About the Sensory-Friendly Access Symbol

As part of its "All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids" initiative and in coordination with the 2012 release of the Going to the Show guide to preparing new audiences for a live performing arts experience, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs created the “Sensory-Friendly” disability access symbol together with a set of guidelines for producing a Sensory-Friendly cultural event.

The Sensory-Friendly disability access symbol features an umbrella to represent all Sensory Processing Disorders as well as inclusiveness, and integrates puzzle pieces to symbolize Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The Sensory-Friendly disability access symbol is intended to be used in marketing and promotional materials in the same way as other standard access symbols, such as the wheelchair access symbol or American Sign Language (ASL) symbol.

Using the Sensory-Friendly symbol to promote a cultural event or performance indicates that the advertised event or performance will provide accessible accommodations and appropriate modifications for individuals with Sensory Processing Disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). These include a pre-show / pre-visit preparatory guide to preparing audiences and visitors for the experience, an accepting and inclusive environment, adjustments to sound and lighting levels, noise cancelling headsets, and a “quiet room” where individuals can take a break. Other accommodations may include autism specialists on hand to assist patrons and remote viewing of the main stage performance.

For information and to learn more about how cultural organizations can present a Sensory-Friendly cultural event or performance, call the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs at (305) 375-4634.