

What our group said about digital content and accessibility



Easy read booklet

Who we are



We are **The Space**. We give artists money to help them make **digital content**.



We also teach artists how to make **digital content**.



Digital content means anything people can watch, listen to or read using **technology**.

Technology means devices like a TV, computer or phone.



Music, films, dancing, acting, singing and painting can all be digital content.

About this booklet



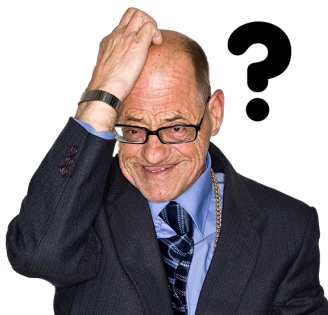
We think digital content should be **accessible** to everyone.



Accessible means it is easy for everyone to create, watch, listen to or read digital content.



There is always new technology and there are always ways to make digital content.



Disabled people often cannot use technology or make digital content.



Disabled people often do not have what they need to watch, listen to or read digital content.



We asked a group of people who make or teach art to meet and talk about why they think digital content is not accessible to disabled people.



In this booklet, art means things like music, films, dancing, acting, singing and painting.



They also came up with some ideas about how to make digital content more accessible.



We used our group's ideas to write a guide on how to make digital content accessible.

About our group



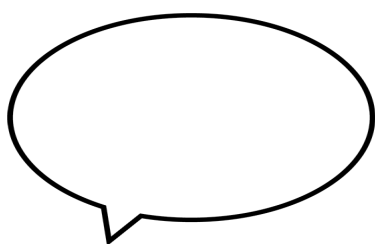
Our group was led by **Zoe Partington**. **Zoe Partington** is an artist and **activist** for people with disabilities.



An **activist** is someone who does or says things to make a change to something they care about.



This booklet tells you about our group and what everyone talked about.

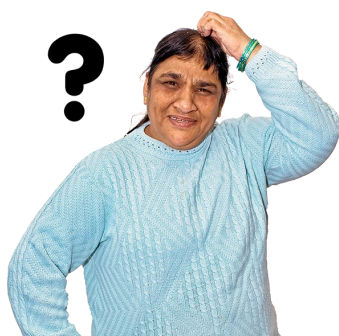


Some of the things **Zoe Partington** said in our group are included in this booklet.

Why we want to make changes



Our group first talked about why we want to make changes.



Many disabled people find it hard to enjoy art because it is not accessible to them.



Arts organisations have talked about how they can make art more accessible for more than 50 years.



In 50 years, not a lot has been done to make art more accessible to disabled people.

The Covid-19 pandemic



In the Covid-19 pandemic, people could not go to places like museums or theatres to enjoy art.



Many arts organisations used technology to make sure people could still go online and enjoy art.



This worked well for some disabled people who found it easier to watch, listen to or read digital content.



Now the Covid-19 pandemic is over, arts organisations do not have as much digital content.



Zoe Partington said

Organisations are going back to how they used to do things.



Arts organisations need to make art more accessible to disabled people.



We do not want disabled people to have to ask for change to happen or fight for their **human rights**.



Human rights are what everyone should have. They are rules that make sure everyone is treated well and gets to live their life in the way they choose.

Why digital content is not accessible



Our group then talked about why digital content is not accessible to disabled people.



They said that lots of things are not made for people who are disabled.



Most people are not disabled, and they do not think about what disabled people need.



This is unfair and means disabled people have to deal with lots of **barriers** in their life.



Barriers are what make it hard for disabled people to do things like enjoy digital content.



Deaf

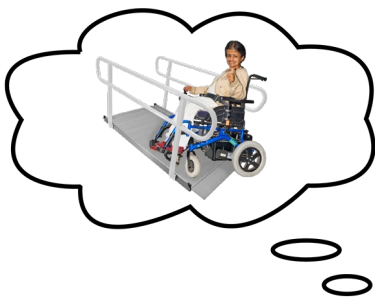
For example, if a film does not have subtitles, this is a barrier for someone who is deaf or has hearing loss.

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They cannot enjoy the film because there are no subtitles, not because they are deaf or have hearing loss.



Lots of art organisations will spend their money on an art project and then expect extra money to make this project accessible.



Arts organisations need to think about how to make digital art accessible at the start of a project, not the end.



Many people also think that people who enjoy digital content cannot be disabled.

Why we should make digital content accessible



Our group said that everyone should be able to enjoy all parts of life, including digital content.



We want more people to make, watch, listen to or read digital content. This includes disabled people.



We want new and exciting types of digital content to be made.



We want digital content made by people who think and see the world differently.



If someone can watch, listen to or read an artist's work, they are likely to try and find more of their work.

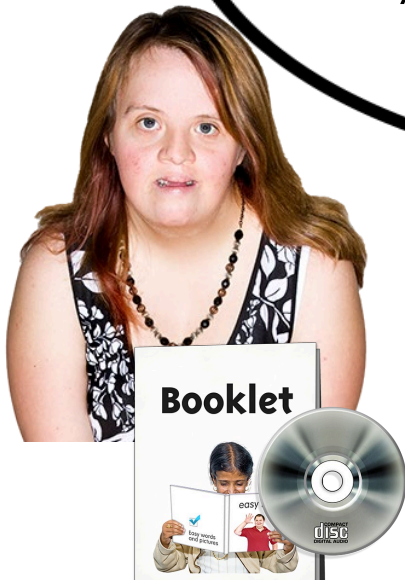


We also think people who make art will have to be more creative and think of new ways to make art.



We think people who make art will enjoy making digital content accessible.

Zoe Partington used the example of how **audiobooks** were first made for blind people. Now everyone enjoys audiobooks.



Audiobooks are books that are read out loud for people to listen to.

What needs to happen next



Our group said that to make sure digital content is accessible we need to think about **equality**.



Equality means everyone has what they need to make, watch, listen to or read digital content.



Different people will need different kinds of help.



We should talk to disabled people and be honest about how we are trying to be more accessible.



Zoe Partington said

It does not matter where you start, so long as you do start.

Thank you to A2i for the words
www.a2i.co.uk (reference 37910)

The full version of this document is called
“Digital Accessibility: It’s time for a
cultural shift”