

# UNCONVENTIONAL VENUE APPLICATION GUIDE: How to be a part of the 2024 Toronto Fringe Festival

## Tips for using this guide.

This is a lengthy and detailed document. We recommend viewing it with your NAVIGATION PANE open in your preferred PDF viewing app. This will let you jump to the section(s) you are interested in, as well as assist you in locating where you are in the Guide. You can also use the **Table of Contents** below to jump to each section.

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## What is the Toronto Fringe Festival

The Toronto Fringe Festival is an annual 12-day long performing arts festival that provides an unjuried platform for artists to self-produce live shows. The first Toronto Fringe was in 1989, and 2024 will mark the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Fringe. Toronto Fringe is a member of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals and abides by its guidelines: artists are selected on a non-juried basis, they receive 100% of the ticket price revenue, artistic freedom is not interfered with or restrained, our festival strives to be an accessible opportunity for artists and patrons to participate, and we value inclusivity and diversity.

## How can you participate in the Fringe

There are many ways to be involved at the Fringe. This guide is for applicants who wish to produce a show, for which there are three different ways to apply, outlined below. The Toronto Fringe programs an outdoor patio during the festival, with opportunities for performances and art installations, plus several youth and emerging arts worker focused programs that will have calls for participants in late spring. There are also numerous employment and volunteer opportunities to work for the festival.

To apply with a show, you can:

1. Apply to the lottery for a slot at one of the main performance venues, in the **Main Venue Category**
  - a. The majority of the festival is in Main Venue lottery slots. There are several different categories and venue sizes to select from during the lottery application process.
  - b. The main lottery is for artists who are planning on producing their shows in a conventional theatre space. The Festival provides the performance venues for this category and schedules each company up to 7 performances (or 8 performances in small venues and for KidsFest and Teen categories).
  - c. For full details on applying to the Main Venue Category please see the **Main Lottery Application Guide**.
2. Apply with a proposal for a non-conventional performance venue in the **Unconventional Venue Category**, which is programmed on a **first-come, first-served basis**.
  - a. There are limited slots in this category.
  - b. Participants apply with a venue (either with a confirmed venue, or in the process of confirming) the Festival does not intervene in any rental agreement. The venue cannot be a conventional theatre. A conventional theatre is considered any space that has been designed explicitly for theatre performance.
  - c. Applications must demonstrate that the work cannot be produced in a conventional, traditional theatre, and is uniquely tied to the space.
  - d. Submitted applications will be placed in the queue only if they are complete.
3. Apply to a Satellite Venue
  - a. New in 2024, there will be a limited number of Satellite theatre venues, with limited slots available. This is separate from the Main Lottery category. More details on this category and application process coming soon.

## Who can apply to produce a show

Anybody can apply with a show to the Festival – absolute amateur to established professionals, and local, national and international participants are welcome. The individual applying is referred to as the **MAIN ADMIN CONTACT** and is considered by the Fringe Festival to be the primary producer of the show. The MAIN ADMIN CONTACT enters a binding agreement with the Festival upon acceptance of a show slot. You must provide a company name at the time of application, and this name cannot be changed at any time thereafter. You will also need to provide a secondary contact – this doesn't necessarily need to be someone critical to the creation or producing of your show, but they can be. They will be contacted if the Festival is unable to reach the Main Admin Contact with critical information or questions about their application and/or event.

The show you apply with can be anything you want – the festival will never intervene artistically (as long as no laws or Festival policies are being broken). Dance, drama, comedy, digital, immersive, solo, musical, for kids, for teens – you name it, you can probably produce a Fringe show about it. The Festival also encourages and has resources to support participants to include and increase accessibility measures in your shows.

