This conference is hosted by the organisers of the Cultural Festival “Art Without Boundaries”, which is an annual event in Iceland focusing on bringing the handicapped and general public together in art, where different groups and individuals join hands through culture as participants and audience in order to increase awareness and understanding between people of different abilities for the benefit of society as a whole.

The organisers of “Art Without Boundaries” are Landssamtökin Þroskahjálp (National organization of the handicapped), Öryrkjabandalag Íslands (The Organization of Disabled in Iceland), Fjölmennt (adult education for the handicapped), Átak (Association of the Mentally handicapped), and Hitt húsið (Youth Centre in Reykjavík).

This conference in organised in co-operation with the Nordic Council on Disability Policy and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Iceland, with the support of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The conference is held as part of the programme of Nordic Co-operation under the chairmanship of the Icelandic government in 2009.

Focus:

The conference will focus on three issues:

• The visibility and presentation of the handicapped in media and in culture in the Nordic countries.
• The importance of article 30 of the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities
• “Art Without Boundaries” as a model for grass-roots participation of the handicapped in art and cultural events, that can be adopted locally or nationally in other Nordic countries.

Place and participation:

The conference will take place at Grand Hotel, Reykjavík, on September 28, 2009.

It will be open to all those who are interested in the issues under discussion, and should be of special interest to organisations of the handicapped in the Nordic countries, scholars and researchers, art and culture administrators as well as the general public.

There is no participation fee, but participants are required to register with the organisers:

listanlandamaera@gmail.com
PROGRAMME

Chairman of the conference: Þuríður Backmann, Member of Althingi and Chairman of the Board of the Nordic Council on Disability Policy

9:00 OPENING SESSION

Welcome
Þuríður Backmann, Chairman of the Conference

Opening address
Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Minister of Education, Science and Culture

Opening remarks
Tone Mørk, Director of Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues

9:30 THE VISIBILITY OF THE HANDICAPPED

The Interaction between Media, culture and Politics
Lars Grip, Journalist, Stockholm

Research on Representation in Swedish media, focus on Public Service
Karin Ljuslinder, Professor at Umeå University

10:20 – 10:40 COFFE BREAK

Disability and the Nordic Movie revisited
Friederike A. Hesselman, Writer

The Invisible Majority
Sigrún Stefánsdóttir, Director at RÚV

Stuck in Stereotypes? The presentation of the handicapped in media
Panel Discussion: Lars Grip, Karin Ljuslinder, Friedrika Hässelman and Ingólfur Margeirsson.

12:10 – 13:10 LUNCH BREAK

13:10 UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Helgi Hjörvar, Member of Althingi

The Importance of Cultural Activities in Modern Society
Karitas H. Gunnarsdóttir, Director, Dept. of Cultural Affairs
13:40 “ART WITHOUT BOUNDARIES” AND OTHER EXAMPLES

Origin and development of “Art Without Boundaries”
Margrét M. Norðdahl, Project leader

Participants and Experiences
Speakers to be announced later

14:30 – 14:50 COFFEE BREAK

Possibility of “Art Without Boundaries” as Model for others
Friðrik Sigurðsson, Director of Þroskahjálp

Dissimilis: From the Kitchen Table to the Opera
Kai Zahl, founder of Dissimilis in Norway

Where do we go from here?
Panel Discussion: Helgi Hjörvar, Friðrik Sigurðsson, Kai Zahl

16:00 CLOSING SESSION

The Cultural Image of the Handicapped – A Few Observations
Ármann Jakobsson, Lecturer at University of Iceland

Closing Summary
Þuríður Backmann, Chairman of the Conference