accessible heights	Bottom of window edge should be no higher than 1000 mm and controls should be positioned no higher than 1200 mm.		
<b>D.2.e</b> If a desk is provided, it is wheelchair accessible	Clear knee space is provided underneath the desk		
<b>D.2.f</b> Provide additional flex space for additional workstations	Provide additional flex space for additional work stations - can create extra space for audio visual description - and can also be used to provide more space for mobility devices to maneuver.		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			

<b>E. Administrative Offices</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Improvement Recommendations</b>
<b>E.1 Back office areas used by staff for overall administration, operations of theatre</b>			
<b>E.1.a</b> The back office areas are accessible for people using mobility devices.	If the back office is located on another level, there is either elevator access or a gradual ramp leading to the office. Pathways are at least 915 mm wide to allow wheelchairs to pass through and many passageways are 1500 mm wide to allow people in mobility devices to pass one another.		
<b>E.1.b</b> There are accessible work stations.	Work stations can be easily adapted for people using wheelchairs and employees with disabilities would have access to adapted technology for employees who are deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or blind.		
<b>E.1.c</b> There is an accessible washroom.	See earlier sections on washrooms,		
<b>Additional Notes:</b>			