## What does the Festival provide participants

The Toronto Fringe provides a showcase platform in a cherished cultural event and indie mainstay with over 3 decades of buzz. For all participants in the festival, Toronto Fringe prints a program guide with a listing for each show, as well as a full show listing page on our website, [fringetoronto.com](http://fringetoronto.com). We market and promote the festival as a whole through our social media outreach, publicity and advertisements. Toronto Fringe also provides all ticketing and box office systems, all patron services and all front of house staff for all the venues and shows, and sets the patron services policies for the Festival. We set the ticket price as well as any discounts or multi-show passes. The price for a single adult ticket will be a minimum \$15 CAD, plus a \$2 fee per ticket.

For all participants Toronto Fringe provides producing support through mentorship, guides and resource documents, seminars, and peer-to-peer support.

## What are participants responsible for

The participant is self-producing a full show and is responsible for all costs associated with that (e.g. artists, designers, production team and additional production fees, set/costume/props, licensing or royalty fees, rehearsal space, independent marketing), plus creating the show itself. In the Unconventional Venue Category, participants are responsible for all venue, technical, and technician fees.

## Key Application Dates

Main Venue Category lottery applications open	November 13, 2023
Unconventional Venue pre-approval proposals open (optional)	November 21, 2023
Main Venue Category lottery applications close	November 29, 2023, 11:59pm ET
Unconventional Venue pre-approval proposals close	December 1, 2023

Main Venue Category Lottery Draw	December 4, 2023, 8pm ET
Unconventional Venue Category applications open	December 5, 2023
Deadline to accept Main Venue slot if drawn and pay deposit	December 20, 2023

## Unconventional Venue Category

### WHAT IS IT

The Toronto Fringe Unconventional Venue Category is an expansion of the formerly named Site Specific Category, to acknowledge the alternative forms of performance art that seek the Fringe platform to reach audiences. This category is for companies whose projects do not fit within the Main Venue lottery category or the Satellite Venue category.

The Unconventional Category includes shows/performances which activate non-traditional theatre/performance spaces. Applications in this category must demonstrate that the work cannot be produced in a conventional, traditional theatre, and that the show/performance is uniquely tied to the space.

Exploring non-traditional audience and ticketing relationships may apply to unconventional venue productions; the Fringe is open to considering if and how the festival is able to support your production and presentation format. If you have a show that you are interested in applying with, but it doesn't fall into the parameters outlined above, please endeavor to submit it to the pre-approval process so we can liaise with you to determine viability before the applications open.

Note: More than one application with the same venue/site will not be accepted.

All venues in the Unconventional Venue Category are subject to the same accessibility standards that apply to all Fringe Venues, as per Fringe Festival policy. Refer to APPENDIX B of this guide for the accessibility definitions and standards to meet.

Slots in this category are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, separate from the Main Venue Category lottery. Applications remain open until all slots are filled or until January 31st, 2024 (whichever comes first). A slot is not confirmed until the participant fee is paid. Participant fees are scaled according to the max potential ticket capacity the production will offer over the 12 days of the festival.

### UNCONVENTIONAL VENUE REQUIREMENTS

- The performance starts at a geographically specific location, audiences attend the performance in-person.
- Applicants apply with a venue; the festival does not intervene in the occupancy agreement.
- Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with securing and setting up the venue, including any technical support. If there are any City of Toronto permits required for the proposed activity on the site, the applicant is responsible for obtaining all required permissions in order to accept a slot

in the festival. Applicants will need to demonstrate a reasonable plan to obtain all permissions and permits and submit them to the Festival no later than April 1, 2024.

- The venue must be within the geographical limits of the City of Toronto, and accessible by TTC.
- The venue must meet Toronto Fringe requirements for physical accessibility for patrons.
- The venue must be safe for the general public.
- The venue must be able to offer secure storage for Festival staff to store Front of House supplies, which they will need to access at least 90 minutes before the performance.
- The seating capacity per performance will be capped at 250.
- There will be 10 slots available

## HOW DOES IT WORK

In this category, you bring the venue, you set up all of the technical requirements, and you determine the performance schedule, with approval from the Toronto Fringe team. All performances must take place between July 3-14, 2024 inclusive. The Festival reserves the right to adjust the performance schedule of all shows in the festival. There is no minimum number of required performances. Duration of consecutive performances in one day cannot exceed 4 hours, inclusive of audience turnover time between multiple performances. It is recommended that the length of one performance not exceed 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).

