

DIGITAL PROGRAM



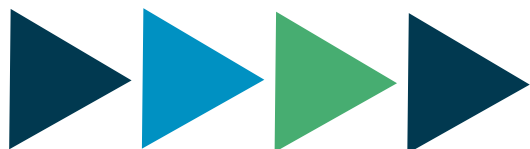
# CULTURAL ACCESSIBILITY CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY  Art-Reach

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

ONLINE





# LINE-UP

## DAY ONE

**TUESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 21**

### **12 PM EDT KEYNOTE**

Attend the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Honorable Tony Coelho's invigorating keynote.

### **1:30 PM EDT THE FUN-DAMENTALS OF ADA**

Journey through the facets of the American's with Disabilities Act!  
Presented by Dani Rose.

### **3:30 PM EDT LET'S TALK QUIET**

Learn best practices to utilize quiet rooms to help people with autism attend their organization. Presented By Ross Edelstein.

## DAY TWO

**WEDNESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 22**

### **11:30 AM EDT LINCOLN CENTER @ HOME**

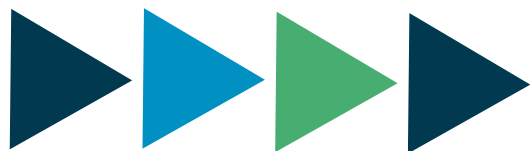
This session will focus on Lincoln Center's journey adapting in-person accessible programming to the virtual space. Presented By Laura Sloan.

### **1:30 PM EDT ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING: THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL INCLUSION**

Starting with a conversation about disability, the session seeks to provide participants with a framework of looking at accessibility from a Diversity/Equity/Inclusion perspective. Presented by Beth Prevora and John McEwen.

### **3:30 PM EDT RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION**

This panel will feature cultural organizations in New York City that will share their experiences creating inclusive & accessible employment practices. Presented by Arielle Lever, Kristen Sweeney, Lulu Fogarty, Miranda Hoffner, Wyatt Patterson, Janette Martinez.



# LINE-UP

## DAY THREE

THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 23

### 11:30 AM EDT BUILDING ACCESSIBLE POLICIES: A TEAM EFFORT

Attendees will learn about The Cincinnati Art Museum's journey of creating departmental accessibility policies, from first draft through implementation. Presented By Sara Birkofer & Emily Holtrop.

### 1:30 PM EDT IDEA: INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT & ACCESS

The session will focus on quick DIY approaches that all can take towards making digital content accessible for a wider group of people. Presented by Siddhant Shah.

### 3:30 PM EDT CALL TO ACTION! BE AN A-D-V-O-C-A-T-E

Let's collaborate to get creative, yet deliberate, in asking for and providing for accessibility during these times of global change. Presented By Dr. Tina Childress.

## ON-DEMAND

Access these 20-minute learning opportunities at any time during the conference!

- ▲ SERVICE FIRST: CUSTOMER SERVICE & ACCESSIBILITY  
BY DANI ROSE
- ▲ VIBE: INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING FOR VISITORS  
WITH LOW VISION IN EUROPEAN MUSEUMS  
BY TADHG CROWLEY
- ▲ WON'T STAY HOME: AN INCLUSIVE, DISABILITY  
FRIENDLY, ADAPTIVE CONCERT  
BY ALIN HALATIU

# WELCOME LETTER

Hi everyone and welcome to Art-Reach's 3rd Annual Cultural Accessibility Conference!

I do not have the words to convey how excited my team and I are at Art-Reach to welcome you to the 2021 Cultural Accessibility Conference. We wondered how we would build on the success of the conference last year. It didn't take long to find out. From our opening keynote session this year with former Congressman and primary author of the ADA, Tony Coelho all the way to our closing Call to Action with Dr. Tina Childress, we have thought leaders from across the country ready to share their vision on how to create an equitable world for people with disabilities.

We're also excited that so many people took advantage of conference scholarships. The past 18 months have not been kind to cultural professionals--staff has been cut, budgets have been slashed, and professional development funds have been tough to recover. Creating equitable financial access to this event is just as important to Art-Reach as making the arts accessible. It does not matter how you got here, what matters is that you take the lessons you learn back home and put them to good use.

Enjoy the conference everyone!

John Orr  
Executive Director  
Art-Reach



# ► PRESENTER BIOS

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 12 PM EDT**

## **THE HONORABLE ANTHONY “TONY” COELHO**

**KEYNOTE**



Diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 22 years old, Mr. Coelho's ministry is marked by significant milestones: primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the last 30 years; advocating for the ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and convincing President Bill Clinton to establish the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Coelho also convinced President Barack Obama to issue an executive order requiring federal contractors and subcontractors to hire people with disabilities as they have been doing since 1973 for women and minorities.

