

## Island Inclusive Arts Festival “Breaking Boundaries” in Tainan

**Festival Dates:** October 15 to 27, 2024

**Location:** Taikang Cultural Center  
No. 207, Section 1, Anji Road, Annan District  
Tainan City, Taiwan

**Organized by:** Resident Island Dance Theatre

**Website:** <https://2024-ygmk.b12sites.com>

The 2nd **Island Inclusive Arts Festival: "Boundaries of Freedom,"** organized by Resident Island Dance Theatre (RIDT), is proudly supported by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), the Ministry of Culture, and the National Culture and Arts Foundation. The festival will take place in Tainan from October 15th to 27th, 2024. It will focus on exploring and redefining the meaning of boundaries — both physical and symbolic — as well as the desire for freedom.



These boundaries, often seen as barriers, also represent opportunities for crossing and transformation. Through **inclusive dance performances**, workshops, lectures, and visual exhibitions, the festival is a platform for equal exchange and creative expression, fostering a deeper understanding of inclusivity in society.

There are 1.198 million people in Taiwan with disability certificates, accounting for 5.1% of the country's population. While the disabled population remains a minority, it has been steadily increasing with a growth rate of 1% compared to the previous year and a 2.4% rise since 2016. Among these, the elderly population (aged 65 years or above) constitutes the highest group, accounting for nearly 45% of the disabled community. As Taiwan transitions into a super-aged society, it is crucial to address the needs and challenges faced by this growing demographic.

A highlight of this year's Island Inclusive Arts Festival is the participation of American-Asian disabled musician Carina Ho, who will lead workshops and lectures. Carina Ho will also collaborate with RIDT to co-create the focal program, *Eternal City*. This collaboration exemplifies the close ties between RIDT and the international community, particularly the United States, in promoting inclusive arts.

RIDT was recently selected for the 6th edition of the prestigious Center Stage program, a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with general management by Lisa Booth Management, Inc., RIDT toured its inclusive dance work *Ice Age* in 2023, performing at iconic venues like the American Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

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**Resident Island Dance Theatre (RIDT)**, founded by visually impaired choreographer Chang Chung-An from Pingtung, Taiwan, is a leading contemporary dance ensemble in the region. It's supported by the National Culture and Arts Foundation's annual TAIWAN TOP grants. Since its establishment, RIDT has been committed to integrating social and cultural issues into its works, particularly focusing on the development of disability-inclusive dance arts. Through performances and community outreach, RIDT seeks to deepen the practice of inclusive arts within Taiwan.

RISD has established itself as a key player in the global inclusive arts scene. In 2016, RIDT presented *Lost in Grey*, a dance production that tackles mental disability, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. RIDT attended Unlimited Festival in London, with the support of the British Council, and has participated in professional courses and workshops organized by important U.K. inclusive dance companies such as Candoco, Stopgap, and Adam Benjamin. RIDT has also been invited to festivals like the Gathered Together Festival in Scotland, the Hong Kong International Inclusive Dance Festival, and the Korea International Accessible Dance Festival.

In recent years, RIDT has been promoting inclusive arts throughout Southern Taiwan by organizing dance workshops, training programs, and site-specific performances for performers of mixed abilities. These efforts have cultivated a passionate group of disabled artists while raising public awareness of the beauty and importance of inclusive arts.

RIDT warmly invites you to participate in the **Island Inclusive Arts Festival** in Tainan from October 15h to 27th. Come join the performances and engage with the public as we help raise awareness of diversity, equality, inclusion, and accessibility issues. Through this inclusive and celebratory festival, we hope to challenge preconceived notions, break down societal biases, and transform boundaries into a positive, creative force.

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