Working with a Sign Language Interpreter 101

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Ground Rules

- Feel free to ask questions any time
- There are no dumb questions
- Speak one at a time
- Raise your hand

Interpreter's work

- Where will you work with me?
  - Sunday tours
  - School group tours
  - One on one tours/special requests
  - Lectures/discussions
  - Art cart
  - Special events/exhibitions

My Key Concerns

- What's the content of our tour?
- Can I hear you?
- Can the Deaf patron see me?
- Can we all see the artwork?
- Do all patrons have the opportunity to participate?

Patron's concerns

- Where does the tour start?

- Where will I meet the interpreter?

- Talk to the Deaf patron like a regular visitor

- Pointing in front of the interpreter

Docent's concerns

- ???????

Pre-tour

- Meet docent 15 min before tour
  - Find out topic of tour-answer my questions, vocabulary, dates, etc.
  - Negotiate our logistics
    - Arriving at the artwork
    - Talking about the artwork
    - Asking cooperation from the group

Pre-tour continued

- Answer your questions, make you feel at ease

- Introductions

During the Tour

- Wait for tour to assemble

- Make sure I am next to you

- Sight lines
  - Make sure Deaf patrons can see me
  - Don't obstruct sight lines-pointing

During the tour-Cont.

- ☐ Lag time
- ☐ Questions and answers
- ☐ Group involvement
- ☐ When we move to the next piece-Do's and Don'ts

After the Tour

- Remaining questions from the patrons
- Debrief with the interpreter
    - Feel free to discuss any awkward moments
    - If you enjoy working with this population, sign up to guide the American Sign Language tours!

Resources

- Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Website- http://www.dhs.state.mn.us

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (R.I.D.) http://www.rid.org

- Deaf artists-http://www.chuckbaird.com, http://www.deafart.org

- www.vsarts.org

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