Mr. Coelho is a former six-term United States Congressman from California, elected in 1978 and serving until 1989. He served on the Agriculture, Interior, Veterans Affairs, and Administration Committees during his tenure, specializing in disability rights. In 1986, Mr. Coelho was elected House Majority Whip, the third most powerful position in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Coelho founded The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation at Loyola Marymount University. The Coelho Center will pursue a three-pronged mission: convening thought leaders to pursue positive change on disability issues; leveraging technology to advance the lives of people with disabilities; and creating a pipeline of lawyers with disabilities to populate the bench and hold elected office.

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1:30 PM EDT**

## **DANI ROSE**

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF THE ADA**

#### **SERVICE FIRST: CUSTOMER SERVICE & ACCESSIBILITY**



Dani Rose is Training Manager and ADA Coordinator at Ticket Philadelphia, the customer service arm of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, hosting over 1500 events per year. For five years Dani has provided dedicated attention to access services through ticketing, customer service training, and has worked to influence the development of Access Services for the Kimmel Center's resident companies & venues.

Starting her career behind the scenes, Dani has a true understanding of how to share the magic of theatre with audiences. Bringing that level of production, passion, and enthusiasm to Customer Service, Dani's role as a Training Manager allows her to share that magic-making philosophy with her team. Believing fully that inclusion is key, Dani has worked with her teams to develop programs that increase accessibility and influence greater diversity in participation in the Cultural Arts.

[Click here to connect with Dani on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 3:30 PM EDT

## ROSS EDELSTEIN

### LET'S TALK QUIET



Ross Edelstein is an accessibility expert based out of the Indianapolis area. Holding a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Indiana University - Purdue University - Indianapolis, and working on a PhD in Special Education from Indiana University, Ross' work is steeped in academic research and rigor. He has experience working at multiple institutions in the Indianapolis area, ranging from archival work to interpretation and engagement to accessibility work and consulting. Ross has spoken at events hosted by the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium, Museum, Arts and Culture Access Consortium, and Association of Academic Museums. Ross also identifies as a person with autism, and weaves his lived experience into his work with accessibility and inclusion.

[Click here to Connect with Ross on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 11:30 AM EDT

## LAURA SLOAN

LINCOLN CENTER @ HOME



Laura Sloan is the Accessibility Manager at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She oversees Passport to the Arts, free programming for children, teens, and adults with disabilities that provides a welcoming and accessible introduction to the performing arts. She also manages Lincoln Center Moments, a performance-based program for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Laura works with the Access Ambassadors, high school students with disabilities who participate in a year-long training program and assist at programs on the Lincoln Center campus.

Laura draws on eight years of experience managing Docent and Access Programs at the Rubin Museum of Art, including the Mindful Connections program for visitors with memory loss and their care partners, verbal description tours, and tours for neurodiverse visitors. Laura recruited and trained museum educators to lead incredible tours for all audiences. She completed her M.A. in Museum Studies from The City College of New York.

[Click here to connect with Laura on LinkedIn.](#)



# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1:30 PM EDT

## JOHN MCEWEN

### ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING: THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL INCLUSION



John McEwen has served as the Executive Director of New Jersey Theatre Alliance since 2001. Prior to the Alliance, John served as Vice President for Development of the New Jersey Network Foundation where he was responsible for providing the leadership for an annual fund goal of more than \$7 million in support of NJN Public Television and Radio's programs and services. Prior to joining NJN, John served as the Director of Development for Paper Mill Playhouse where he oversaw all fundraising activities, long-range planning, and board development. John provided the leadership for Paper Mill's successful \$10 million capital campaign.

John has consulted numerous organizations on board development, long-range planning, fundraising, and cultural access. He received a BA from Montclair State University and an MA from New York University. John is a graduate of Leadership/New Jersey and was selected as one of 50 nonprofit arts leaders to participate in the Executive Program for Nonprofit Arts Leaders at Stanford University, a partnership of Stanford and National Arts Strategies.

[Click here to connect with John on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1:30 PM EDT

## BETH PREVOR

### ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING: THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL INCLUSION



Co-founder and Executive Director of Hands On, an arts service organization advocating for access to the cultural arts for the Deaf community and audiences with disabilities. For the last 30+ years, Hands On has been providing access for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities of NYC through sign language interpreted theater at some of NYC's most prestigious theaters including The Roundabout Theater Company, The New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater and The New Victory Theater.

