Creating Hearing-Friendly Arts & Culture Venues

The Seattle Rep Theater – A Gold Standard Case Study

When staff at the Seattle Rep asked the theater's Board of Directors for help assisting patrons with hearing loss, the board president reached out to HLAA-Washington to learn about preferred hearing accessibility solutions. With the help of HLAA-WA and a trained, local hearing loop installer, the Seattle Rep became one of the most hearing-friendly theaters in the country. Utilizing a site-specific plan, the Rep used large-area loops in their three theater spaces, built-in counter loops at their box office windows, and portable loops at the concierge desk, coat check, and concession counters.

"People with hearing loss take their disability everywhere they go," explains HLAA-WA's, Cheri Perazzoli. ***"The beauty of the Seattle Rep installation is that it allows people like me to hear throughout the entire theater experience."***

HLAA-WA helped the Seattle Rep promote the theater's new hearing accessibility with a launch event and shared the information with the local hearing loss community. The hearing loops were funded by local arts funding organizations, individual donors, and by the Seattle Rep. Additionally, certain performances offer open captions in English and Spanish. For Deaf patrons, some performances provide ASL.

For their hearing loop program, the Seattle Rep received local and national news coverage and received the Best Practices Award from Northwest Access Fund.

Learn more at https://www.seattlerep.org/plan-your-visit/accessibility-options/

See the other side for hearing-friendly arts and culture organizations in Washington State

Hearing-Friendly Arts and Culture Venues in Washington State

All venues have hearing loops except where FM or IR assistive listening systems are noted. Many also provide open caption performances. This is a sample list of local hearing-friendly arts venues.

Anacortes
Anacortes Community Theatre
Anacortes Library
Anacortes Senior Center

Bellevue
Bellevue Arts Museum
Bellevue Youth Theatre
Meydenbauer Theatre

Edmonds
Driftwood Players

Federal Way
Federal Way Performing Arts Center

Issaquah
Village Theatre (also Everett location)

Mt. Vernon
Lincoln Theatre

Oak Harbor
Whidbey Playhouse

Olympia
Kenneth J. Minnaert Center Mainstage

Poulsbo
Jewel Box Theater

Renton
Carco Theater

Seattle
5th Avenue Theater (IR)
A Contemporary Theater (IR)
Paramount Theater (FM)
Seattle Children's Theatre
Seattle International Film Festival (multiple)
Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
Seattle Rep
Taproot Theatre
Town Hall Seattle

Spokane
Mukogowa Ft Wright Institute
First Interstate Center for the Arts
Spokane Sports Arena
Tickets Wes

Suquamish
Suquamish Museum

Find hearing loops in your state here: https://www.hearingloop.org/state-lists/

Hearing Loop Signage

People with telecoil-enabled devices can connect by simply switching their hearing aids to the t-coil program.

Individuals wearing hearing aids without a telecoil, can obtain a loop receiver and headphones from the venue.