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Yes! And... Collaborative Arts Becomes One of Art-Reach's ACCESS Partners

Yes! And... Collaborative Arts is the latest arts and cultural organization to partner with nonprofit Art-Reach to create more accessible programming.

Philadelphia, PA — Yes! And... Collaborative Arts is excited to be added to the list of ACCESS Card Partners, an initiative launched by Art-Reach in 2014. ACCESS is a public initiative that empowers those individuals and families who come from a low-income household, or those with disabilities, to engage with arts and culture in the Greater Philadelphia region at a rate they can afford.

For the low-cost of \$2 per person, individuals with an ACCESS Card can attend various arts and cultural organizations including the Franklin Institute, Longwood Gardens, the Wilma Theater, the Please Touch Museum, and more. Thousands of ACCESS Cardholders engage with the program every month, and Cardholders can bring up to four people with them for their visit. In 2018, Art-Reach expanded the program to include performance and live arts venues, making it the first program of its kind in the country to unite the museum and theater communities in a comprehensive engagement strategy. ACCESS provides opportunities by removing the financial barrier to access for many in the area. One ACCESS Cardholder, when asked about the program, said, "I love the arts but can rarely afford to attend events. Since I'm not eligible for Medicaid etc., but on a fixed disability income, this is a great opportunity."

Yes! And... Collaborative Arts made the decision to become an ACCESS Partner because the purpose and mission of the ACCESS program aligns with the work of Yes! And... Collaborative Arts programming. Christine Herrman, Executive Director at Yes! And... Collaborative Arts, says, "As our mission states, we are committed to reducing barriers of participation for our youth participants. This was a natural extension of that commitment, ensuring that our wider community has access to our performances and cultural experiences." She adds, "We are passionate about creating arts and culture opportunities for our neighbors, bringing arts experiences here to our Northwest neighborhoods."

Art-Reach creates, advocates for and expands accessible opportunities in the arts so the full spectrum of society is served. It was founded in 1986, four years prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, with a mission to connect individuals with disabilities to the arts. Since then, Art-Reach has created groundbreaking programs that remove barriers to access and innovative accessible programming. Our programs serve over 200,000 people a year in Greater Philadelphia. They educate and provide professional development opportunities to cultural professionals. Art-Reach believes that Art is a Human Right and Yes! And... Collaborative Arts joins them in their quest to make the arts accessible to everyone.

ACCESS Card Holders can participate in Yes! And... Collaborative Arts' upcoming Winter Sort of Thing musical theatre production, *All Hands on Deck*. For more information about this performance, visit www.yesandcamp.org/events.

About Yes! And... Collaborative Arts:

Yes! And.. Collaborative Arts (YACA) is a youth-centered organization dedicated to amplifying voices, nurturing agency, and creating community through performing arts experiences. We believe youth should have no barriers when discovering their unique perspectives because the future depends on compassionate, curious, and courageous leaders. We work with children and youth from across Philadelphia in the collaborative and imaginative arts through Summer Theatre Camps, Shadow Company high school leadership and arts training, the Winter and Summer Sort of Thing musical experiences, and more! Learn more about YACA at www.yesandcamp.org.

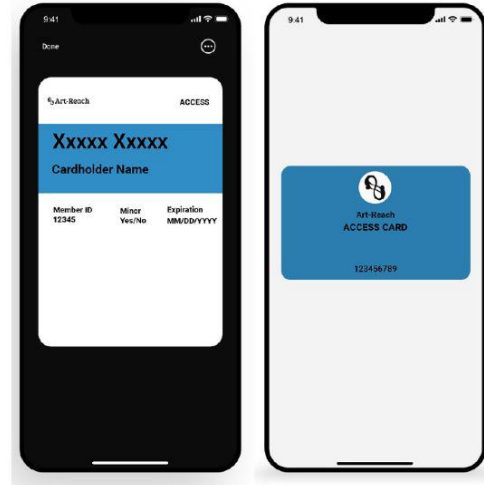
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Photos of Yes! And... Collaborative Arts in Performance

Photos by: [Heather McBride Photography](#)



ACCESS Card information:



Art-Reach has expanded the ACCESS program by introducing a new card, produced and managed by our organization. This new card is blue and white on the front, with the cardholder's information found on the back

Art-Reach is introducing a digital version of the ACCESS Card for iPhone apple wallet and google pay.



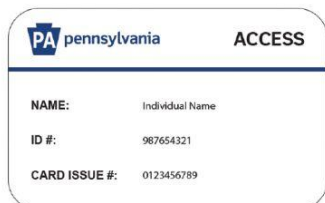
As of April 2019, there has been a redesign of the PA ACCESS EBT Card. The new, discrete, card has the Pennsylvania capitol building and cherry blossoms on the front, but still indicate the PA EBT card on the top left, and back of the card. Both the green ACCESS EBT Card, and the cherry blossom EBT Card are valid for the ACCESS Philly Program's discount.



The yellow ACCESS Card is issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to those individuals who exclusively receive Medical Assistance (Medicaid).



The green ACCESS EBT Card is issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to those individuals who receive Food Assistance (SNAP Benefits, previously known as Food Stamps), Family Assistance (TANF) or any other cash benefits. If the individual is receiving both cash assistance/SNAP benefits and Medicaid, they will receive this ACCESS EBT card. If at any point cash assistance and Food Stamps benefits stop but Medicaid continues, the Cardholder will maintain their ACCESS EBT Card.



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has introduced this new medical assistance card, that also qualifies for the ACCESS Program.