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A monthly newsletter highlighting and connecting initiatives/projects that transform society through the power of art

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• Artivism4sharedhumanity

Inclusive Lines: 6 Anastasia Samara & Aggeliki Kosma

Recipients of the Spring 2023 Sing for Hope Sponsored Artivist Award 0

Inclusive Lines, based in Greece, specializes in participatory design and the development of cultural tools for people with and without disabilities. It organizes projects and facilitates workshops that enable participants to collaborate, make decisions, and plan their future within cultural settings. This decision process enables the production of original products, such as books, films, etc., that enhance from start to finish the visibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.

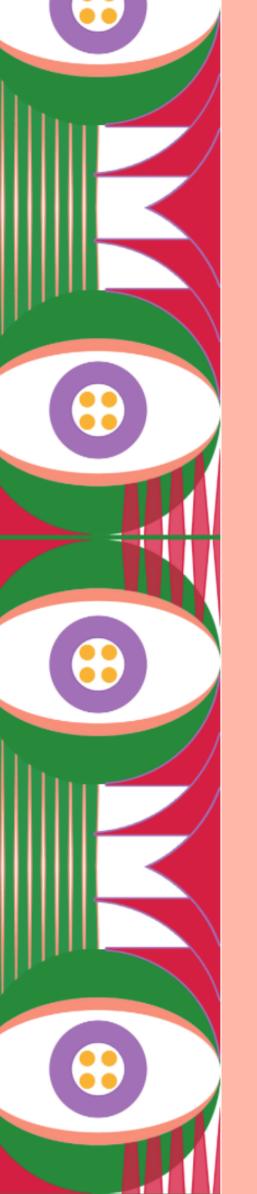
> Inclusive Lines was established in 2021 when a local museum in Thessaloniki, Greece invited us (Anastasia, founder & Aggeliki, manager) to design a series of workshops based on the visitor experience in regards to the museum's accessibility. This invitation made us realize how important it is to provide the opportunity to people with disabilities to express their own opinions and thoughts and ultimately be the decision makers for themselves.

From that point on, the main purpose of Inclusive Lines is to strengthen the visibility and self-confidence of people with disabilities through the collaboration of mixed groups and inclusive coexistence. Participatory design in every workshop is not just a tool but a way to coexist and create an inclusive team. These designs aim to help the organization become more accessible, to broaden its horizons regarding disability, and to be more inclusive.

As an architect who earned a Ph.D. in creative industries focusing on participatory decision-making methods and a museologist who worked on the visitor experience in museums, we have developed best practices that contribute towards the inclusion of people with disabilities. Currently, unfortunately, the Greek cultural and social infrastructure doesn't lend itself to these kinds of quotidian interactions for people with disabilities. This lack of infrastructure has created an even bigger gap in social inclusivity because people do not know how to coexist, which makes the contribution of Inclusive Lines of utmost importance.

For us, what is most rewarding at the end of each workshop is seeing participants with disabilities coexisting in groups and creating a positive influence in their environment. A participant in the accessible book creation workshop once said:





"When a child without a disability reads a book while simultaneously touching its Braille version, a new world opens up in front of the child!"

The future goal of Inclusive Lines is to create accessible conditions in as many cultural spaces as possible and through the workshops raise awareness about disabilities, hence developing new accessible services and original cultural products.



Dr. Anastasia Samara Angeliki Kosma



Creating an Inclusive Culture: The Value of Participatory Methods in Co-Designing Accessible Artifacts 🥉



Link to Inclusive Lines' Artivism Presentation

