



## MSCOD ADA 25th Anniversary Legacy Project

### Events Committee at MHS Notes

7-9-14

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Present: Craig Dunn, Margot Cross, Joan Wilshire, Linda Gremillion, George Shardlow, Colleen Casey, Pat Kiano, Wendy Jones (MHS staff), Wendy Freshman (MHS staff)

1. Meeting began at 1:15 p.m.
2. Introductions
3. Discussion of objectives and goals for the proposed event, led by committee chair, including mention of event as celebration or gathering with exhibits related to disability and history of disability in the U.S; showing of videos; broad, quick proclamation. Mention that a guiding consideration in conversation needs to be: Will space work? Also: How will space work best?
4. Mention of concerns about space and need to utilize lots of different spaces simultaneously to ensure space is least problematic and most hospitable to a larger attendee base, including a high concentration of people with disabilities who may have diverse limitations and accommodations needs. (Chair users, people with gait difficulties, service dogs, etc.)
5. History Center staff shared objectives behind their Family Day celebrations, mentioning the next two Family Day events—Dakota and Objibwe on Sept. 26 and Day of the Dead on October 26— and invited committee members to attend them to experience what Family Day events at MHS are like.
6. MHS relayed that these events have the following components:
  - Must be a public event
  - Done in partnership with them
  - Nature of the event involves and celebrates a particular community
  - Event is also way for general public to learn about featured communities
  - Involves temporary exhibits related to culture and/or large featured MHS exhibit

- May involve exhibits within a community
7. Acknowledgement by MHS staff that joint programming of Family Day event needs to consider how the public interacts with spaces as they understand the History Center site is disability-unfriendly. Both MHS staff noted that they repeatedly raise concerns on this topic within organization and had applied for funding to make Center more compliant with ADA, but did not get funding this past funding cycle.
  8. Topic of outdoor space use and rain plan introduced. Wind and sun mentioned as other environmental factors to consider. Tents and umbrellas mentioned as possible options to address rain and sun.
  9. Discussion of outdoor space and outdoor tour included:
    - Plaza on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor which could include stage, tents, umbrellas, tables and chairs. Concerns mentioned about size and cost of tents, as well as regulations due to flooring. Pavers mentioned as possible accessibility issue.
  10. Other accessibility concerns brought up include:
    - Planning for arrivals from parking lot and also Metro Mobility. Metro Mobility users could arrange to be dropped off at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor entrance, not generally open to the public, but could be. Would take some advanced planning and communication.
    - Accessible parking. Parking lot situation will need to be altered that day to allow for more disability-friendly parking.
    - Admission. Considering admission as a point of accessibility Wendy Jones committed to making the event part of a free day.
    - Parking lot is pay lot, so even with event-day admission fees dropped, attendees would still need to pay parking, unless we had a “gift” to cover costs.
    - Can’t have everybody in same space at same time, so plan accordingly. Maybe plan “broad proclamation” to happen for only 10 – 15 minutes, in a large, open space. Other events happen throughout space during the day.
    - Elevators cited as potential “crunch points.” Conversation about addressing this included volunteers staffing elevators to ensure best “flow” possible.
    - Commitment to planning event considering that “natural flow” is critical.
    - First floor cited as concern. Commitment to include activities in as many spaces as possible, noting that most people will enter building on 1<sup>st</sup> floor.
    - First floor contains these spaces: Café, Irvine, lawn area, lobby rotunda, auditorium
    - It was noted that acoustics are bad on the first floor so to plan accordingly.
    - Possibilities for first floor use include: displays around rotunda, elevator alcove, outside Irvine.

- Restrooms on first floor include 10 stalls with 1 stall fully accessible. Commitment on MHS staff's part to add grab bars in one additional stall before event.
- 1 family restroom on first floor will need door alterations before event to become accessible. MHS staff has committed to make these changes.
- Second floor restrooms also have 10 stalls. (See situation described above.)
- Adding accessible portable potties on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony discussed as necessary. May be expensive, but essential.
- Auditorium discussed and visited. Will be problematic, but MHS staff committed to add additional seating for wheelchairs. Seating for people using chairs could be upped to a possible 25 spaces with added seating built in before event. Seating for people using service dogs and ambulatory but with gait difficulties also discussed.
- Other strategies for addressing issues of access in auditorium include timing of activities and use of ticketing.

11. Next step will include talking with Facilities Manager about building features.

12. Floor diagrams were requested to be sent by MHS staff to Colleen.

13. **Action item:** Colleen will send floor diagrams along to Event Committee members.

14. **Action item:** Event Committee members will review diagrams as well as room list and decide which spaces will be used and which will not.

15. Third floor possibilities include a space with a view of the capitol. Suggestion to have exhibit about capitol ADA renovations on display at event.

16. "Make and take" art activity of tag paper robot cut out spawned conversation about how a participatory art project is used at each Family Day event. Our events committee will want to brainstorm ideas. Wendy Freshman has many good, practical ideas and will help us plan this, as desired.

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