Meaning "Please Touch" in Hebrew, The Nalaga'at Center stands as a remarkable institution that's transforming perceptions of inclusion, creativity, and human potential. More than a cultural hub, it's a revolutionary model creating equal employment opportunities and professional training for individuals with sensory disabilities, while raising public awareness through sensory-rich experiences and meaningful interactions.



## **How Our Story Started**

Born from a vision of equality and empowerment, our journey began in 2002 with a groundbreaking ensemble of eleven deaf-blind actors in the play production "Not by Bread Alone", that has blossomed into a multifaceted center that Na Laga'at is today, touching lives and breaking down barriers daily.

Na Laga'at Theatre & School

#### Stage beyond Senses

At the core of Na Laga'at is its world-renowned **Theatre** - the only one of its kind globally, where deaf, blind, and deaf-blind actors take center stage. Beyond showcasing talent, each of the many productions within our diverse repertoire, demonstrates the creation of a new cultural language, where communication transcends sensory limitations and creativity bridges gaps.

In 2022, Na Laga'at took another pioneering step by launching Israel's first School of **Performing Arts** for individuals with sensory disabilities. This cutting-edge program offers professional training, nurturing the next generation of artists and advocates for inclusion. The program inspires theatre schools globally, and we actively train educators across Europe to embrace and implement our inclusive approach.



# **Explore, Dine, Learn**

### Our Sensory Experiences

The **BlackOut** is Israel's only dark restaurant, where blind and visually impaired waiters guide diners through a sensory journey that awakens senses and opens minds. Here, in the complete darkness, guests discover a new appreciation for the unseen world navigated daily by the visually impaired.

At the Kapish Events Complex, sign language flows gracefully as deaf and hearing-impaired staff host gatherings that bridge the gap between silent and spoken words. It's a space where communication barriers fall away, replaced by understanding and connection. Our venue hosts conferences, cultural and professional meet-ups, for a diverse range of groups, including government agencies, municipalities, educational institutions, and businesses, all while embracing inclusive communication practices.

The **Workshop Center** stands as a testament to Na Laga'at's commitment to experiential learning, offering a range of unique and creative workshops in either darkness or full light. Participants of all backgrounds engage in immersive experiences led by deaf, blind, and deaf-blind instructors. From sculpting in darkness to navigating soundless spaces, as well as sensory-rich wine, beer, chocolate and cheese tastings, these workshops foster empathy and shatter preconceptions about disability.

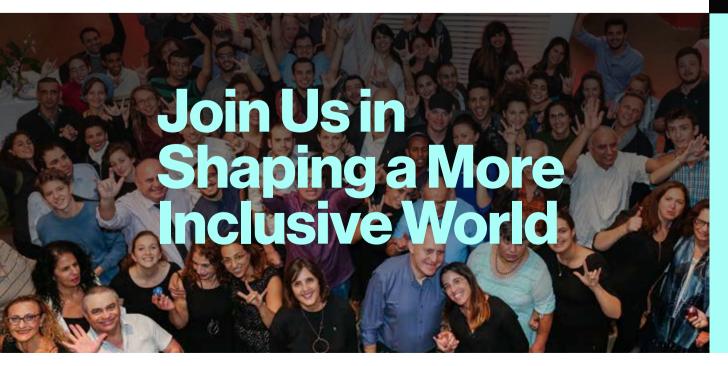




### **Our Commitment** to an Inclusive Workforce

The Na Laga'at center is unwaveringly committed to **employment equality.** Of the center's 100 strong workforce, 70% are individuals with sensory disabilities. This bold statement proves that talent, creativity, and professionalism know no sensory bounds.

Research by Dr. Gili Hammer documents the transformative impact of interactions at Na Laga'at for both visitors and employees. These encounters transcend sympathy, fostering genuine connections that embrace differences and reshapes views on disability and ability.



By sharing our model, we hope to serve as a blueprint for inclusive cultural spaces worldwide and inspire others to create environments that promote equality and acceptance. We invite cultural institutions, non-profit organizations, social entrepreneurs, and municipalities to partner with us in bringing our transformative model to your community. Whether you're interested in replicating our model or adapting specific elements, our team is ready to provide comprehensive guidance, from operational strategies to staff training.

#### Ready to make a difference? Contact us at:

office@nalagaat.org.il or call +972-3-633-0808 to explore how we can collaborate in fostering a more inclusive world through the power of the art.









