

# DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - June 2023



## CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



### Celebrate DeafBlindness Awareness Week!

DeafBlind Awareness Week is observed annually in the last week of June, coinciding with the birthday of [Helen Keller](#), a renowned humanitarian who was deaf and blind. **The week aims to raise awareness about DeafBlindness, a condition that affects between 0.2% to 2% of the population, according to the World Federation of the DeafBlind.** It also honors Keller's achievements and her advocacy for people with disabilities. President Ronald Reagan officially proclaimed this week in 1984 to highlight the challenges faced by DeafBlind individuals and recognize their potential contributions to society. Keller's own life exemplifies resilience and determination, as she overcame her disabilities to become a well-known lecturer and advocate.

You can celebrate this week by learning more about [DeafBlindness](#), learning more about [how to communicate with a person who is DeafBlind](#), or even learning about Helen Keller herself!



### FEATURED WORK

#### Dicapta is creating accessibility elements for Daniel Tiger's neighborhood

The Spanish version of the kid's show [Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood](#) will now have audio description and closed captions. Thanks to the joint work of Dicapta and Fred Rogers' productions, **Season 1 through Season 6 of the show will have these accessibility features available in PBS Kids and All4Access.** Additionally, the sixth season of the show will be available in the DCMP with accessibility.

**Inspired by Mister Roger's Neighborhood, this preschooler show is about Daniel Tiger, a 4-year-old tiger cub, his family, and friends.** Through songs and adventures, they will learn important life and school skills.

**The show is especially good at teaching social skills to pre-schoolers.** It was used in a study by Texas Tech University that explored the effects of TV shows that try to teach social skills to kids. In this experiment, 127 kids were divided into groups. Some watched 30 minutes a day of nature documentaries, and others watched 30 minutes of Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.

**Kids in the study who watched Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood had higher levels of empathy,** were better at recognizing emotions, and were more confident in social situations than those who watched the nature show.

**We hope that these new accessibility elements for Daniel Tiger can help it reach new audiences** and educate more children.

Funding for Daniel Tiger's accessibility elements is provided by the United States' Department of Education under the project #H327C210001.

#### About Fred Rogers Productions

Fred Rogers Productions was founded by Fred Rogers in 1971 as the non-profit producer of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood for PBS. In the years that followed, it created hundreds of episodes of this much-loved program and extended Fred's values and approach to other efforts in promoting children's social, emotional, and behavioral health while supporting parents, caregivers, teachers, and other professionals in their work with children. Fred Rogers Productions continues to build on Fred's legacy in innovative ways through a wide variety of media, and engages new generations of children and families with his timeless wisdom. The company's highly-rated children's series, including Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Peg + Cat, Odd Squad, and Through the Woods, have earned 30 Emmy® Awards among other important honors. Newly launched in 2021 on PBS KIDS is Donkey Hodie, the innovative puppet series inspired by characters from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood; and the just-released Alma's Way, an animated series created by Sonia Manzano, known to generations of children and adults as "Maria" on Sesame Street. For more information, visit [www.fredrogers.org](http://www.fredrogers.org) or follow them on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



### FEATURED WORK

#### POV will release its historic 36th season with Descriptive Video Service

**America's longest-running non-fiction series on television, [POV](#) will release its newest season next January 26th, with 16 feature documentaries.** As in previous seasons, Dicapta is working with POV to provide Audio Description/Descriptive Video Service (DVS) for its films. This fresh batch of non-fiction will include movies with themes of caregiving, transnationalism, activism, childhood aspirations, accessibility, and intergenerational relationships.

**Several of the films that will be presented this season tackle accessibility, an issue that is fundamental to the values of Dicapta.** For example, there's the film [Eat Your Catfish](#), filmed from the perspective of Kathryn, a woman with ALS, which is an unvarnished account of a family's bond and of a woman's will to live. On the other hand, [unseen](#) tackles the life of an undocumented, blind man as he tries to become a social worker and support his family.

**POV episodes premiere Monday nights** and will be available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS App, available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

Funding for POV's accessibility elements is provided by the United States' Department of Education.

Those elements will be available through the accessibility menu of your cable box (look for Audio, MTS, or SAP). If you are using streaming, follow [PBS's instructions to access them](#). And lastly, you can always use [All4Access!](#)

[How do I enable Audio Description on PBS videos?](#)

[How to Use](#)

#### About POV:

POV is one of the most highly-acclaimed documentary series on television. Recently, POV took home the IDA Documentary Award for "Best Curated Series" for its landmark 35th anniversary season (2022). In 2021, the series received seven News & Documentary Emmy nominations, and won Best Documentary for Advocate (POV Season 33). This marked the second year in a row that a POV film took home that honor; POV earned the 2020 Best Documentary award for The Silence of Others (POV Season 32). POV won two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards for Through the Night (POV Season 33) and Softie (POV Season 33). In addition to its Academy Award® nomination for Best Documentary Feature, The Mole Agent (POV Season 33) was also shortlisted for Best International Feature. Recently, Let the Little Light Shine (POV Season 35) received a Peabody nomination and last year, Mayor (POV Season 34) was awarded a Peabody.



### OUR MENTOR'S CORNER

#### Howard Rosenblum, the person moving their hands is the lawyer

We had the privilege of speaking with **Howard Rosenblum, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of the Deaf**, as part of our series of interviews with our advisory committee members.

Here is a small excerpt of our talk:

"The first time Howard Rosenblum was given a chance to be first chair in a courtroom was to represent a woman who was deaf who wanted to change her first and last name, on account of being abused by her father. The case was simple because there was no opposing counsel, it was a matter of communicating the client's needs to the judge. In the courtroom, the judge was perplexed and kept addressing the interpreter, a woman, who was voicing Howard's arguments.

-My name is Howard. I'm here to represent this person.

And the judge said, I'm confused. Who's the lawyer?

-I'm the lawyer. This is Howard, the attorney for this client.

And the judge was just as confused because the interpreter was voicing, and the interpreter was female. He was like, «wait, Howard's a female?»

-I answered. The woman who is talking is my interpreter. She's just voicing my argument before the court. I want you to recognize that the person that's moving their hands is the lawyer.

Although we all find the judge's confusion funny, unfortunately, the stereotype persists. It has taken Howard a lifetime to defy and correct this perception.

"Society sees people with disabilities as less. They can do everything if you give them a chance."

[You can read the full interview with Howard here.](#)

### LET'S HEAR THE EXPERTS

#### Carlos Martínez: raising a person with disabilities



In this piece, Carlos Martínez, a member of our advisory committee, **shares with us some of his vast experience as a father of a person with a disability.**

"I have followed Carlos's life closely, and I have built the best possible relationship with my son. He has taken great risks and challenges in his life, participating in a wide variety of programs offered not only by the Braille Institute but also by the Foundation for the Junior Blind, now known as Wayfinder and programs by my community. As a result of this push, we helped him participate in activities he liked. From time to time, I find myself reflecting on the skills we helped my son to explore. He is an excellent pianist, was part of a Youth Mariachi in our community, and participated in the high school orchestra. He also won first prize in the first National Braille Challenge and was a choir member at the Braille Institute."

[You can read the full article here.](#)



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