

vzw WHEELCHAIRITY asbl

*From a one-off benefit music festival to making Brussels more accessible:
creating awareness and improving the disabled's mobility.*



Lei Vierendeels
President
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2017 was another successful year for Wheelchairity! We were able to organize several inclusive events and contributed to a more accessible society. However, accessibility for the disabled still remains widely underestimated subject in Brussels, even in 2018. But the same goes for the other major cities in Belgium. Cities like Berlin, Copenhagen, and even London prove that small adjustments in urban development can result in major day-to-day improvements for the disabled. That is why it is Wheelchairity's intention to strive for further efforts in the matter, whether public or private, and always doing so with a positive and inclusive attitude.

1. The beginnings

Originally, Wheelchairity was conceived and set-up as a one-off benefit music festival for a friend who had been involved in a tragic car accident and was left paralyzed from the waist down for the rest of his life. After the first edition (May 2012) it became however clear to the organizers that the concept itself could be used to improve awareness with regards to the day-to-day mobility problems of the physically disabled. So the one-off music festival became a yearly, inclusive (both disabled and non-disabled persons attend) family event sensitizing its non-disabled audience in an unrestrained, non-patronizing and non-pedantic way, inviting nationally renowned artists, and providing numerous thematic activities for all ages. But Wheelchairity doesn't stop there; hereafter we briefly present the ambitions of the Wheelchairity organisation.

2. Ambitions

Wheelchairity has the following ambitions:

- Improving the overall accessibility of those places that are currently not accessible for disabled people.
- Bringing together disabled and non-disabled people.
- Organizing an inclusive festival on a yearly basis with performances of renowned artists and sensitizing its non-disabled audience in an unrestrained, non-patronizing and non-pedantic way.
- Increasing the awareness of the issues faced on a daily basis by people with a physical disability.

3. Festival

The festival is organised every year in Brussels. As mentioned previously its goal is to bring disabled and non-enabled people together in an unrestrained, non-patronizing and non-pedantic way. Throughout the day the visitors can enjoy performances of both locally as nationally renowned artists. Besides they can also participate in several activities focussed on increasing the awareness of the issues faced on a daily basis by people with a physical disability, e.g. wheelchair hockey, wheelchair table tennis and 'blindfolded soccer'. We also organise activities for the children. Participation to all these activities as well as the access to our festival is completely free of charge, in order to reach a broad audience, both young as old, disabled as non-disabled. This year our seventh edition will take place on Saturday the 12th of May.

4. Financial needs

Although we receive financial support from some local firms, it remains a challenge to fund all our activities on a daily basis. Therefore we are constantly on the lookout for new potential partners who can provide us the necessary financial support enabling us to continue our work supporting disabled people. We sincerely hope that you can be listed as a partner for the coming year.

Please feel free to contact us by email or telephone if any further information or financial figures are required. Contact details are listed below.

Thank you in advance,

Yours sincerely

On behalf of Vzw Wheelchairity asbl

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