Beth works with arts organizations to ensure inclusion for all by providing marketing, community engagement and audience development strategies. She currently serves as the Accessibility Coordinator with The New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and as Access Consultant for The Alliance of Resident Theater/New York (ART/NY). As a disabled advocate, Beth is active as an advisory member to many groups including The Museum, Arts and Culture Access Consortium (MAC) and The Shubert Audience Services Advisory Committee. She has led workshops on accessibility and the arts for organizations around the country including the Kennedy Center's LEAD (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability) Conference, Americans for the Arts, The National Arts Marketing Project, and Theater Communications Group (TCG).

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM EDT

## ARIELLE LEVER

### RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Arielle Lever is a New York City based Arts Administrator / Theater Artist / Teaching Artist, who focuses a great deal of her energy and work around accessibility in theater. She is the Project Manager of Supporting Transitions at MAC, which aims to increase opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities at cultural institutions. Arielle is also a co-founder and Teaching Artist at CO/LAB Theater Group, a non-profit dedicated to providing individuals with developmental disabilities theater arts opportunities. She is also a Teaching Artist at The New Victory Theater, where she often. Previously, Arielle was the Project Manager for Lincoln Center Moments, a program for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. She often runs trainings and consults for companies on theater accessibility practices.

[Click here to connect with Arielle on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM EDT

## KRISTEN SWEENEY

### RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Kirsten Sweeney is a neurodivergent arts administrator, educator, and disability advocate based in New York City. She is the Education & Access Coordinator at the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, where she provides accessibility-related support and learning opportunities to over 400 nonprofit theatre companies across the five boroughs of New York City. Kirsten is also a Co-Chair of the Museum, Arts, and Culture Access Consortium (MAC) and is involved in their Supporting Transitions program, which seeks to increase opportunities at cultural organizations for adults on the autism spectrum.

[Click here to connect with Kristen on LinkedIn.](#)

## LULU FOGARTY

### RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Lulu is a theatre artist, arts educator, Hip Hop lover, and activist. She is committed to supporting radically transformative, equitable spaces in which all belong. She became an arts administrator after teaching acting and poetry to people of all ages for 7 years. She received a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University, and an MEd in Educational Theatre from the City College of New York. She is a member of Actors Equity Association.

[Click here to connect with Lulu on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM EDT

## MIRANDA HOFFNER

### RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Miranda Hoffner is the Associate Director of Accessibility & Guest Services at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In that role, she implements initiatives, services, and programs to increase accessibility for all visitors, staff, and artists to Lincoln Center's campus, including performances to engage individuals with dementia and their caregivers, job-readiness programs for young people with developmental disabilities and disabled artistry performances. Prior to this role, Miranda conceived, created, and grew access programs and resources for students, adults, and families with disabilities at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. She is actively involved in the accessibility field in New York, as the former Chair and current Steering Committee Member of the Museum Access Consortium, and a founding member of the New York City Museum Educator's Roundtable Access Peer Group, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Best Practices Working Group, and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum's Access Advisory Council. She is a member of the Queens Theatre for All Advisory Committee and served as the New American Voices Reading Series Adviser for Queens Theatre for their Disability Series in 2016-2017. She has presented at local and national conferences on accessibility. Miranda has a B.A. in Anthropology and English from the University of Vermont and an M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University.

[Click here to connect with Miranda on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 3:30 PM EDT

## WYATT PATTERSON

### RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Wyatt Patterson is a Hip hop lover and Environmental activist who currently lives in Jamaica, Queens. He is very dedicated to helping the environment in any way he can with dreams of making the world. A better place for everyone. He received his high school diploma from the Queens High School of Teaching and is currently attending Queens College with the goal of majoring in a degree in environmental science. He previously was an intern at the Queens college Library and part of the Kitchen staff at the Townsend Harris high school. His most recent Internship was for the beat program where he was to create an event for the program over the summer.

## RACHEL LEE

### RE-IMAGINING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCESS AND INCLUSION



Rachel Lee (she/her) is a facilitator and educator who is passionate about creating workplaces where everyone can be their most joyful, authentic selves. Currently, she works for Little Island, a brand new public park and public art space that opened in the spring of this year. In addition to her work at Little Island, Rachel also has an artistic background and has worked as a director, choreographer, and teaching artist for several arts institutions in NYC. [Click here to connect with Rachel on LinkedIn.](#)



# ► PRESENTER BIOS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 11:30 AM EDT

## SARA BIRKOER

### **BUILDING ACCESSIBLE POLICIES: A TEAM EFFORT**



As the Manager of Accessibility and Gallery Programs, Sara Birkofer facilitates accessibility initiatives throughout the museum, including the cross-departmental staff accessibility committee, Accessibility Advisory Council, and the Accessibility Audit and Expansion Initiative funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services Museums for America. Sara was awarded the 2109 Community Partner from the Greater Cincinnati Autism Society and the 2019 Emerging LEADER award from the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability by the Kennedy Center.

