

PS² ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION GUIDE

First produced: October 2026

To be reviewed and updated as renovation works progress on publicly accessible areas of the building

- PS²'s long-term aim is to be inclusive and accessible to all.
- We recognise the social model of disability. We understand that requirements are not the same for everyone, and that lived experience ranges across a spectrum of visible and invisible disabilities.
- This document outlines what elements of our building, our offsite locations and our programme are accessible, those that are inaccessible, and where we can make modifications to make your visit as comfortable as possible.

OUR NAME

- We realise that our organisation's name can be a bit confusing!
- PS² = Paragon Studios and Project Space. The little ² symbol is pronounced 'squared', like our website URL:
<https://www.pssquared.org>
- We don't mind at all if you prefer to say PS 'two' –please don't hesitate to say whatever you feel most comfortable with.

OUR BUILDING

We relocated to a new building in September 2026. Our address is:
31-35 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2AB



This is the image of our building that you will see if you Google our address.

As we settle in and make changes, we will update the images that appear online.

OFFSITE

We also create outdoor projects around the city. We call these our 'offsite' projects.

These mostly take place in PeasPark, which is an urban green space in North Belfast that we have been involved with since 2013. More information is available on page 8.

We also sometimes work in other locations throughout Belfast, with different sites, artists and communities.

ARRIVING AT PS²

- Our opening hours for exhibitions are 12pm – 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday each week.
- Our office hours are 10am – 6pm Monday to Friday, though we may occasionally run errands to get, for example, materials.

The footpath outside our High Street building can often be very busy with pedestrians.

The footpath has some obstacles, image below, which include:

- electricity junction boxes (permanent)
- lampposts for traffic lights (permanent)
- raised tree roots (permanent)
- signage from other local businesses (temporary/removeable)

Occasionally we also have a sign outside that indicates we are open – this sign can be easily moved by staff if necessary.



PARKING

- There is a layby outside our building, which offers accessible parking to blue badge holders. However, the layby is small and often very busy, so may not have space available.
- Further blue badge parking is available on High Street (image below, left) and also on Bridge Street (image below, right), though again, availability cannot be guaranteed.