The Festival provides all Front of House and Box Office services and manages the Patron Services systems, along with the rest of the festival. The patron services and ticketing policies are set by the Festival, as well as ticket prices and fees. Tickets are sold as general admission (\$15 plus ticket fees).

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted through Eventotron, the festival management portal. If you require an alternative method or support in submitting your application, contact Associate Producer Suzanne Wilkie at [suzanne@fringetoronto.com](mailto:suzanne@fringetoronto.com) or by phone at 416-966-1062 ext 228.

- In a web browser, go to [eventotron.com](http://eventotron.com)
- If you have not previously applied to a Toronto Fringe festival, you will need to **sign-up** for a new account. The email you use here to create an account is what we will use to contact you with any information about your application.
- Search for our festival in the Festivals & Seasons – **2024 Toronto Fringe Festival**
- Click APPLY.
- Select “I’m creating a new event” and enter an event title. Click NEXT.

Your Event title is the title of your show. It can change later in the process if you are accepted into the Festival. Please note “TBD”, “TBC”, “Untitled” will not be accepted as an Event title. The application must be completely filled out before submitting.

If you want to see all the questions that will appear on the form, check out **APPENDIX C** at the end of this Guide.

NOTE: Your form should autosave as you fill it out. To be sure information is not lost, click out of the field you have edited and look for a blue SAVING icon turn to green and say SAVED in the top right corner. You can start filling out your application and submit it at a later time. When you click APPLY, select "My event is already in Eventotron" instead of a new one, and select your existing application from the drop down menu.

This category is selected on a first-come, first-served basis. An application will not receive a place in the queue if it is incomplete or deemed ineligible. Slots will not be held for incomplete applications.

Applications will be reviewed for:

- Eligibility – does the application demonstrate that the show is uniquely tied to the site, or that the site is integral to the success of the production.
- Accessibility – does the site meet the requirements of the Fringe Festival for public safety and reasonable access that does not compromise patrons' independence or dignity.
- Completion – are all the required details, support materials, and payment provided to the Festival.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR UVC APPLICATION IS APPROVED

If all of the above conditions are all met, your submitted application will be approved, and you will receive confirmation via email. You will then be offered a slot in the Unconventional Venue Category in the festival.

You must pay the Participant fee deposit to secure your slot. You can find the participant fee breakdown below. A slot will not be confirmed until this fee deposit is paid.

The fee deposit is considered your first participant fee installment. The remaining participant fee will be due at a later date and is determined based on the total ticket capacity that your application proposes.

NOTE: Productions are being accepted to the Festival based on a submitted written proposal. The Festival must approve any proposed changes to the venue, the schedule or use of venue itself. The Festival reserves the right to remove an Unconventional Venue Category participant from the Festival if the proposal no longer meets the necessary requirements for acceptance.

## FEE BREAKDOWN

### Application Fee:

- Pay what you wish \$15, \$20, \$25 CAD (non-refundable)
- Submitted at the time of application (can pay online with a credit card, by mail with a cheque, or with cash in-person)

### Participant Fee:

- **Part 1: Participant Fee Deposit**
  - There is a \$600 CAD Deposit due upon approval of your submitted application and **required to secure your slot**
  - Paid through Eventotron or by Cheque/Cash
- **Part 2: Remaining Participant Fee**
  - Due by January 31, 2024

- Paid through Eventotron or by Cheque/Cash
- 2% of total gross revenue potential based on a \$15 ticket price

**Example calculation:**

Based on a show in a 150 seat venue with 8 performances:

*DETERMINE GROSS POTENTIAL REVENUE*

8 performances x 150 seats available x \$15 ticket price = \$18,000 potential revenue for entire run

