Resolution 2021-05

Regarding Promoting Opportunities in Ohio’s Entertainment Industry for Blind and Low-Vision Performers

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind estimates that the current unemployment rate among the blind is 70%; and

WHEREAS, the NFB’s Performing Arts Division estimates that only 2% of all performers in the entertainment industry have any type of disability; and

WHEREAS, both the National Federation of the Blind Performing Arts Division and the Access Acting Academy, which trains blind and low-vision performers, believe blind and low-vision performers are severely underrepresented in the entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, the Access Acting Academy reports that significant barriers remain preventing blind and low-vision actors from getting auditions and parts; and

WHEREAS, the Access Acting Academy reports that historically individuals who are blind or have low vision have been discouraged from entering performance training programs because of the barriers to finding work in the entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has a robust entertainment industry that includes 2,080 motion picture and television industry businesses that employ 11,700 and generate an estimated 35,500 jobs in Ohio and $1.2 billion in annual wages; The industry also includes various performing arts organizations, including theaters, music festivals, dance groups, symphonies, performing arts centers, ballets, operas, and performing arts schools that employ nearly 20,000 people and generate more than $1 billion in annual revenue: now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio in convention assembled this 6th day of November, 2021, that this organization call upon the Ohio Arts Council, the Ohio Community Theatre Association, the Ohio Educational Theatre Association, the Ohio Film Office, the Ohio Motion Picture Association, all local and county arts organizations, all Ohio Colleges and Universities with performing arts training programs, and all Ohio performing arts venues to work with the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio to ensure that blind and low vision performers have equal access to performing arts educational programs and have equal access to motion picture and television, theatre, and other performing arts jobs in Ohio.