# Help champion inclusive arts and become an Access Ambassador

First Art's Access Ambassador Programme is designed for those wanting to help make arts and culture more inclusive while gaining valuable skills and hands-on experience.

As an Access Ambassador, you'll receive FREE accessibility and inclusion training to support your role at live events.

The initial training will give you a good level of awareness that will prepare you to support people with a range of access needs at festivals and cultural activities across Mansfield, Ashfield, Bolsover, and North East Derbyshire.

Your first opportunity to apply your training will be at **The Full Shebang Festival** in Mansfield on **Saturday 6 September 2025**, with further event opportunities expected beyond this.

## Why sign up?

By becoming an Access Ambassador, you will:

- Receive fully funded awareness training from a range of support organisations to get you started, with the scope for more in-depth training at a later stage;
- Gain hands on practical event experience in real-world settings, starting with The Full Shebang Festival;
- Be paid for your time, receiving £12.50 per hour, plus travel expenses for all training sessions and event support;
- Build a stronger CV, with enhanced skills in communication, problem-solving, and public engagement;
- Play a vital role in making arts and culture more inclusive;
- Join a supportive and welcoming community and meet new people who care about inclusivity in the arts;
- Have the chance to see some great outdoor arts in a variety of settings.

**No previous experience is required—just enthusiasm and a commitment to making arts and culture accessible for everyone.**

## The Role of an Access Ambassador

- You will be a friendly face, welcoming and supporting people with access needs at events.

- Your first opportunity will be at **The Full Shebang Festival** in Mansfield on **6 September 2025**, with more events to follow.
- You'll be trained up ahead of the first event and we'll review this as your role progresses.
- You'll become part of a team of Access Ambassadors, on hand (with advance notice) to support at a variety of events in Mansfield, Ashfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire.
- We'll also work with you to help inform the planning of future events and activities, with post-event review meetings, providing additional training where there are gaps or areas to be developed.

At events, you will:

- Welcome and assist attendees with access needs
- Act as a friendly point of contact, posted either at the Festival Information Point as well as across the event site
- Signpost visitors to access provisions such as quiet zones, accessible viewing areas, and step-free routes etc.
- Support attendees with equipment, including noise-reducing headphones and audio description headsets
- Guide or chaperone audience members upon request
- Distribute accessible materials such as large print accessible Festival Guides as required
- Provide feedback at the end of events to help improve future accessibility and how the role works at events

## The Access Ambassador Training Programme

To prepare you for your role, you'll receive fully funded training between May and July 2025 (dates may shift a little depending on availability).

Training will take place between 9am – 5pm, Mondays – Fridays (except for The Full Shebang Festival on Saturday 6 September). You will also be paid for your time and travel expenses.

This will be a series of typically 1-2 hour sessions, both online and in person. These will cover the following topics:

- Session 1: Welcome and introduction to the programme and to each other (In person, 1 hour)
- Session 2: Disability and Inclusion Awareness (Online, 1-2 hours)
- Session 3: D/deaf Awareness (In person, 2 hours)
- Session 4: Learning Disability Awareness (In person, 1-2 hours)

- Session 5: Sight Loss Awareness (In person, 4 hours)
- Session 6: Neurodivergence Awareness (In person, 2 hours)
- Session 7: Autism Awareness (In person, 1-2 hours)
- Session 8: Preparation for The Full Shebang Festival (Online, 1 hour)

*Please note that these may be subject to change.*

You will also receive an Access Ambassador Information Pack, providing key guidance and resources to support your learning.

Once you've undertaken this initial phase of training, you will become part of a team that supports events across Mansfield, Ashfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. We will then continue to work with you on a freelance basis.

## Who Can Apply?

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds. Whether you have lived experience of disability, have supported someone with access needs, or are simply passionate about inclusivity, we would love to hear from you.

**You will be a great fit if you are:**

- Aged 18+
- Friendly, approachable, and eager to help others
- Patient and able to communicate clearly and calmly
- Comfortable interacting with the public
- Able to commit to training, briefings, and event support in the lead up to The Full Shebang
- Can commit to supporting future events, with appropriate advance notice and negotiation
- Based in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire (although neighbouring counties may also be considered)

**Desirable but not essential:**

- Lived experience, either as a disabled person or someone that has cared for/worked with disabled people, or similar
- An understanding of access needs for a wide range of people
- An enhanced DBS check (we can provide this if needed)
- Access to your own transport

## How to Apply

You can apply by completing the application form or submitting a video of no more than 5 minutes, which should answer all questions asked on the application form.

**Applications must be submitted to kate@firstart.org.uk by 12pm, Monday 2 June 2025.**

When submitting your application, please provide evidence of an Enhanced DBS check. If you do not have one, by signing the application you agree to obtaining one (with support from First Art).

If you have any questions or require adjustments or support at any stage, please contact Kate Learmouth at kate@firstart.org.uk / 07442 339342 (Monday – Thursday) or Stephanie Andrews at stephanie@firstart.org.uk / 07442 339361 (Fridays).