*DETERMINE 2% OF POTENTIAL REVENUE*

\$18,000 x 0.02 = \$360

Remaining participant fee owed to the Festival is \$360 CAD

**PRE-APPROVAL PERIOD**

Since applications require significant information about physical venues in terms of infrastructure and accessibility, the Festival is offering a period to submit venue proposals to offer applicants feedback about their submission's eligibility and whether any components may be missing, before the actual applications open. **All potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit proposals during the Pre-Approval phase, November 21-December 1, 2023.** There is no fee to submit a proposal for pre-approval, and it is HIGHLY recommended (but not mandatory). Submitting a proposal does not replace submitting a proper application on Eventotron. If your submitted proposal is pre-approved, you still need to submit the actual application on Eventotron when it opens on December 5, 2023.

This step is intended to reduce any delay in approval of the application once applications open, which will be assessed in order of submission. The Festival will review and respond to proposals in the order they are submitted. We cannot guarantee that we will review or pre-approve every proposal submitted by December 1, 2023. If you wish to submit a proposal for pre-approval, you can do so through this form: <https://fringetoronto.wufoo.com/forms/2024-toronto-fringe-unconventional-venue-proposal/>

**ACCESSIBILITY**

The Toronto Fringe prioritizes accessibility across the festival. The Toronto Fringe has made a commitment to prioritizing accessibility by:

1. Requiring that all of our festival venues, including unconventional venues, meet physical accessibility standards.
2. Providing enough information for our audiences to make informed decisions about attending venues.

While our ultimate goal is universal accessibility, we realize that the majority of Toronto venues are retrofitted for access and do not yet meet the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) or Ontario Building Code barrier-free standards. We take this into consideration when assessing venues and look to our participating companies to make best efforts to ensure inclusion for all potential audiences, including those with disabilities.

This category requires applicants to provide a significant amount of information about the accessibility of the proposed venue. Review **Appendix B in this Guide for a full glossary of definitions and standards.**

Physical venues are required to:

- Meet physical accessibility requirements to allow persons using an average-sized mobility device to access all areas of venue designated for patrons (entrance, passageways, performance space, restroom, etc.). This includes providing ramps, lifts, or elevators where level access is not available and ensuring that all passageways (doorways, hallways, etc.) have a clear width of at least 32 inches.
- Offer an accessible restroom where restrooms will be expected to be available (i.e. any indoor spaces) either within or in-proximity to the venue.
- Offer a designated accessible seating area.

Participants are expected to provide all accessibility-related information requested by the Festival in a timely fashion. If an application is approved and confirmed but then is deemed to not meet accessibility standards at a later date, The Fringe reserves the right to revoke approval and remove the spot. The Fringe may request additional information or arrange a site visit to assess accessibility before approval is granted. If you have any questions about accessibility at an Unconventional Venue, contact Suzanne Wilkie, Associate Producer, [suzanne@fringetoronto.com](mailto:suzanne@fringetoronto.com) or by phone at 416-966-1062 ext. 228.

## COVID-19 Policies at the Toronto Fringe Festival

If you accept a slot in the Festival, you are responsible for abiding by all of Toronto Fringe's policies, including any health and safety policies in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As of November 1, 2022 the Toronto Fringe does not require any party to provide proof of vaccination for entry or participation. Additional public safety measures such as masking indoors and pre-entry health screening may be required at the Festival's discretion. If any venues which the Festival occupies has additional COVID-19 policies that exceed the Toronto Fringe's, they will be abided by.

## Anything else you may need to know

Participants may not accept more than one slot in the Fringe Festival; if an applicant is successful in both the Main Venue Category lottery and the Unconventional Venue Category, they will be asked to forfeit one of the two spots. The Main Venue lottery will be held before Unconventional Venue applications open.

We encourage you to read the full 2024 Toronto Fringe Festival Participation Policies before applying to ensure you are aware of all the conditions and expectations of Fringe Participants. The Policies are available at [fringetoronto.com](http://fringetoronto.com), and on Eventotron.

