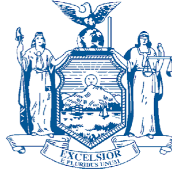


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March 3, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the American Dance Institute's (ADI) (dba LUMBERYARD) pilot program called SEATS ON THE SPECTRUM. This program will expand access to neurodiverse audiences - especially individuals on the autism spectrum - attending Broadway shows.

For far too long, performing arts patrons on the autism spectrum have not had the opportunity to enjoy Broadway shows commensurate with neurotypical patrons. Their access has been limited to laudable but infrequently staged shows that are geared to individuals on the spectrum. The time has come for Broadway's practices to be updated so that when someone on the spectrum wants to see a Broadway show they are able to do so.

There are a number of elements that would be included in this pilot program such as aisle seats for easy access to lobbies and other quiet areas; technological interventions such as headphones and tablets; updated training of ushers to help accommodate neurodiverse patrons; and video screens mounted in the lobby, which will allow patrons on the spectrum to watch the show if they have left their seats.

Given the complexity of this endeavor, I applaud LUMBERYARD for bringing together a diverse group of leaders in the field: people on the autism spectrum; their family members and caregivers; medical experts; advocates for the autism community; managers of leading performing arts venues; and experts that have successfully integrated people on the spectrum into their business activities.

By working with Broadway, LUMBERYARD aims to lead the way in setting standards that will be adopted across the country and beyond. The overall audience experience will be improved, and the economic footing of Broadway will be strengthened as more patrons will have access to performances. I hope they receive the necessary funding to realize this vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hoylman-Sigal".

Brad Hoylman-Sigal  
New York State Senate  
47th District