

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS FALL SCOOP CCDA NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING COMMISSION EVENTS

Executive Committee October 11, 2023 | 1:30 – 3:00 P.M.

Full Commission October 25, 2023 | 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

2023 LISTENING FORUM

On August 31st, 2023, CCDA hosted their first listening forum since 2018 in the City of San José. Councilmember Pam Foley started the conversation by focusing on improving accessibility in the city, particularly in relation to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). April Dawson, the Executive Director of the California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA), discussed the CCDA's mission to increase disability access in California through collaboration.

The event included a panel discussion and an interactive Q&A session allowing attendees to ask questions and share insights, providing a dialogue aimed at achieving accessibility and inclusion. Panelists stressed the importance of education and collaboration between business owners and people with disabilities to promote accessibility. The forum shows the importance of collaboration and partnership between government agencies, businesses, and advocates to improve accessibility for people with disabilities in San José.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October 1st marks the beginning of the *National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)* that recognizes the various contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce. The CCDA would like to celebrate the contributions of America's workers with disabilities and help to educate people on what NDEAM is.

NDEAM is important because it highlights and educates the struggles people living with disabilities have in the labor market. For this month of October, the CCDA hopes to create awareness opportunities for everyone to show that work accessibility is as vital to success as educational and hiring opportunities are for people with disabilities. The future of work must be accessible and

inclusive to all because it can empower people with disabilities to fully participate within their communities by using their talents and contributions to make for a better society.

ADA NATIONAL NETWORK

The Pacific ADA Center, part of region 9 within the ADA National Network, serves as a resource hub for promoting and facilitating compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the western United States and Pacific territories. Offering a range of services including training, technical assistance, and advocacy, the center plays a role in empowering businesses, government entities, and individuals to understand ADA standards. Through collaboration with the ADA National Network, it contributes to the nationwide effort for equal access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities by providing education, guidance, and support across its designated region.

SORENSEN COMMUNICATIONS

Sorenson Communications is a company that provides communication solutions tailored to the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community. One service provided is the Video Relay Service (VRS), which is a technology that enables individuals who use American Sign Language (ASL) to effectively communicate with those who do not understand sign language through video calls. The service employs qualified ASL interpreters to facilitate conversations, that opens a world of communication possibilities for all.

In your pursuit of an inclusive business, VRS can be used to interact with customers in the deaf and hard of hearing community. A range of devices and applications under the Ntouch® brand by Sorenson Communications are designed to enhance video relay communication. These Ntouch® devices, including videophones and software applications, that could offer a practical way for businesses to engage with customers who communicate using sign language. By integrating video relay services into customer support systems, websites, and other communication channels, businesses can provide an inclusive experience for all.

COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY – *THE ROSE*

After more than a decade, a new live music venue named "The Rose" is about to transform the entertainment landscape near California State University, Sacramento. Vice Chair Commissioner Holloway is a planner for this venue and is thrilled about the project's progression. The venue, situated at 2950 Ramona Ave, will use existing warehouse structures, and transform them into a vibrant live events space with a restaurant.

Recently rebranded from Sacramento Music Hall, The Rose, will be a 21,000-square-foot theater area, a 5,000-square-foot bar and restaurant space. There will be a capacity to accommodate up to 2,000 attendees.

The facility will utilize private security and management staff to direct vehicles entering and exiting the parking location. Part of the 5.3-acre parcel includes a vacant parking lot with 477 spaces. The complex would include electric vehicle charging stations, solar generation on site and a shuttle to the Power Inn light rail station.

The Rose represents a long-awaited addition to Sacramento, bringing a new music scene venue and creating an engaging entertainment space. It will provide low-cost venue rental opportunities for music and performing arts programs, neighborhood associations, and business meeting needs. Projected for completion is by Fall 2024.

MYTH OR MISCONCEPTION? #4

Misconception: I understand that a waiver from accessibility requirements may be obtained.

Answer: It is possible that a particular degree of accessibility in an alteration might be found to be an “unreasonable hardship”, “disproportionate”, or “technically infeasible”. Such findings have specific meaning and must be approved and recorded by the building department at the time an alteration is made. There is no such thing as a retroactive waiver. For facilities that were built prior to January 26, 1992, the federal requirement is to remove barriers to the extent that it is “readily achievable” and evaluations to determine if removing a barrier is readily achievable should follow the technical guidance provided by the United States Department of Justice. Such an evaluation is a decision that a business must make based on the cost of barrier removal and the resources of the business, and may require the expert assistance of a CASp, a design professional, an attorney, and/or an accountant.

NEW COMMISSIONER DR. LUCIANA PROFACA

The CCDA welcomes Commissioner Dr. Luciana Profaca. Commissioner Dr. Profaca has been committed to the equality, independence, and employment of people with disabilities for over 5 decades. She began her career with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) in 1972 and served in several roles at DOR until her retirement in 2010 including Interim Director, Chief Deputy Director, Deputy Director, Habilitation Specialist and Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. During her time at DOR, she was able to implement

initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of individuals with physical, sensory, mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2013, she established her counseling practice to provide essential therapeutic support to individuals experiencing anxiety, depression, and various challenges in life.

CCDA SCOOP RESOURCES

- **The Pacific ADA Center**
<https://www.adapacific.org/>
- **Sorenson Communications**
<https://www.sorenson.com/>
- **Sacramento Music House & Performing Arts Center**
<https://www.sacramentomusichouse.com/>
- **Division of State Architect - CASp Program**
<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/casp>

CCDA CONTACT INFORMATION

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