

Physical Accessibility Guide for LeMay - America's Car Museum

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Background

Accessibility is a barrier to any museum's ability to convey their mission. America's Car Museum (ACM) embarked on an accessibility initiative in 2023 beginning with a consultation and recommendations. The museum received funding to make improvements but needed support in understanding which specific areas needed improvement in physical accessibility and a phased approach to implementing solutions.

Purpose & Impact

From this guide the staff will learn about what aspects of their space are inaccessible and how to make them more inclusive. Visitors with disabilities will feel more welcome and visitors of all abilities will benefit from the implementation of inclusive design.

Committee Members:

Meena Selvakumar
Kelsey Cross and Sam DeBacker
Elizabeth Ralston

Process



References:

"Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design." Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian Accessibility Program.
"Section 504 Programs & Activities Accessibility Handbook." Federal Communications Commission.
"Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards." US Access Board.

Deliverable

The deliverable is a guide that will aid in the process of becoming more physically accessible. This guide delineates the accessibility issues and solutions specific to ACM and provides information, resources, and background.

Conclusions & Next Steps

The focus group was an integral part of the process of creating this guide and showed that involving members of the disabled community is a vital step in the process towards accessibility. The museum has already begun implementing steps towards increased accessibility. As the budget allows, the museum will use this guide to decide when and how to implement the next changes.

Focus Group Members:

Finn Paynich
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