

Pathways to Careers in the Arts and Entertainment Industry

An 8-Session Career Seminar Series for Students with Vision Loss

Presented by the FMDG Music School • www.fmdgmusicschool.org

The arts and entertainment industry employs hundreds of thousands of Americans and is a sector where blindness or vision loss has not been a barrier to reaching the very top, yet students with vision loss rarely encounter working professionals in these fields as role models, mentors, or guides.

FMDG's Arts Careers Speaker Series changes that. Each week, one arts professional who is blind or has low vision leads two one-hour sessions, sharing their career path, daily work life, and practical advice for breaking in. Students leave each session with expanded career awareness, stronger self-advocacy skills, and a growing professional network.

8 SESSIONS OVER 4 WEEKS - 1 GUEST SPEAKER PER WEEK LEADING 2 SESSIONS

Each session runs within Iowa's Orientation Center for the Blind seminar period. Sessions are delivered virtually and facilitated by FMDG staff as needed. All speakers are industry professionals and have extensive experience working with people who are blind or have low vision.

FOUR TOPICS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING AREAS, ONE PER WEEK

**Musician /
Performer**

Finding Your Path: Careers in Music Performance

How a performing career is built, from early training to touring, recording, and sustaining a professional life in music. What skills transfer beyond performance.

**Record Producer /
Audio Engineer**

Behind the Scenes: Music Production & Audio Engineering

The studio side of the music industry, including producing, engineering, and post-production. How accessible technology has transformed these roles and opened them to professionals who are blind or have low vision.

**Arts Administrator
/ Director**

Running the Show: Arts Administration & Nonprofit Leadership

A speaker who leads an arts organization, covering career path and organizational overview, applying for arts admin internships, and entry-level opportunities.

**Music Educator /
Teacher Trainer**

Teaching the World: Music Education as a Career

Pathways into music education at the K–12, college, and community level. How educators who are blind or have low vision manage the classroom, build curriculum, and advocate for accessibility.

Performing Artist

Art Without Walls: Visual Arts, Dance & Theater

Careers in arts disciplines beyond music, including visual art, dance, theater, and arts therapy. How artists who are blind or have low vision create, perform, and find audiences.

**Communications
Professional**

Amplifying Voices: Arts Journalism, PR & Media

Writing about the arts, publicizing artists and events, and managing communications for cultural institutions. Entry-level roles, freelancing, and digital media pathways.

**Emerging
Professional**

Your Career Roadmap: Next Steps in the Arts

A young professional within 5 years of launching their career. Session includes goal setting and a curated list of career resources, financial considerations, and self-advocacy strategies.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS

Format & Delivery

Four weeks, one guest speaker per week leading two virtual sessions on the same topic, delivered during IDB's seminar period. A recap will be offered for any students who haven't attended the first class of the week. Students conduct independent study between sessions. Each session includes Q&A opportunities and real-world applications. FMDG follows up with students as needed to share resources and advice.

Accessibility

All sessions are designed for full participation by students who are blind or have low vision. Materials provided in braille, large print, and digital formats as needed. Speakers are experienced in using audio-descriptive presentation techniques.

Why FMDG Speakers?

FMDG's 113-year network spans performers, educators, administrators, and producers across every facet of the arts. As the nation's leading organization dedicated to music education for people with vision loss, FMDG has unparalleled access to arts professionals who are blind or have low vision willing to share their stories and experience.

FMDG's Role

FMDG recruits and coordinates all speakers, develops session materials (pre-reading, discussion guides, post-session reflection prompts), facilitates each session, and is available for follow-up whenever needed.

Dr. Rob Derke, Executive Director • derker@fmdgmusicschool.org • www.fmdgmusicschool.org
Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School • NYC and Nationwide