Utah Film Center

Accessibility for Our Building, Exhibition & Education

PRESENTED BY:

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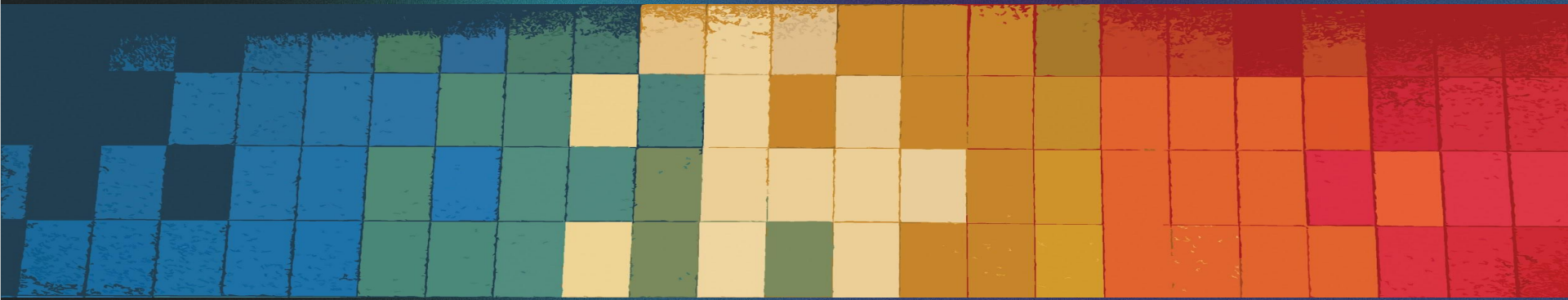
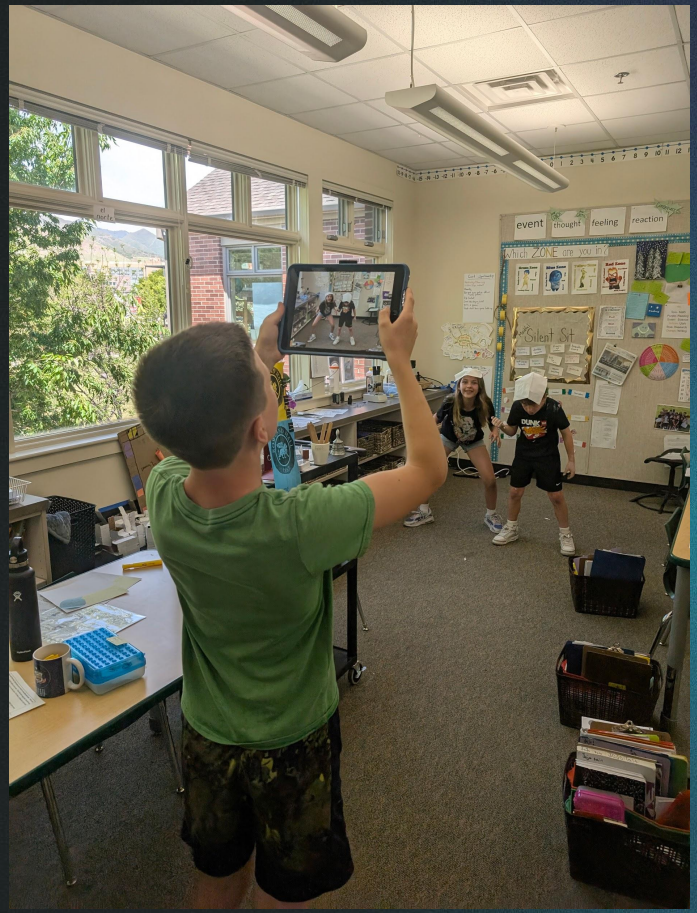


Image Description: Utah Film Center Screening Room Mosaic Wall



Education Accessibility

UTAH FILM CENTER

Image Description: Students using an iPad to film a movie.

Media Education Accessibility

1. **Universal Design**
   - Applied to all educational resources and publications
   - Font size & type.
   - Differentiated learning.

2. **ASL Signing at Tumbleweeds Film Festival School & Public Screenings**
   - Live onsite ASL Interpreters.
   - Pre-Recorded Picture-In-Screen ASL Interpreters.
   - Collaboration on best practices with UVU's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Student Service Department.

3. **Sensory Friendly Screenings**
   - House lights at 50%
   - Volume down
   - Welcome audience movement and reactions

4. **Listening Devices & Noise Dampening Headsets**
   - Digitally amplify the audio from the movie
   - Dampen the audio within the theater



Image Description: Students using noise dampening devices at a field trip screening.

