# *ACCESS RIDER*

**Leah Piepzna-Samarasinha**
**Online events, podcasts, radio etc.**
**(inspired by and with some parts borrowed from Alice Wong's)**

For correspondence and questions, contact: Mateo Medina (he/hIm, Assistant/Outreach Manager, brownstargirlnew@gmail.com

# 1. Online public keynotes, book launches speaking/ reading events, workshops and panels with Leah Piepzna-Samrasinha are required to include the following:

- **American Sign Language interpreters during the online event.** They must be certified interpreters with experience and comfort working with online events and with queer/ BIPOC/ disabled/progressive material. At least 2 interpreters for event over 1 hour with a lot of talking, multiple panelists, etc.

   Please work to find ASL interpreters with experience with the content- for example, an interpreter who interprets poetry for a poetry reading, someone BIPOC for BIPOC only events, people familiar with disabled culture and activism and language, etc. (I've included contact info for some ASL interpreters and captioners I work with on page 2.)

- **Live captioning during any live (non pre-recorded) online event** by a [Communication Access Realtime Translation](#) transcriptionist  (not by an app or autocaption, which are inaccurate and do not provide language equity.) CART alone does not provide language equity for Deaf people for whom ASL is their first language. Rev.com and Zoom autocaptions *may be* useable for a smaller workshop format, but are also not accurate

- For pre-recorded events to be aired at a later date, **hire a transcriptionist** and have them add accurate captions. Rev.com is usually not fully accurate unless they are working from a scripted talk. There is contact info for transcriptionist I work with later in this document

- **Adequate prep time for ASL interpreters and CART workers/ captioner**s. This is crucial to ensure that the access is good and accurate and the worker has good working conditions, which is impossible for an interpreter who got the script five minutes before, or no script at all.

   **Event organizers must create a google document where, no later than 48 hours before the event, the event script is uploaded and shared with the interpreters/**

**CART workers.** This includes a script/ run of show that includes all other participants, including organizer doing introductory remarks.

ASL interpreters and captioners  are very busy and book out! Book an interpreter/captioner early, a month or two is a good bet if you don't have a working relationship with a terp,  when you are doing other prep/promo/ organizational work. If you try to find an interpreter the day before because you "forgot" you will not be successful.

If we discover there is no captioning or ASL interpreter  in the immediate lead up to the show despite this agreement, **I reserve the right to cancel and reschedule the event for a time when they are available.**

● **In no case does the cost of ASL or CART come out of Leah's payment.**

● After the event if you also plan to post a video of it online, you n**eed to include captions and a link to a transcript** (see below).

● Best practice is for me also to provide an **access copy**  of text that will be read outloud to participants so they can read along.

● **One option post a live event if you  are a low budget community grup who cannot provide ASL/CART:** upload a video of the event with captions (not auto-generated ones) on YouTube or another video platform and include a link to the text transcript with the post.

● **One option for closed writing workshops  where no one Deaf/HOH has requested ASL, and/ or if you cannot provide CART** we do the whole thing in a text only format like Google docs. If no one requests ASL and it's a small workshop, I'm ok to go ahead with CART or Zoom captions but no ASL.

● **If you are inexperienced with online access and events: a brief rehearsal time, separate from the event**, where interpreters, event organizers and/or volunteers are present to make sure everyone is on the same page in terms of where interpreters will be pinned, CART login/assignment, and the use of chat.  If you are a organization  or media source that does online events all the time and is practiced in making sure the ASL and CART work, this can be a five minute tech check,  but if you've never done this work  before, let's book more time.

● **An access volunteer or staff member other than Leah** must be liaising with the ASL interpreters, CART workers etc and ensuring access tech runs smoothly during event- Leah cannot troubleshoot access and speak at the same time.

- **All online events will have security protocols** (registration required, ability to mute participants, no screen share from participants) in order to limit the possibility of Zoom bombing and harassment.

- **All promotion includes image descriptions and alt text** for all visual material (on IG, Twitter, Facebook, etc.)

- **All online events that are interactive will have at least one designated person working as an "access usher'** to answer any access requests or questions from participants and troubleshoot any access problems (CART embed stops working, ASL interpreters disappear, there's a language question from an ASL using attendee, etc.)

- Personal access request: Leah needs about **5-10 minutes of quiet time** before going live to have their video/audio off and not reply to tech or other questions, as a neurodiversity acces need.

- A volunteer/ worker other than Leah **collects and screens questions for Q and A for webinars, speaking engagements, etc.**

Example of a YouTube video by Leah Piepzna-Samarasinha with human-generated captions (BTW, these are more accurate) and a link to transcript in the description section:
- [2019 Autistic Self Advocacy Network Annual Gala: Keynote by Alice Wong (captioned)](#)


**Publicity and media**

- Graphics and posts about the event should include info that ASL interpreters and captioning/CART will be provided.
- Image descriptions added as alt text on social media platforms (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook)
- Inclusion of an email of a contact person if anyone has questions or accommodation requests for the event

# Radio/Podcast

- Before any podcast or radio goes live, a text transcript must also be completed and posted at the same time as the podcast pre-recorded radio interview. [Access is love](#) and it'll increase your SEO!

Two examples from podcasts about disability and accessibility:
- [Contra* Episode 2.10: Contra*Maintenance with Leah Samples](#)
- [Disability Visibility Project: Episode 76, Film Festivals](#)

**For private, small-scale online trainings which will not be posted publicly:** ASL to be provided and paid for if needed by any panelists or trainees. CART/ captioning to be provided.

## RESOURCES

### Media Kit

For social media handles, photos, image descriptions, and bios for Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samrasinha: please email Mateo at mateo.g.medina@gmail.com (we're updating my website right now, will have a downloadable press kit soon.)

**Best practices for good ASL/CART access for online events:** The Revolution Must Be Accessible document from HEARD: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pl6SWXYmFFg3UJ9HvdDay1FF70HOyXnVWmHanYD2AqQ/edit  If you look at one resource on this list about online access, it should be this one!

**\*\*\*\*\*Please email for list of ASL interpreters and CART workers we have worked with\*\*\*\***

**More info about language access and equity:**

**Why human captioning is better than auto-generated captions**
- **Rikki Poynter - #NoMoreCraptions campaign**
- **The Problem With YouTube's Terrible Closed 'Craptions'**


**Organizing Accessible Online Events**

- Zoom and accessibility, University of California
- How to Make Your Virtual Meetings and Events Accessible to the Disability Community
- Zoom tips for Deaf + ASL interpreters
- Best Practices for Effective Video Conferencing, Stanford University
- Enabling ASL Interpretation in Zoom
- Enabling a Captionist in Zoom

**Accessible Social Media**

- Access That, Rooted in Rights
- AFB's Social Media Accessibility Guidelines
- Accessible Social Media, University of Minnesota

I have read this agreement and agree to follow the protocols outlined within.


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Event Producer                                                                          Date