

## Accessibility Checklist for Museums and Historic Sites

### A Publication of *a.b.c./advocates for better communication*

*(Since 1991, a.b.c., a volunteer group allied with the Center for Hearing and Communication, has advocated on behalf of the communication needs for Americans with hearing loss)*

Accessibility for people with hearing loss remains an essential need in museums and historic sites. With this in mind, *a.b.c.* provides the following checklist to help cultural centers better understand the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people and to offer a number of ways in which these sites can make the visit a success and a pleasure.

We expect the major museums to make themselves as accessible as possible, not only with assistive listening systems, captioning and accessible telephones, but also with staff training and public education. We understand that not all museums have ample funding and large staffs to provide everything on the Checklist. Local, regional and specialized museums and historic sites mostly have limited budgets and a small staff. We encourage them to do what they can and are happy to offer suggestions and assistance for complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and in setting up the simpler and less expensive listening aids. For more information, contact the Center for Hearing and Communication at (917) 305-7810.

## CHECKLIST

### A. GENERAL ACCESS

1. Information in public announcements about access for persons with hearing loss.....
2. Signage to inform people of available hearing assistance.....
3. Amplification available at information desk.....
4. Information desk and education staff sensitivity training.....
5. Public phones with amplified handsets.....TTY/Text telephone number.....
6. Web site.....
7. E-mail.....
8. Fax.....

### B. ACCESS TO EXHIBITS

1. Written materials describing exhibits.....
2. Scripts of videos and spoken presentations.....
3. Captioning available for: Lectures.....Motion Pictures/Videos.....
4. Assistive listening system (e.g. infrared or FM) with receiver that can be used by hard of hearing people who may or may not be wearing hearing aids equipped with t-coils. .... Use this system for: Lectures..... Motion Pictures/Videos.....Tours with lecturer.....
5. Amplified headset or neck loop available for self-guided, taped audio tours.....
6. Sign language interpreted: Lectures, presentations ..... Tours .....
7. CART (computer-assisted real time captioning).....
8. Hearing/Guide dogs welcome.....
9. Visual fire alarm system.....
10. Visual alarm system in restrooms and other places where people might be alone .....
11. Zipper signs for general announcements.....