Signing up to participate in a Fringe Festival is signing up to join a dynamic, diverse, beautiful community of independent artists and creators whose stories reflect and shape our society. Welcome!



## Help with your application to the Toronto Fringe Festival

If you have any questions about the Toronto Fringe Festival, or if you require assistance at any point in the application process, please contact Suzanne Wilkie, Associate Producer.

By email at [suzanne@fringetoronto.com](mailto:suzanne@fringetoronto.com)

By phone at 416 966 1062 ext 228

## APPENDIX A – Unconventional Venue Category Application Questions

### 1. **Main Admin Contact Name**

**This is the primary person the** Festival will contact about your application and event. You may not submit more than one application to the Fringe. Please note the following rules:

- The Company Name and Main Admin Contact cannot be changed once submitted.
- The Main contact of a company cannot be the Main contact for a second company in the festival.
- If an individual/company submits more than one application in the Main Venue lottery, the first will be considered and all subsequent applications will be removed from the lottery, and no refund will be given for the lottery application fee
- If the Main Admin Contact cannot continue with a production, we reserve the right to withdraw it from the Festival.
- You may not accept more than one show slot, including Main Venue and Unconventional Venue categories - if you are successful in the lottery after securing an UV spot, you will be asked to forfeit one of your two spots.

To edit the contact details, click on the blue head icon to the right of the text field. The address of the Main Admin Contact will be used to confirm the category in the Main Venue lottery.

### 2. **Pronouns of Main Admin** (optional)

### 3. **Secondary Admin Contact**

**Please include their name,** email and phone number.

The festival will contact this person if they are unable to reach the Main Admin Contact with critical information or questions about their application or event. They will not automatically be considered a member of the producing team, nor will they be added to the festival mailing list for updates and key information. They can request to be added at a later date.

Click the text box, enter the contact's email address, then click "Add Contact." You will now input your secondary contact's First and Last Name, as well as their phone number and email. The Secondary Contact may not be changed once your application is submitted. Please double check this info before clicking "Save."

### 4. **Pronouns of Secondary Admin** (optional)

### 5. **Company Name**

**This will be credited as the Producing Company in the Fringe Program Guide and printed materials. THIS NAME CANNOT BE CHANGED ONCE THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.**

### 6. **Is this your first time applying to the Toronto Fringe?**

7. Have you participated in any other CAFF festival before?
8. Check box – confirm that you have read the 2024 Participation Policies and agree to the terms within.
9. Which category are you applying to? SELECT UNCONVENTIONAL VENUE CATEGORY
10. Where will your proposed production take place?  
Describe the format or space or room within the venue that the performance will occur in, i.e. gymnasium of a community centre, school classroom, etc.
11. What steps are required in order for you to secure and book the site? Include the names of any relevant contact(s) and their contact information. Ensure that you have noted all the Festival's requirements of the venue, and have confirmed them with the appropriate department (i.e. the schedule, secure FOH storage)
12. Have you produced a site-specific production outside of the Fringe previously?
13. Have you researched and confirmed all of the costs associated with securing the site/venue?  
These may include rental fees, permits, etc
14. Why does your production have to take place at the proposed site? How will it use the space?  
Applicants must demonstrate that the site is integral to the success of the work.
15. Please describe the audience experience. Include details such as: whether they will be seated, what kinds of seats will be provided (if possible at this time), whether they will need to be unseated or moved from one position to another at any point in time, is there audience interaction or immersiveness
16. If your show is immersive or requires a level of audience interactivity, is there a minimum number of attendees you require for the show to run successfully? If this does not apply to you, type N/A
17. What is the length of the show, in minutes?  
We recommend Fringe shows not exceed 90 minutes
18. What is the capacity per show?  
Physical venues cannot exceed 250.
19. How many performances do you request?  
Approval will be granted at the discretion of the Fringe for requests for 2 or more performances per day conditionally. We do not guarantee you will receive the number of performances per day requested. Total duration of consecutive performances cannot exceed 4 hours, including audience turnover between separate performances.
20. What is your proposed performance schedule? Please list all dates and times.  
The Festival reserves the right to adjust the performance schedule of all shows in the festival as may be required. Accepted applicants will be asked to submit a confirmed schedule at a later date. The Festival requires access to the physical venues at least 90 minutes before the start of the show for the Front of House staff to set up.
21. Who will liaise with the Festival Front of House staff to open the space, indicate when the house is open, when the show is starting, etc.?
22. Provide the full address of the proposed site, including the postal code and unit number.

