

2015-2016
Accessibility Plan
The Block

Summary

Barrier identification and prevention are ongoing processes. The Block began its accessibility planning process in 2013 when the Russell Block Building spaces were under renovation. This current Accessibility Plan describes barrier prevention and removal priorities that have been identified since that time.

This plan includes The Block's commitment to sustain its obligations under the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#).

The Block's Accessibility Plan

This report constitutes the institution's first Accessibility Plan. As such, the 2015-2016 Accessibility Plan seeks to identify, remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities.

This report:

- Reviews the commitments and progress that The Block has made during the past year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities in its facilities, policies, programs, practices and services.
- Describes the measures The Block will take in the coming year, or years, to remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities.

The Block Accessibility Plan seeks to:

- Identify facilities, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services that cause or may cause barriers to people with disabilities.
- Prioritize and specify barriers that will be removed or otherwise modified in the coming year within the limits of the financial and human resources available.
- Make an Accessibility Plan available to the public.

Methods used for identifying barriers

The following chart sets out The Block's commitment to the accessibility methods that will continue to be used:

Method	Description
Accessibility audit of external and internal facilities, services and programs.	Ongoing accessibility audits and safety audits of facilities, services and policies will occur.
Survey of staff	A barrier identification survey will be promoted to all employees of The Block during the 2016-2017 season.
The Block patron feedback questionnaire	An online survey will be sent to patrons to make suggestions for improvements in all aspects of The Block's operations, including accessibility.

Access to staff regarding accessibility concerns	Any member of the community is invited to bring forward a complaint or recommendation regarding barrier identification, removal and/or prevention.
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Barrier prevention and removal

The barrier identification process will be used to create a list of objectives for 2016-2017 relies on the results of surveys, voluntary identification of barriers by staff and patrons.

A summary of current identified barriers is presented below.

Barriers Identified	Strategies to Remove & Prevent Barriers
Kitchenette Facility	All countertops were created to be ADA compliant height.
Doorways	All interior and exterior doorways in The Block’s public and staff spaces are the proper width with grade level thresholds which are fully accessible for wheelchair access.
Accessible entrances	A handicapped accessible entrance with a concrete ramp, railings and elevator access is available at the back of the building. This is clearly marked as The Block’s main entrance with exterior signage.
Signage for the blind	Signage for the blind is affixed to elevators and public spaces such as restrooms.
Ramp to exterior rooftop deck	The second floor rooftop deck was identified as inaccessible to wheelchair access in 2016. A ramp is currently being fabricated to address this issue and will be installed in the 2016-17 season.

Communication of the Plan

A copy of this plan is posted and available on The Block website at www.theblockwestmichigan.org and in hard copy format on reserve in the administrative office. Inquiries regarding The Block’s accessibility planning process or requests for an alternate format copy of this plan may be directed to Gabe Slimko, VP of Operations, The Block.

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