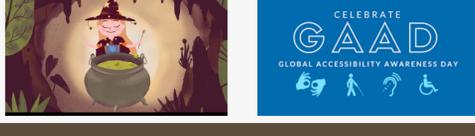


# DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - May 2023



## CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



### Celebrate Global Accessibility Awareness Day!

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) is celebrated this year on **May 18th**. Do you know how it got started? Web developer and entrepreneur Joe Devon and accessibility developer Jennison Asuncion started GAAD in 2011 to promote digital accessibility and inclusive design. They recognized that accessibility is often an afterthought in the design process. They wanted to change this by encouraging designers and developers to prioritize accessibility and make it a fundamental part of their design process.

We invite you to celebrate GAAD by learning about digital accessibility on your phone. Try its VoiceOver or TalkBack feature to experience how a person with visual disabilities navigates their smartphone.

You can see the full calendar of activities by visiting the [GAAD website](#).



### FEATURED WORK

#### Dicapta strengthens collaboration with independent producers

We have been strengthening our bonds with independent producers to make their content available to audiences with disabilities.

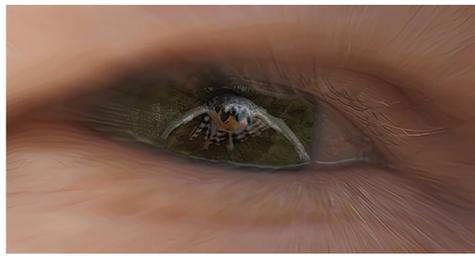
Specifically, we have been working with three independent producers to extend the reach of their content. Dicapta has now provided accessibility elements for Teregua's *Mesa de Tareas*, Tatiana Millan's *Los universos de Leyla*, and Taylor Leigh Aguilar's *SOL*. They are all currently available in the DCMP.

*Mesa de Tareas* is a Colombian documentary that tells the story of four brothers who live in the neighborhood with the highest percentage of refugees in the country. The film follows their lives through three different moments: their childhood, teenage years, and adulthood. The film shows the struggle for survival, where amid adversity, the true riches of humanity, values such as love, solidarity, and family union become the strength and fortune of the protagonists.

*Los Universos de Leyla*, on the other hand, is a show about four puppets that live a series of adventures with Leyla, a nine-year-old girl. Through imagination, playing, and reading books, they learn to deal with conflicts in their daily lives and find possible solutions.

Finally, *SOL* is based on director Taylor Leigh Aguilar's life story as a biracial Latina from Pueblo, Colorado. As a blind person, she has a unique perspective, which she imbues her films with. **In this movie, she goes to meet her biological father for the first time behind her mother's back.**

**Making all types of content accessible for everyone is part of our mission**, and we hope that these films demonstrate our commitment to this task.



### HIGHLIGHTED MATERIAL

#### SEARCHING is now available on YouTube with audio description in the audio track options

At the end of February, **YouTube announced a fundamental change to the ecosystem of online audio description**, and you might have missed it.

The tech giant released a new feature that allows users to add multilingual features audio to their videos. **This means that videos on the platform could have versions in different languages, all in the same link including the audio described version.**

This is a huge leap forward in terms of accessibility, not only because it makes the job of creators easier, but also because it allows people with disabilities to access content tailored to their needs faster. It also showcases one of Dicapta's fundamental beliefs: **that advancements in technology for people with disabilities are beneficial to everyone.**

Our partner, Passport to Knowledge, producer of the three-part series *SEARCHING, our quest for meaning in the age of science*, is already seeing the benefits of this technology. What amazing content to showcase YouTube's new feature! *SEARCHING* is directed and produced by award-winning documentary filmmaker Geoffrey Haines-Stiles, filmed in IMAX-quality Ultra High Definition worldwide, and features state-of-the-art computer graphics. Thanks to the multi-language feature, *SEARCHING Part 1 The Stars & The Odyssey*, is available with four audio channels: English, English audio description, Spanish, and Spanish audio description.

According to YouTube, everyone will be able to use this amazing feature. **They will just have to follow a few simple instructions.** "When uploading a video to their channel, all creators need to do is add different audio tracks through the Subtitles Editor tool. Existing content in creators' catalogs can be updated with additional audio tracks as well. If you're a viewer, just click the video's settings to see what audio tracks are available to start watching in another language." said the tech giant in one of their blog posts.

We hope that this new feature will prove useful for our partners and content providers and will allow them to reach new audiences.

### LET'S HEAR THE EXPERTS

#### Moving Forward to Embrace Acceptance, by Myrna Medina.



In this short article, Myrna Medina shares with us a personal reflection on grief and loss.

*Grief is the greatest teacher, and it is, at the same time, something that we do not want to experience because it generates pain and suffering. We associate it with loss and often with death. In reality, it is the loss of everything we love and leaves us. It is the dream that did not come true or the hope that was lost.*

[Read the full article by Myrna Medina here.](#)



### BREAK THE ICE

This is a series of ASL words or phrases to help anybody establish a connection with a deaf person who uses ASL. These clips aren't an ASL course; they are just conversation starters.

**This time we present the sign for You are welcome.** Hopefully, after you learn the signs in our series, you may be encouraged to delve deeper into ASL.



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