23. Does your production take place outdoors?
24. If no, does the venue provide air conditioning?
25. If yes, please describe the rain plan  
i.e. is there an alternate covered area, will tents be provided, will the performance be cancelled
26. Does the main entrance have level access?
27. Are stairs required to access the main entrance? If yes, how many? Is there a handrail?
28. Does the entrance have a ramp? Please indicate width, length, incline, and describe the surface.  
Width is minimum clear width of 900mm (35.4 inches).  
Surface is firm, stable, slip resistant.  
Slope is no more than 1:12.  
Landings meet the following: at the top and bottom of the ramp, where there is an abrupt change in direction of the ramp, at horizontal intervals not greater than 9m apart (29'6"), they are minimum 1.67m x 1.67m (65.7 inches x 65.7 inches).  
Landings cross slope that is not steeper than 1:50.
29. Are the doors single or double? Is there a working powered door opener? Are there more than one set of doors?
30. Is there a lift? Describe the access to it.
31. Describe the ground surfaces patrons must traverse in order to access the space  
i.e. level, uneven, grass, gravel, paving stones
32. If the accessible entrance is different from the main entrance, describe the route and location.  
Provide answers for the above questions about the entrance. Include signage, buzzer, etc.
33. Describe any stairs or ramps located at your venue that a patron would use to access the performance space, restrooms, other public areas
34. Indoors: Do patrons need to pass through additional closed doors ever? Do the doors have automatic openers?
35. If any lifts or elevators are required to access any spaces, describe them.
36. Does the narrowest doorway or passageway have a clear width of at least 32 inches. If not, describe.
37. Describe the ground surfaces indoor that patrons will need to traverse  
i.e. entrance hallway is tile, performance space is thick carpet, or if outdoor is the performance space on grass, on paved concrete
38. Describe the location and features of the accessible restroom at your venue. Include additional details such as low mounting height of sink(s), towel dispenser, hand dryer, emergency call button etc. if you can. If your restroom does not meet the minimum accessible requirements, please describe the alternative plans for providing an accessible restroom.
39. Describe the performance area, describe the types of seating provided for patrons (i.e. stools, chairs with back rests, benching, no seating). Describe designated accessible seating area for patrons who use mobility devices or who require ground level seating

40. **Describe the lighting conditions of all locations accessible to patrons at the venue**  
i.e. low level, bright, fluorescent bulb. Indicate if different in different areas
41. **Describe the sound conditions of any locations accessible to patrons at the venue if other than quiet.**  
i.e. outside performance space is next to busy roadway
42. **Describe fire alarms (audible and/or visual) and evacuation plan**
43. **Describe how patrons will reach the venue**  
what TTC stops are close by, is there vehicle parking, bike parking, distance from sideway or drop off point
44. **Provide the following images:**
  - a. Front entrance
  - b. Accessible entrance, if different
  - c. Performance space
  - d. Accessible restrooms
45. **Are there any aspects of the venue/site of your plans that may inhibit accessibility?**
46. **Anything else you need to share about the venue or proposed plans?**

## APPENDIX B – Unconventional Venue Category Accessibility Definitions and Standards

### **1:12**

This measurement refers to the degree of slope of a ramp. It means for every inch of height change there is at least 12 inches of ramp run (length). Exterior and interior ramps should be a maximum slope of 1:12 to ensure safe travel. A slope of 1:15 or less is preferable.

