The conference on arts and disability was at Balboa Park, the nation’s largest urban cultural park, which encompasses The Old Globe Theater and the San Diego Zoo. It featured dozens of educational seminars on topics such as:

• Physical and programmatic access;
• Universal and socially sustainable design; employment;
• Legal issues, such as the impact of federal and state legislation, rules, and regulations on cultural arts organizations;
• Marketing strategies; and planning, leadership, and advocacy.
• Participants exchanged ideas, learned best practices and how to develop sound policies, and participated in discussions with leaders in the field.
• Other highlights of the conference were technology demonstrations, and resource rooms.

Japanese Friendship Garden at Balboa Park
The highlight of LEAD was an accessible performance of the musical, *Robin and the 7 Hoods* at The Old Globe Theater, the state’s oldest professional theatre. 3 women provided interpretive sign language. Audio Description and Open Captioning and were also used.
Network:
An active listserv and email network keeps LEAD members from coast to coast connected to one another to share ideas, obstacles, and solutions.
Phone conference discussions to address topical issues
http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/education/lead/home.html
LEAD was formed in 2000 from a small group of cultural arts administrators – all of whom were responsible for accessibility at their respective cultural arts organization – gathered at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. to discuss institutional cultural arts and disability issues. They shared one common goal: the desire to create accessible cultural arts programs that are inclusive of people with disabilities and older adults.
That initial group has now grown into a professional network focused on expanding the breadth and scope of accessibility services and programming across the country and around the world. The Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) network:

• explores practical methods for implementing accessibility in cultural environments;
• communicates information about arts and accessibility, and;
• shares resources and knowledge among professionals in the field of accessibility.

• LEAD accomplishes its objectives through an annual conference, an active communications network, and resources generated by the LEAD network and maintained by the Kennedy Center.
Founding Organizations & Representatives:

Accessible Arts Inc., Martin English
Arena Stage, Jody Barasch
Artability, Cindy Brown
Arts For All, Wendall Barnes
Arvada Center, Mickey McVey
Center Stage, Michele Baylin and Mike Watson
Cultural Access Consortium, Judy Berk
ELA Foundation, Deborah Lewis
Huntington Theatre, Valerie Ching
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Bret Burzio, Michele Listisard, and Betty Siegel
Kravis Center, Meri McGuiness and Vanessa Young

The Kentucky Center for the Arts, Deborah Pennell
Orange County Performing Arts Center, Larry Stotz
Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Brian Kinsey
Paper Mill Playhouse, Michael Mooney
Raleigh Little Theatre, Sarah Corrin
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, Bob Leyes
Shakespeare Theatre, Alicia Fansmith