**Resolution 2021-07**

**Regarding Performing Arts Venues Providing Written Material in Alternative Formats**

WHEREAS, Title III of The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) says that, in order to provide equal access, a public accommodation is required to make available appropriate auxiliary aids and services when necessary to ensure effective communications with a person with a disability; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice’s Title III ADA Technical Assistance Manual states that Title III’s effective communications requirement includes providing written material in alternative formats when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, one of the examples used in the Title III Technical Assistance Manual showing when providing written material in alternative formats is appropriate is performing arts venues providing programs for performances in alternative formats; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has a robust entertainment industry of various performing arts venues, including theaters, music festivals, dance groups, symphonies, performing arts centers, ballets, and operas; and

WHEREAS, performing arts venues have traditionally failed to provide written material in alternative formats, and, even when material in alternative formats is available, performing arts venues often fail to advertise the availability of this accommodation: now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio in Convention assembled this sixth day of November, 2021, that the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio call upon the Ohio Arts Council, the Ohio Community Theatre Association, the Ohio Educational Theatre Association, and all local and county arts organizations to work with the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio to educate all Ohio performing arts venues on the ADA’s requirement to provide written material in alternative formats and to educate Ohio’s performing arts venues regarding the importance of providing easy-to-locate instructions on how to request material in alternative formats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio calls upon all Ohio performing arts venues to provide written material in alternative formats and to provide instructions on their website home page regarding how blind and visually impaired patrons can request material in alternative formats.