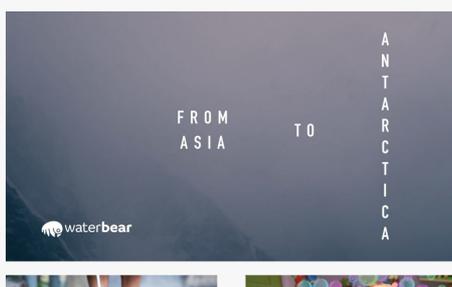


DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - July 2023



CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



Celebrate the ADA Anniversary!

On July 26, 1990, the [American with Disabilities Act](#) was signed into law. This landmark legislation is now a bastion for the protection of people with disabilities. **For 33 years, it has made life better for people with disabilities in the United States in various ways.**

Thanks to ADA, people with disabilities can enjoy many activities without barriers. **For instance, since movie theaters are public places, they are required by ADA to provide proper accommodations for them.**

This transformation has been an ongoing process. **For example, only until 2016 were movie theaters required to provide auxiliary aids and services for people with disabilities.** Currently, AD requires theaters to

- (1) have and maintain the equipment necessary to provide closed movie captioning and audio description at a movie patron's seat whenever showing a digital movie produced, distributed, or otherwise made available with these features;
- (2) provide notice to the public about the availability of these features; and
- (3) ensure that theater staff is available to assist patrons with the equipment before, during, and after the showing of a movie with these features.



FEATURED WORK

WaterBear, the "environmental Netflix," will feature audio description on selected content

What if we could invite everyone to go from doomerism to domoreism? This is how WaterBear, the fully free streaming service/publisher, describes its mission. **Launched in 2020, this platform provides documentaries and movies with an environmental and humanitarian focus completely free of charge.** And now, thanks to a collaboration with Dicapta, WaterBear is adding audio description to many of its films.

The main objective of WaterBear is to stir people into taking action through entertainment, and that is reflected in their catalog, which tackles many pressing environmental issues. Take, for example, *Where the Butterflies Go*, a movie in which a failing filmmaker, along with his best friend, travel 3,000 miles from Canada to Mexico asking people how to save the endangered monarch butterfly, and ourselves, from extinction. Or *From Asia to Antarctica*, a short film by Eco-Business that tells the climate change story through a unique Asian lens.

[Dicapta will work together with WaterBear](#) to provide audio description for these and many more of their films. **In this sense, they are also taking action by making their content accessible to a new, wider audience.** We are ecstatic to cooperate with such a motivated and driven force for change.

Audio description for WaterBear's films can be found through the All4Access app. Funding for these accessibility elements is provided by the United States Department of Education under grant H327C210001.



FEATURED WORK

Tina and Tony are coming to Semillitas

Tina and Tony, a new show by Semillitas, is presented with audio descriptions and captions thanks to a collaboration with Dicapta and the support of the U.S. Department of Education. The show will air everyday at 7:52am, 10:50am, and 6:30pm EST.

Tony the Hippopotamus and Tina the Elephant live together in Villa Cookie, surrounded by friends and family. Together, they will go on fun adventures that teach preschoolers about the value of friendship. Extroverted and active, Tina drags shy Tony into all sorts of adventures. Their motto? **"We are different, and that's great!"**

Accessibility for this programming is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, under project H327C210001 "Enhanced Access to Video for Students with Sensory Disabilities through Emerging Technology."

IMPORTANT DATES

POV's upcoming documentaries with full audio description available on PBS and All4Access:

- July 3 *A Story of Bones*.
- July 10, POV Premiere, *Liquor Store Dreams*.
- July 17, POV Premiere, *A House Made of Splinters*.
- July 24, POV Premiere, *Eat Your Catfish*.
- July 31 *POV Premiere, Children of the Mist*.

July 26 ADA anniversary!

July 30 6 p.m. ET, Watch Party Para Ti, *Mesa de Tareas* - In Spanish with open audio description. Guest: Director Paola Andrea Rey. [Visit Latinos4Access](#) for more information.



OUR MENTOR'S CORNER

Ileana Rivera Santa

Art in Service of Education And the Community

Continuing with our series of advisory committee interviews, this time we spoke with Ileana Rivera Santa. **You can find an excerpt of our talk with her below:**

"Ileana Rivera Santa greets us with a bright morning smile. Behind her is a dining table with some books and a forgotten coffee cup. When she learns that we are going to record the interview, Ileana gets up and swiftly moves a carved wooden screen, transforming her dining room into a magical stage. The curtain rises.

"My first passion was theater."

Upon entering the University in Rio Piedras in Puerto Rico, Ileana thought she would follow in her father's footsteps, who was a tireless social worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs. But the stage won this battle. Ileana started taking elective courses in drama and trained as an actress and theater director."

[Read the full interview here](#)

LET'S HEAR THE EXPERTS

Universal Design by Jaclyn Packer, PhD



Universal Design is a concept what does it mean? I would define it as the idea that everything that is created should be usable by everybody regardless of disability, age, gender, or other physical characteristics. This principle should apply to all areas of life, including public spaces, homes and apartments, products such as furniture or toys, and all information presented virtually (that is, by computer or other electronic devices) including educational materials. No one should be left out because the design of something does not allow them access.

[Read Dr. Packer's full article.](#)



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