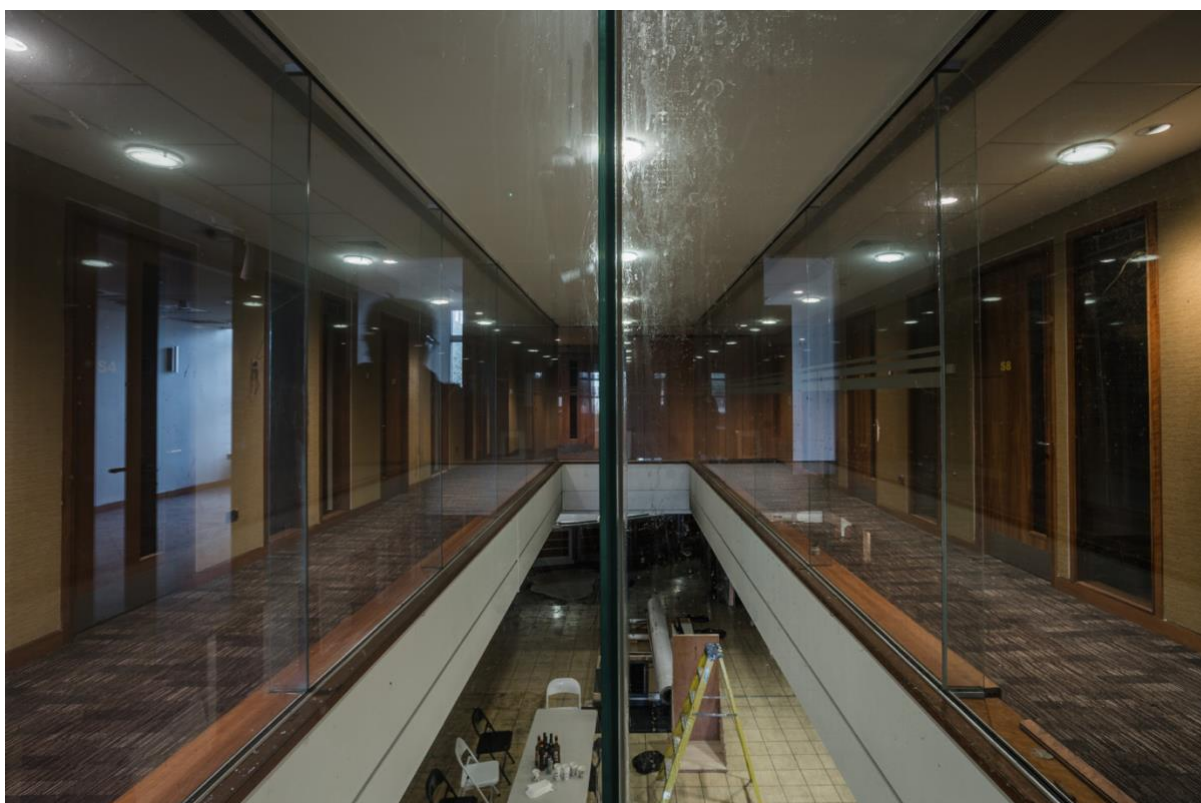


The nearest multi-storey car park, which has lift/elevator access, is Hi-Park, High Street, BT1 2BG.

ACCESSING PS²

- Our building has step-free access to the Project Space, where all our exhibitions and events will take place.
- We are still renovating other parts of the building, which will be publicly accessible in the near future. These other areas include:

- Meeting space
 - Workshop space
 - A new membership hub
- On the first, second and third floor of the building, we have artists' studios. These are not open to the public as they are private, lockable workspace.



This is a view of the first-floor atrium and studios, looking down onto the Project Space.

- If we are hosting events on the upper floors in future, (for example, Open Studios), we will provide specific accessibility guidance. These floors can be accessed by lift/elevator if necessary.
- If PS² is hosting an event, seating will consist of backed chairs. There will always be seating – usually benches measuring 150cm x 30cm – in the Project Space during exhibition launches and for the duration of the exhibitions. We also have beanbags if you prefer soft, low seating.

- Occasionally, depending on the exhibition, we might introduce sensory elements that could include sound or smells. Please check our website in advance of your visit, or email info@pssquared.org to discuss any current sensory exhibition elements if this is a concern.
- Our Project Space is illuminated by spotlights and some overhead bulkheads, although lighting will vary according to the exhibition or event we are staging. Please get in contact with us by emailing info@pssquared.org to discuss the current lighting if this is a concern.
- Some parts of our building can be quite dark. This is for several reasons. We are constrained by limits to what we can change in our meanwhile-use (temporary) building, such as installing new electrical sockets). We will also keep lights turned off to save energy and money when the spaces are not being used.
- Large-print versions of exhibition texts are available on request. We can also provide easy read versions of all our programme information, though this may not be available at all times due to a lack of staff capacity. Please email info@pssquared.org to request easy read material and we will provide this as quickly as possible.
- The meeting room, when renovated, will have a stock of books and catalogues from previous projects and we will make a list of these books available in the meeting room and on our website as soon as possible.
- British and Irish Sign Language interpreters can be available for events on request and for an additional charge. We need a good amount of notice in advance to arrange this, due to the time commitments on a small number of interpreters. Please email info@pssquared.org for further information.

- We are a dog friendly organisation, and welcome guide-dogs and hearing-dogs throughout the Project Space. Please keep your dog on a lead at all times. Do not engage with working animals without permission.