### **32 inches**

This measurement refers to the minimum clear width of doorways, entryways, or other passages that a patron must traverse at a given Fringe venue. While 32 inches is a standard minimum which allows access for many people including those using narrow to average sized wheelchairs, this clearance may still create a barrier for those using larger mobility devices.

### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)**

The AODA is an Ontario legislation that aims to achieve independence, dignity, integration, and equality of opportunity for people with disabilities by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers. Its purpose is to ensure that all Ontarians have fair and equitable access to programs and services and to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. The AODA includes requirements with specific standards and dates for compliance that all organizations must meet. For more information go to

<https://accessibilitycanada.ca/aoda/>.

### **Accessible Porta-Potty**

While accessible porta-potties do provide improved access for some users, the current design of most “accessible” porta-potties continues to create barriers for others due to lack of automatic doors and other features. They will not be accepted as an accessible option at a venue where indoor restrooms are available to able-bodied patrons. The Fringe encourages companies finding alternative accessible washrooms to first consider partnering with nearby establishments that offer universally accessible restrooms. Proximity will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Visible signage with alternative accessible restroom details must be provided by a participating company during their Fringe run.

### **Accessible Restrooms**

An accessible restroom is an enclosed space with a barrier free toilet, sink and turning space so that a person using a wheeled mobility device may be accommodated. These washrooms aim to provide privacy and dignity for people with disabilities, including those who require an assistant. They are also useful for others such as those with infants or small children.

An accessible washroom must be provided by a participating company at site specific venues where washrooms will be expected to be available (i.e. any indoor spaces).

In acknowledgement of the current lack of available AODA-compliant infrastructure in the city of Toronto, the Fringe will consider site-specific applications that meet most but not all AODA requirements for an accessible restroom on a case-by-case basis with the independence, dignity, and safety of patrons as a priority.

AODA requirements for restrooms include the following:

- A barrier free path of travel to and from the restroom. This may mean the restroom is located on the ground floor or is easily accessed by elevator, lift, or ramp.
- Automatic/power door opener.
- Single occupancy or a wider stall within a multi-stall washroom.
- A clear floor area of a large enough size that people using wheeled mobility devices can turn around
- Grab bars securely fastened behind or beside the toilet.
- Clearly visible signage indicating accessibility.

Please note that the above is not an exhaustive list. For comprehensive and specific information please see Articles 3.8.3.8. through 3.8.3.13 of the Ontario Building Code which outline barrier-free restroom requirements at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r13368>.

#### **Accessible Seating Area**

Accessible seating area refers to the space specifically designated for those who use mobility devices or who have limited mobility. The accessible seating area must have no stairs or other barriers to access and must ensure a line of sight that is comparable to other seating.

#### **Alternative text description**

**Alternative text** or **alt text** is a written description of images and other visual content. Alternative text must convey the content and functionality of the image. Alt text helps screen-reading tools describe images and also appears in the place of an image on a webpage if the image fails to load on a user's screen.

#### **Automatic Door Opener**

Automatic door openers provide greater accessibility for a wide variety of people including people using mobility devices and those with strollers.

#### **Barrier**

A barrier is a circumstance or obstacle that keeps people apart. For people with disabilities, barriers can take many forms including physical, environmental, attitudinal, communication, and transportation.

#### **Captions**

**Captions transcribe the dialogue and soundscapes of the performance into words for the audience to read.**

They are displayed within the media player and are synchronized with the audio. **Closed captions** can be hidden or shown by the viewer, and re-sized. Open captions are embedded and always displayed and cannot be turned off. CART is Communication Access Realtime Translation, where captions are transcribed live, in real-time.

#### **Clear Width**

A clear width is the unobstructed opening space that allows passage through doors, entryways, and other passageways. Clear width is measured between the face of the door and the stop on the strike jamb, with the door open 90 degrees.



### **Cross Slope**

Cross slope means the slope of a surface that is perpendicular to the direction of travel.