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Exhibition Accessibility



Image Description: Utah Film Center Audiences Watching a Film with Open Captions

Exhibition Accessibility

Accessible Screening Experience

1. Open captions

   Note: Not industry best practice to have open captions (ahead of the industry!).

2. Working on forcing closed captions to the main screen
3. Working on clear website listings of ADA amenities for each screening
4. Post-film Q&As - **always** live captioned with Zoom
5. Listening devices (amplified sound), noise dampening headsets
6. ADA seating areas and bariatric seats in the screening room



Image Description: A Utah Film Center screening Q&A with live captions of the panelists.

Breaking Barriers Conference 2026

Building Accessibility



Image Description: Utah Film Center Audience Listening to a Presenter

Building Accessibility - Background

- **2002-2025 rented** office spaces and used other organizations event spaces since organization started in 2002.

- **2024 bought** a building at 375 W 400 North, Salt Lake City in May 2024.



Image Description: Outside Daytime View of Utah Film Center Office Building

Building Accessibility - Design Process

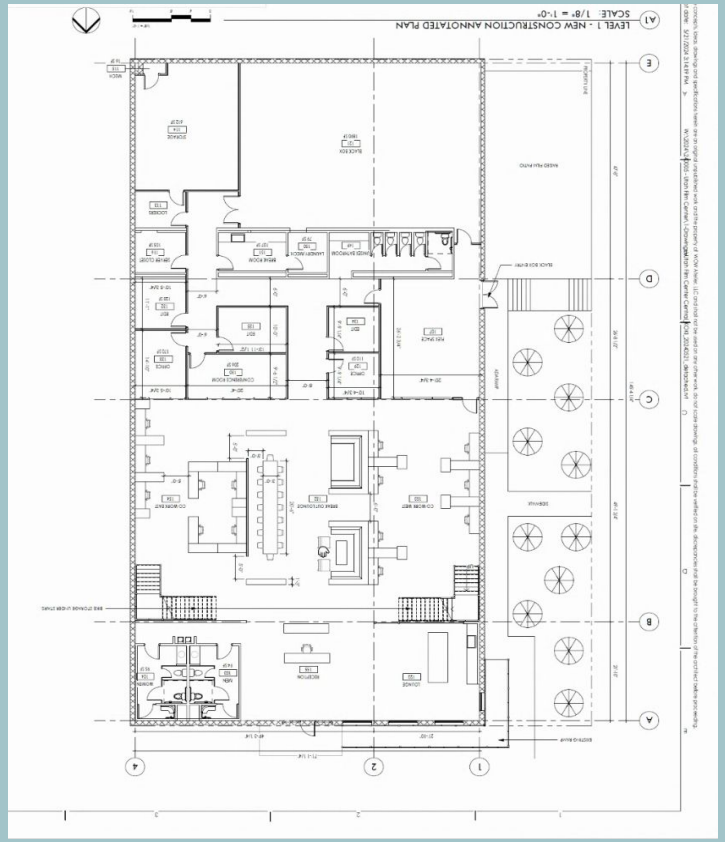


Image Description: Black and white blueprint of a screening room and office space.

Time:

Six (6) months work on renovation plans to convert a private office space and garage to our new home.

Building Function:

1. Organization's offices.
2. Public space with screening and event spaces.
3. Co-working space for filmmakers and storytellers.

Design Process Challenges:

- Budget.
- Working with-in a pre-existing building.
- Working with (and at times teaching) designers and project managers to make accessibility an important **forethought**, not **afterthought.**

Building Accessibility - Building Process

Time:

10-months* of construction started in January of 2026.

**Still ongoing construction projects!*

Changes to Initial Design with ADA Impacts:

- City code.
- Structural challenges with the pre-existing building.
- Timelines.



Image Description: A building under construction with wood framing for future walls and hallways.

Building Accessibility - Opening Our Doors Wins!



Image Description: Three women celebrating a ribbon cutting ceremony.

September 27, 2025, we opened our doors to the public!

Accessibility Wins

- Our two main entrance doors, have ADA specced ramps.
- Our main public restroom features an inclusive design that has 5 stalls, 1 built to ADA specs.
- Our flexible floor plan and seating arrangements allow for us to be adaptable.

Building Accessibility - Opening Challenges



Image Description: Utah Film Center screening room with an audience listening to a staff member introduce a film screening.

Accessibility Challenges

- One access point to patio does not have not a ramp. It is accessible from one set of doors, but not the other
- Our elevator lift to the second floor is still inoperable.
- Our door openers are taking longer to process due to contractor issues.
- Our ADA specced stall in our main restroom is not accessible all sizes of wheelchairs
- To add a stage or not?

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