[Click here to connect with Sara on LinkedIn.](#)

## EMILY HOLTROP

### **BUILDING ACCESSIBLE POLICIES: A TEAM EFFORT**



Emily Holtrop is the Director of Learning & Interpretation at the Cincinnati Art Museum. With over 19 years of museum education experience, Ms. Holtrop has worked in the Division of Learning & Interpretation at the Cincinnati Art Museum since 2002. In her current role, Ms. Holtrop oversees the Art Museum's interpretive and educational initiatives. This includes public programs for all audiences.

[Click here to connect with Emily on LinkedIn.](#)

# ► PRESENTER BIOS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1:30 PM EDT

## SIDDHANT SHAH

**IDEA: INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT  
& ACCESS**



Siddhant Shah is an independent museum accessibility and art-outreach consultant and heads Access For ALL - one point destination for access needs. Shah is a serial TEDx speaker, UNESCO consultant, and founder of Access For ALL. An organization that bridges the gap between museums, arts, and disability with a focus to provide physical, intellectual, and social access at sites of cultural significance. Shah is the youngest recipient of a national level award – ‘Mphasis Universal Design Award 2017’ and has worked on various areas of access and inclusion across the globe.

[Click here to connect with Siddhant on LinkedIn.](#)



# ► PRESENTER BIOS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 3:30 PM EDT

## DR. TINA CHILDRESS

**CALL TO ACTION! BE AN A-D-V-O-C-A-T-E**



Tina Childress uses her dual perspective as an audiologist and late-deafened adult with cochlear implants to educate, collaborate and advocate for accessibility across environments. As an avid theater-goer, she is passionate about ensuring theater experiences are accessible, especially with the transition to virtual performances. Dr. Childress is active on numerous local, state and national advocacy Boards and Committees where she strives to effect change for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. She has presented and taught internationally, published widely and shared numerous resources that she has created on social media. She loves technology and the arts and is always willing to help people leverage the power of both.

# ON-DEMAND PRESENTER BIOS

## ALIN HALAȚIU

### **WON'T STAY HOME: AN INCLUSIVE, DISABILITY FRIENDLY, ADAPTIVE CONCERT**



Freelance Stage Manager / Technician working with some of Bucharest's best-known venues, bands, or events companies and President / Events Manager of The Help Me Be A Rockstar Association, the first Romanian inclusive and accessible concert organizer.



## TADHG CROWLEY

### **VIBE: INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING FOR VISITORS WITH LOW VISION IN EUROPEAN MUSEUMS**

Tadhg Crowley is the Senior Curator – Education + Community at the Glucksman in University College Cork, Ireland. Tadhg designed the University's first Visual Arts Module for third-level students with intellectual disabilities delivered as part of the Certificate in Contemporary Living. In 2019, the module was recognized as one of Europe's Best Practices by the Erasmus + Creative Inclusion in Adult Education. [Click here to connect to Tadhg on LinkedIn.](#)

# **ABOUT ART-REACH**

Art-Reach creates, advocates for and expands accessible opportunities in the arts so the full spectrum of society is served. We were founded in 1986, four years prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, with a mission to connect individuals with disabilities to the arts. Since then, we've created groundbreaking programs that remove barriers to access and innovative accessible programming. Our programs serve over 200,000 people a year in Greater Philadelphia. We educate and provide professional development opportunities to cultural professionals.



# **THANK YOU!**

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE PRESENTERS, ALL OF OUR ATTENDEES, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO MADE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE!**  
**SPECIAL SHOUT OUTS TO:**

**TONY COELHO**

**ANNA PERNG**

**CAPTION ACCESS**

**HANDS UP PRODUCTIONS**

**JOHN MCEWEN**

**DIANE NUTTING**

**TINA CHILDRESS**

**JEFFREY BETHEA**

**MARSHA DRENTH**

**ALIZA GREENBERG**

**ROGER I IDEISHI**

**MYDERA ROBINSON**

# ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

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A disability-owned business

[www.CaptionAccess.com](http://www.CaptionAccess.com)

[contact@captionaccess.com](mailto:contact@captionaccess.com)



CaptionAccess

## ASL INTERPRETATION BY:

### HANDS UP PRODUCTIONS

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