

Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium



**For Immediate Release
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The Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium Launches Oct. 22

The inaugural Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium will bring together disability-identified artists from across Atlantic Canada for a three-day online conference. Oct. 22-24.

(Halifax) The *Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium* will be an online gathering that brings Atlantic-Canadian Disability-identified artists together for the first time.

Taking place on October 22, 23 and 24, *DAAS* will consist of three panel discussions: “*Funding Access: Where’s the Money?*”, “*A Conversation with Funders*” and “*Strange Avenues*”. *DAAS* will close the event with an exciting Cabaret line-up of drag, burlesque, spoken word, poetry, performance art, comedy and a circus act!

DAAS promises a thoughtful setting to discover new artists and opportunities, share insights and stories, all with the goal of unifying an undeniable Disability arts community in Atlantic Canada.

The *Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium* will have ASL interpreting, closed captioning, transcripts and a mix of visual descriptions and integrated audio descriptions.

This symposium is made possible thanks to the support of the four Atlantic Provinces, Canadian Heritage, the National Arts Centre and the Patterson Group.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/disability-atlantic-arts-symposium-tickets-187773845627>

Media inquiries can be directed to Rachel Bower at rachelabower@gmail.com

Event Outline:

Strange Avenues | October 22 | 7-8:30 p.m.

How do disabled artists establish their careers in ableist spaces? Join moderator Debbi Patterson and panelists Anna Quon and Vie Jones as they explore the strange and glorious avenues of crippling the arts. In this panel discussion the artists will share stories of how their access needs have led to- or informed their art practices and creative decision making. They'll also share the inventive, always creative work-arounds they've implemented to participate.

Funding Access: Where's the Money? | October 23 | 11-12:30 p.m.

Funding Access: Where's the Money? is a panel discussion with the goal of bringing the disability arts community together over our shared experiences of navigating funding barriers, finding solutions, and raising awareness of the desire for fairer and more inclusive funding processes.

This panel will be moderated by Cyn Rozeboom, Executive Director at Tangled Art Gallery, with panelists representing different perspectives and lived experiences within the Disability, Deaf and Mad arts communities who specialize in areas of disability art, activism, organizing and more.

The panel will discuss their experiences accessing funding, any barriers they've encountered, as well as unique issues of which funders may not be aware.

A Conversation with Funders | October 23 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.

A Conversation with Funders will be a panel consisting of the Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium planning committee, and a representative from each of the four Atlantic provincial arts funders, ArtsNb, ArtsNS, ArtsNL and Innovation PEI.

The DAAS planning committee members are disability artists representing each Atlantic province. April Hubbard (Nova Scotia), Paul Power (Newfoundland), Alexis Bulman (Prince Edward Island) and Yasabelle Vautour (New Brunswick).

Join us as we dive into a conversation about the different grant programs available to artists, access tools or barriers that exist within current funding applications, identify inclusive practices that are being implemented, and address new opportunities that

could enhance the careers of artists with disabilities to practice, thrive and share their work with a wider public. This panel will take audience questions, so come curious!

Cabaret Event! | October 24 | 7:00 p.m.

Taking the form of an online open space available to registered participants of the Disability Atlantic Arts Symposium and to the general public, the cabaret will highlight national artists with Disabilities, intended to bolster Atlantic Canadian talent and create community.

The cabaret will be hosted by the hilarious comedian Josh Mentions and showcases a line-up of pre-recorded acts including spoken word poetry, drag, burlesque, circus and contemporary art performances!

The cabaret will be a place to come together, unwind and celebrate at the end of the Disability Arts Symposium. Most importantly, the cabaret will ignite the formation of an Atlantic Canadian Disability arts network.