



VIRGINIA  
ASSOCIATION  
of MUSEUMS

## Virginia Association of Museums Accessibility Policy (as of July 2015)

---

It is the policy of VAM to hold meetings, conferences and other professional events where barriers of any type do not exclude people from attending or participating.

In all cases where you may need additional assistance or accommodation of any kind, whether listed below or not, please allow 8 weeks prior to an event for notification so that we have time to make arrangements on your behalf.

Service animals are welcome to attend any VAM programming; all of our programming occurs in venues operated by other entities, so if they impose any limitations on service animals, their policies override ours.

### **Chemical Sensitivity**

All of VAM's events are smoke-free and as often as possible, held in smoke-free venues.

In addition, VAM encourages meeting attendees to refrain from using excessive amounts of perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragranced personal care products, as a courtesy to those attendees with chemical sensitivity or allergies.

### **Hearing Impairment**

VAM is committed to making sure that our attendees with a hearing impairment are able to benefit from our professional development events. Should you require a personal aide to help you navigate a VAM event, VAM will provide that aide with a complimentary registration so that they may attend with you at no cost (that aide will not, however, be able to receive certificate credit for their attendance). Depending on the content and flow of the event, VAM will ensure that reasonable accommodations are made, whether it is provision of sign language interpreters, note takers, or auxiliary listening devices.

### **Nursing Mothers**

VAM will provide a private room when requested for those nursing mothers who attend VAM-sponsored events.

### **Mobility Constraints**

Whenever possible, VAM's programming will be held in locations that are fully accessible for anyone with mobility constraints. On occasion, due to the specific nature of the topic, there may be a workshop that cannot be made completely accessible to those in wheelchairs. (i.e. garden

preservation). If this is the case, this will be noted in the workshop description at the beginning of the season.

When requested, VAM will ensure that adequate aisle space and cut-outs for wheelchair users will be present in meeting rooms and locations. Please note standard head tables (when used) include a podium and podium microphone. If you are presenting and require alternative arrangements please notify VAM staff.

### **Visual Impairment**

Should you require a personal aide to help you navigate a VAM event, VAM will provide that aide with a complimentary registration so that they may attend with you at no cost (that aide will not, however, be able to receive certificate credit for their attendance). If you prefer that VAM provide you with an aide who can help you find your way to session rooms, we will make every attempt to match you with a volunteer for this purpose.

VAM is also happy to provide you with large print handouts should you need them.