ACCESS TO PS² FACILITIES

- We have one ground floor accessible toilet for wheelchair users, people with mobility aids or people with prams. However, there are no specific baby-changing facilities.
- This bathroom is at the very back of the building, down a long corridor which is always kept clear for access and health & safety reasons. The bathroom is gender-neutral and clearly signposted.
- The toilet has a turning circle on entry and exit, and the door opens outwards.
- A light switch is located in the hallway, low down on the wall directly opposite the toilet door.
- There are other toilets on upper floors, which can only be used if public-facing activity is happening upstairs or if the ground floor toilet is out of order.
- Images of the corridor that leads to the toilet, and of the entrance to the toilet, are on the following page.



COVID-19 AND ACCESS TO PS²

- In 2026, we understand that COVID-19 presents an ongoing risk to members of our community. We stay aware of developments and spikes in airborne infections and viruses and respond accordingly.
- If you are shielding or vulnerable but would still like to visit PS² we can discuss the best time for you to visit. We have small bottles of hand-sanitiser available at our welcome desk and in the toilet. Please email info@pssquared.org for further information.

PS²'S OFFSITE LOCATIONS

- PeasPark is a community garden, urban park, recreational space, playground, and exhibition site in North Belfast.
- The pathways are rough and covered with mulch, which makes the use of wheelchairs difficult.
- Caution should also be taken in using mobility aids and prams. The ground can become very slippery or unsteady depending on recent weather. Please consider this in advance of travelling.
- The perimeter of the park has a footpath and fence.
- Please be aware that the park features numerous large raised wooden vegetable beds, as well as other ground-level obstructions such as planted pots and tyres.
- The park is regularly used by children and the local community. Please email info@pssquared.org to discuss any specific access requirements for PeasPark.



PS² IS A SAFE SPACE

PS² has a Safeguarding Policy which outlines a Code of Behaviour. This Code of Behaviour is applicable across all the organisation's sites and projects, including PeasPark.

PS² commits to:

- Promoting and protecting the human rights of all adults in every aspect of their work
- Treating all adults with dignity and respect
- Being patient and listening
- Communicating clearly, in whichever way best suits the individual and check their understanding
- Adopting a person-centred approach
- Treating all adults fairly and equally
- Promoting independence and choice
- Encouraging participation
- Helping all adults to fulfil their ability and potential
- Involving all adults in decision making to the fullest extent

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

There are three ground-floor fire escapes in the building:

- The main one is one via the ground floor entrance to the front of the building on High Street.
- Another ground floor fire escape is at the back of the Project Space, on the right-hand side. This leads to an alleyway along the side of the building known as Crown Entry.
- The final one is at the back of the building, which leads to a small alleyway, onto which you can exit via a door onto Crown Entry.

There are fire escapes on each of the upper three floors of the building, accessible by stairs only, all of which lead to Crown Entry.

PS2 has written procedures for dealing with emergencies which can be found in the Safeguarding Policy (which you can request by emailing info@pssquared.org)

PS² STAFF

When you are visiting PS² on High Street, or any of our offsite project locations, you might see the following people. Please do not hesitate to ask any of them for advice or assistance.

Davy



Jane



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

- This guide was first produced in October 2026, following our move to new premises in September 2026.
- It will be reviewed and updated again consistently as we continue to renovate our new publicly accessible spaces.
- This guide is not exhaustive, and we welcome your suggestions on how it can be improved. Please speak to a member of staff or email us info@pssquared.org with any questions or comments.
- This guide has been influenced by excellent guides that we have come across in Ormston House (Limerick), Eastside Projects (Birmingham), Site Gallery (Sheffield), and Aire Space Studios (Leeds). We are grateful to these organisations for inspiring us.

OTHER RESOURCES

- For more information on best practice in providing inclusive and accessible arts spaces in Northern Ireland, please refer to [University of Atypical's website](#). In 2027, we will work with this artist-led, disability-led organisation to undertake an Access Audit and Improvement Plan.
- CCA Derry~Londonderry has excellent links to resources for artists who want to produce an access rider. An access rider is a document that outlines your disability access needs. You can find more information on the gallery's [Supports page here](#).