### **Disability**

Disability covers a broad range and degree of conditions, some visible and some not visible. The broad range of disabilities includes physical disabilities, vision disabilities, deafness or being hard of hearing, intellectual or developmental, learning, and mental health disabilities. People with disabilities have the right to be free from discrimination when they receive goods or services or use facilities.

### **Ground Surface**

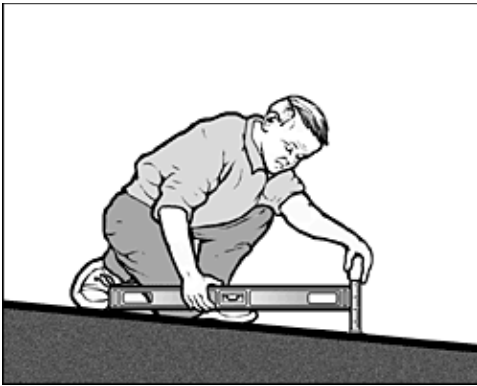
Ground surfaces can improve or impede mobility for many people. For example, gravel, uneven grassy surfaces, or thick carpets can pose a barrier for many people including manual wheelchair users, those with strollers, and those with limited mobility.

### **Inclination or Slope**

Inclination or slope refers to the degree of incline of a surface (such as a ramp). You can measure slope the following ways:

1. Use a 24 inch level and a tape measure. Put the level on the surface in the direction you are measuring. Put one end at the high point of the surface and raise the other end so that the bubble is in the middle of the level's gauge. The level is now level. Measure the distance between the end of the level at its bottom point and the surface.
2. Divide the length of the **ramp** by the height. This will be the second number in your ratio. The first number is always one. If the **ramp** measures 12 feet long and the rise is 2 feet, you would divide 12 by 2 to get 6, and your ratio would be 1:6.
3. Use a digital level and be sure to read the instructions.





### **Level Access**

Level access means that there is no step, gap, ramp, slope, rise or other potential ground level barrier to entry.

### **Ramps**

Ramps allow access for a wide variety of people including motorized and manual mobility device users and those with strollers. In acknowledgement of the current lack of available AODA-compliant infrastructure in the city of Toronto, the Fringe will consider site-specific applications that do not meet all ramp requirements on a case by case basis with safety as a priority.

AODA requirements for ramps include the following:

- Width is minimum clear width of 900 mm (35.4 in).
- Surface is firm, stable, slip resistant.
- Slope is no more than 1:12.
- Landings must meet the following requirements:
  - Landings must be located at the top and bottom of the ramp,
  - Where there is an abrupt change in direction of the ramp,
  - Landings must be located at horizontal intervals not greater than nine metres apart.
  - Landing sizes are min of 1,670 mm x 1,670 mm (65.7 in x 65.7 in).
  - Landings cross slope that is not steeper than 1:50.
- Ramp must be equipped with handrails on both sides of the ramp.

Full information on AODA requirements for external ramps can be found under article 80.24:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r12413>. Comprehensive information on interior ramps can be found in section 2.2.5 of the City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines: [https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8fcf-accessibility\\_design\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8fcf-accessibility_design_guidelines.pdf).

### **Running slope**

Running slope means the inclination of a surface that is parallel to the direction of travel.

### **Seating**

Firmly cushioned seating with armrests and a seat back is preferable for many patrons. Armrests aid in standing up and sitting down while seat backs offer back support and help prevent fatigue. For other

patrons, this type seating may be prohibitive. For example, those requiring a wider seat. Where possible, having alternative seating options available for those that need is preferred.

All images courtesy of: <https://www.adachecklist.org/howto.html>

### **Screen-Reader compatible**

Screen reader technology may be used by a range of people including those who are blind or who have low vision. The techniques used to create screen reader compatible documents may also be useful for neuro-diverse folks and others. **Screen-reader compatible** means that a text document can be **read** and interpreted from text into synthesized speech by a screen reader software. Most screen readers work by generating a synthesized voice that reads text aloud, but some exist that communicate data through a refreshable braille display.