

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS SPRING SCOOP NEWSLETTER 2024

CCDA LISTENING FORUM IN MONTEREY COUNTY APRIL 11TH, 2024

The CCDA Listening Forum - Disability Access for Small Businesses was hosted in the County of Monterey. This listening forum focused on promoting accessibility compliance and raising awareness of disability issues within businesses. CCDA Executive Director, April Dawson, was the moderator for the event and Juan Rodriguez was the co-sponsor of the listening forum, representing the County of Monterey. This listening forum showed the importance of local conversations with businesses and educated businesses about accessibility.

Roger Miller, CASp, presented on Access and the Role of a CASp. He discussed challenges in accessibility compliance, focusing on issues like inaccessible doors and inadequate handrails. Raymond Torres, Juan “Johnny” Morales, and Whitney Clark were the Voices of Customers that talked about accessibility compliance from their point of view. They were joined by more panel members, including President/CEO of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Monica Lal, Executive Director of Gateway Center of Monterey County, INC, Robert Freiri, and Supervising Architect of Division of State Architect, Michelle Davis. The purpose of the panel was to have accessibility compliance dialogue between businesses and customers with disabilities. The CCDA Listening Forum successfully provided local engagement with businesses to help enhance accessibility awareness and inclusivity for all.

UPCOMING COMMISSION EVENTS

Checklist Committee May 15, 2024 | 1:30 – 3:00 P.M.

Executive Committee June 5, 2024 | 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Full Commission June 26, 2024 | 10:00 A.M. – 01:00 P.M.

Education and Outreach Committee July 24, 2024 | 1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

NATIONAL MOBILITY AWARENESS MONTH

May celebrates National Mobility Awareness Month by promoting accessibility and encouraging mobility for all. It is an opportunity to advocate for inclusive infrastructure and services that enable everyone to travel safely. National Mobility Awareness Month highlights the need for transportation options that work for everyone, including individuals with disabilities. Valuing accessible transportation

helps everyone to better navigate in their communities with ease. National Mobility Awareness Month provides a month to advocate for accessible transportation and raise awareness of inclusivity in local communities.

Accessible mobility helps to create community connection by facilitating social connections and economic opportunities. Supporting initiatives that prioritize accessible transportation infrastructure, including wheelchair ramps, audible pedestrian signals, and low-floor buses can help to make sure everyone can travel safe. Whether it is attending an event, accessing healthcare services, or commuting to work, reliable transportation enhances the quality of life while promoting social equity. National Mobility Awareness Month prioritizes accessible transportation creating an environment for individuals with disabilities to have more access to all the community has to offer.

NOTEWORTHY ALLIANCES – CERTIFIED ACCESS SPECIALIST INSTITUTE (CASI)

Certified Access Special Institute (CASI) advocates for the rights of individuals with disabilities and works to ensure their full participation in all aspects of life. CASI is an organization dedicated to promoting accessibility and advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Their vision is to influence positive change in access in California by raising awareness and proactive adaptation of the built environment. While CASI's mission is to be the voice of access professionals as well as a resource for both its members and the public. CASI offers education and training on disability awareness and consults on accessibility compliance. The Certification and Compliance functions of CASI ensure buildings and services meet accessibility standards. CASI enhances accessibility, promotes equal access to services, empowers individuals with disabilities, and contributes to a more accessible, barrier-free California for all.

CUTTING EDGE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY - BE MY EYES

Be My Eyes is a free mobile app that launched in January 2015 that supports blind and low-vision individuals. With volunteers around the world, the app connects users with sighted volunteers and companies via live video calls in over 180 languages. Be My Eyes was founded by Hans Jørgen Wiberg, a Danish furniture craftsman who is visually impaired. The app was created from the belief that technology could bridge the gap between the visually impaired and sighted individuals.

Be My Eyes was launched on iOS in January 2015 and later Android in October 2017. In 2021, Be My Eyes received the Apple Design Award for Social Impact. Microsoft collaborated with Be My Eyes to introduce the Accessible Customer Service Suite in February 2018, offering better customer support to individuals

with disabilities. Today, Be My Eyes offers a suite of corporate solutions, including Be My Eyes for Work and Corporate Volunteering. Be My Eyes continues to evolve and it represents a way we can perceive technology. Assistive technology does not need to be a barrier, but a way to empower inclusion for all.

COMMISSIONERS IN THE COMMUNITY - JACQUELINE JACKSON

Commissioner Jacqueline Jackson is a disability rights advocate that is actively involved in her community. She holds a spot as a committee member for the CCDA Legislative Committee and is the chair of the Political Action Committee for the NAACP San Diego. Commissioner Jackson works with a variety of local organizations who aim to ensure public spaces and services are accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Commissioner Jackson is actively engaged with Access for Independence INC, the City of San Diego Accessibility Advisory Board, and a member of the San Diego Registrar of Voters Accessibility Advisory Committee. This year, she has been recognized for her dedication to accessibility in her community by receiving awards from the Fourth District Senior Resource Center and the Mayor of San Diego, Todd Gloria. She was recently appointed to Assemblywoman Akilah Weber's Senior Advisory Council, who represents California's 79th Assembly District.

The Golden Pyramids Scholars program in San Diego, was founded by Commissioner Jackson while she was the Director of Education, Health, and Family Services for the San Diego Urban League. This program supports high-achieving students by offering mentorships, scholarship opportunities, educational activities, and community service opportunities. Commissioner Jackson's commitment to accessibility for all and her focus on helping students succeed shows how much she cares about making her community better for all.

2024 ADA BUSINESS WEBINAR SERIES CCDA & PACIFIC ADA CENTER COLLABORATION

The collaboration webinar series by CCDA and Pacific ADA Center focuses on understanding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The 2024 ADA Business Webinar Series will have three webinars held as a lunch & learn series from 12:00 – 1:00 PM. The webinar collaboration series offers information for businesses to enhance ADA compliance in employment practices and public accommodations.

The upcoming May 30th session, "ADA Opportunities for Small Businesses," will discuss the intersection of Title I and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA). There will be information on how to effectively accommodate employees with disabilities, including distinguishing between service animals and emotional support animals. The overlap between Title I: Employment and Title III: Public Accommodation within the ADA will be discussed.

CCDA'S LEGAL PORTAL

The CCDA Legal Portal serves as a platform for attorneys handling construction-related accessibility or website accessibility cases to file complaints, pre-litigation letters, and case resolution reports as required by California Civil Code 55.32. CCDA is not an enforcement agency, we produce and provide resources for disability accessibility compliance aimed for small business throughout the State of California. Small businesses benefit from this service because CCDA creates documents to educate meeting accessibility compliance standards. While submissions are confidential to the law firms and CCDA staff, the public can access general information on the CCDA website, including an overview of submissions and top violations. Every year the CCDA publishes a detailed Annual Report to the California Legislature reviewing the year's data collection.

CCDA SCOOP RESOURCES

- [Listening Forum: Disability Access for Small Business in the County of Monterey April 2024](#)
- [Be My Eyes - See the world together](#)
- [Certified Access Specialist Institute | CASI](#)
- [May 30th ADA Business Webinar Series Zoom Registration](#)

CCDA CONTACT INFORMATION

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