

OCTOBER 2022



California Commission on Disability Access

# Fall Scoop



**An Accessible, Barrier-Free California = Inclusive and Equal Opportunities and Participation for All Californians!**

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### Upcoming Committee Meetings

#### 2022 Meetings

#### Executive Committee

October 12, 2022

1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

#### Full Commission

October 26, 2022

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 P.M.

## Commission Highlights

All Access to articles, videos, and interviews can be found on our website under the “News” tab ([www.dgs.ca.gov/CCDA/news](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/CCDA/news)).

**Commissioner Ida Clair featured in USC Trojan Family:** University of Southern California (USC) Alumni, Commissioner Ida Clair, who received her Bachelor of Science in 1987. Commissioner Clair is the first appointed female State Architect, as well as the first Technical Administrator of the Certified Access Specialist Program (CAsp).

**Rex Hime Awarded:** Celebrate the achievements of Rex Hime who served as President and CEO of California Business Properties Association (CBPA) for 37 years.

**Chair Commissioner Chris Downey’s 60 Minutes Interview:** Television Interviewer Lesley Stahl from CBS News: 60 Minutes interviews Commissioner Downey on his life as a blind architect.

## CCDA's Farewell to Angela Jemmott



California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) celebrates Former Executive Director Angela Jemmott who has accepted an appointment from Governor Newsom to become the Chief of the California Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers (BREA). Executive Director Jemmott started her career with the State of California as a Staff Service Analyst at the Department of General Services (DGS) before becoming the Executive Director of the CCDA.

Over her years of service, Executive Director Jemmott and the Commission led CCDA's efforts of supplying much-needed information, education, outreach, and training targeted at making the state accessible for all its citizens. The CCDA's staff are grateful for her leadership and commitment to our mission to promote disability access in California. Through dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders like the disability and business communities she was able to continue CCDA's mission. While she will be missed as the Executive Director of the CCDA, we look forward to seeing all she will do as the Chief of BREA.

## Appreciation for Interim Executive Director

After Executive Director Angela Jemmott's departure, the CCDA had one of their longest serving Commissioners, Michael Paravagna, assume the role of Interim Executive Director. The CCDA would like to show their appreciation to Commissioner Paravagna.

Over the past nine years, Commissioner Paravagna has been able to gather with CCDA's diverse Commission. This created an environment where he learned valuable information and different points of view from his peers. He has accomplished various tasks with his time with the CCDA that have strived to make California more accessible and barrier free. Listening Forums are used to explore topics regarding access to find common ground with CCDA's Stakeholders. Commissioner Paravagna designed and assisted in these and has help to bring the focus back for this next upcoming year.

He served as the first chairperson of the Legislative Subcommittee. Commissioner Paravagna was able to recommend the mandatory involvement of CASp reviews within the State Treasurer's Loan Program for small business access. Commissioner Paravagna hopes to see a greater understanding of disability as a normal human experience. He wants there to be accessibility as a vital part of any free society.

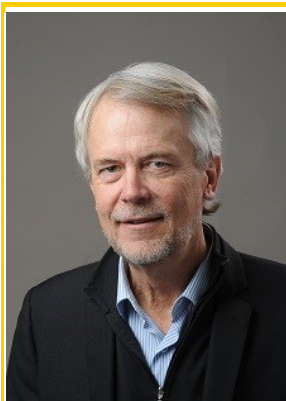


## Welcome Executive Director: April Dawson



The CCDA welcomes our newly appointed Executive Director, April Marie Dawson. Executive Director Dawson was sworn in at the CCDA headquarters on August 22, 2022. Executive Director Dawson's previous role was Executive Director at Resources for Independent Living (RIL). RIL is an organization that helps people with disabilities to obtain social and economic independence. Executive Director April Dawson is honored to be appointed at the CCDA and looks forward to increasing access to all.

## Victorious Victory from the Vice - Chair



The California Commission on Disability Access's (CCDA) Vice-Chair, Commissioner Doug Wiele, has been a vital part of CCDA's efforts to create an accessible California for all. In addition to his duties as a commissioner, he is the founder and president of Foothill Partners Inc. This is a commercial real estate development organization committed to engaging the Center of Commerce, the Center of Culture, and the Center of Community back together. The firm focuses on re-imagining and rebuilding failed properties in central business districts around the State.

Foothill Partners Inc. and Innovation Collective worked together to create a memorable environment, known as the Oddie District. They are using a vacant Lowe's Home Improvement Center for this project that is 200,000 square feet. The Oddie District is a place for the community to come together. It has art spaces, education, food spots and flex-tech "maker-economy" workspaces.

Within this district is The Generator, which is a non-profit maker space where artists from the community can continue to create their art pieces. 35,000 square feet of the Oddie District has been dedicated to The Generator since early 2022. The Generator is an art space tenant at the Oddie District and is open to the public. Before being opened to the public it was used as a set for Jeremy Renner's new Disney+ show, "Rennervations", to be aired in September.

Commissioner Wiele set out to restore a big space that was no longer in use. There is trend of big-box stores closing across the United States. This project can be an example that architects, and developers can take to bring empty buildings back to life. He has developed an abandoned property and turned it into a Center of Commerce, with a Center of Culture, and brought back the Center of Community.



## Myth or Misconception? #2

**Misconception:** My facility was built with a permit and should be fine.

**Answer:** Unfortunately, even with building department oversight, it is common to find construction shortcomings that constitute violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations or the California Building Code (CBC). As we know, the ADA is a civil rights law not enforced by the local building department. Shortcomings may be attributed to any number of issues, and it is difficult to be specific. However, some potential causes can be linked to errors in design, engineering, construction, or inspection; poor specifications for furnishings and fixtures; or even simple wear and tear or maintenance procedures. Each situation is different, our best suggestion is to obtain a CASp inspection to identify any such violations as soon as possible. To learn more about the CASp program, visit the Division of State Architect website:



**CASp Property Inspection-** <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/Certified-Access-Specialist-Property-Inspection?search=casp>

## Ranking #1 in the California Top Ten Alleged Construction-Related Disability Access Violations

Among alleged construction-related access violations in the CCDA records from July 2021 through December 2021: Access to Goods, Support, Services, and Equipment ranked the highest at 21% of the total alleged violations. This alleged violation consists of the surface heights and space requirements for counters, tables, bars, or seating that is not ADA compliant.

What does this mean for you as a business owner or property owner? Utilize your resources. See the list below as a guide to becoming compliant with local, state, and federal disability access laws.

## Let's Get Access Compliant Quick Helpful Resources for your Business/Property

**California Capital Access Program (CalCAP) for Small Business** (California State Treasurer)  
<https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cpcf/calcap/index.asp>

**California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)**  
<https://www.calosba.ca.gov/>

**Access Compliance Reference Materials** (Division of the State Architect)  
[www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources)

**Disability Access** Tips for the small business -  
YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNNFQ9EuHbc>



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