

DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News – October 2024



CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



Inclusive Cinema: Dicapta's Continued Commitment to Superfest 2024

This year marks the third consecutive year we provide audio descriptions for selected films at Superfest. **Dicapta proudly collaborates with a festival that focuses on stories of people with disabilities and prioritizes access for filmgoers with disabilities.**

Superfest, produced by the [Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State](#) and the [San Francisco Disability Cultural Center \(DCC\)](#), is the longest-running disability film festival in the world. For 37 years, it has celebrated cutting-edge cinema that portrays disability through a diverse, complex, unabashed, and engaging lens.

One of the eight films we provided audio descriptions for is **Friendly Signs**. It is the story of Tommy Wickard, an incarcerated man who grew up using sign language with a deaf older brother and started an American Sign Language (ASL) class in San Quentin. It highlights the importance of making any space welcoming for deaf people. Thanks to Tommy's initiative, [San Quentin held the first-ever ASL graduation](#) this year. He is positively changing lives, not only through sign language advocacy but also by supporting other incarcerated people in developing healthy running habits.

Don't miss Friendly Signs and the other interesting films that will be presented at Superfest 2024. It will take place from **October 17 to 20 and will offer both virtual and in-person screenings**, ensuring accessibility for all. Be sure to check the [Festival's program](#) and mark your calendar!

The audio descriptions for Superfest are funded by the U.S. Department of Education grant H327C210001.



Enhancing Cultural Competencies in IEP Teams Through AI

Explore our innovative **INTEGRA project**, funded by the Department of Health to improve cultural competencies within IEP teams for Latino English Learners with Disabilities. Led by Dr. Maria Victoria Diaz and Dr. Conchita Hernandez, this initiative uses AI-driven video modeling to tailor educational content for caregivers, teachers, and classmates. With Phase I concluding in November, stay tuned for our comprehensive report and learn more about the project in our blog post [here](#).



Our Mentor's Corner: Ricardo López

Ricardo Lopez is the coordinator for Learning Media resources at Gallaudet University and has been a member of our advisory board for over ten years. He is proficient in three languages: English, Spanish, and ASL. "I am deaf; I was born deaf," is the first thing he told us during his interview. Ricardo was born in Puerto Rico to a hearing family that did not know anything about deafness. "Back in the old days, my family didn't know how to communicate with me or had any deaf family members. So, when I was about four years old, that's when they found out. Obviously, I hadn't developed any sort of language."

[Learn more about Ricardo's story on our website.](#)



No AD, No Game

Audio Description (AD) is more than just a supportive tool—it's essential for making content not only accessible but also enjoyable for blind children. In the animated series **Ziggy and the Zoo Tram**, broadcast by Semillitas, we faced the challenge of transforming a visually driven story into a fully immersive experience.

Curious about how much of a difference AD can make? [In our blog](#), we share insights on the challenges and solutions involved in describing visually complex scenes, ensuring the content remains both informative and entertaining for young audiences. Listen to a side-by-side comparison of scenes with and without AD to truly understand the impact AD can have. You will be surprised!



Don't Miss Our New Accessible Releases for this Month!

We're excited to announce this month's new releases, all featuring accessible options! Dive into these powerful films and series designed for everyone.

POV presents **In the Rearview**, a volunteer aid van transports diverse civilians fleeing war in Ukraine, sharing their stories while seeking refuge in Poland. Alongside this, **Twice Colonized** follows Inuit lawyer Aaju Peter as she fights for Indigenous rights and justice for her lands while navigating her own healing after the loss of her son. Lastly, **Tokyo Uber Blues** captures filmmaker Taku Aoyagi's experiences as an Uber Eats worker in Tokyo, reflecting on gig work and its impact on young people facing unemployment.

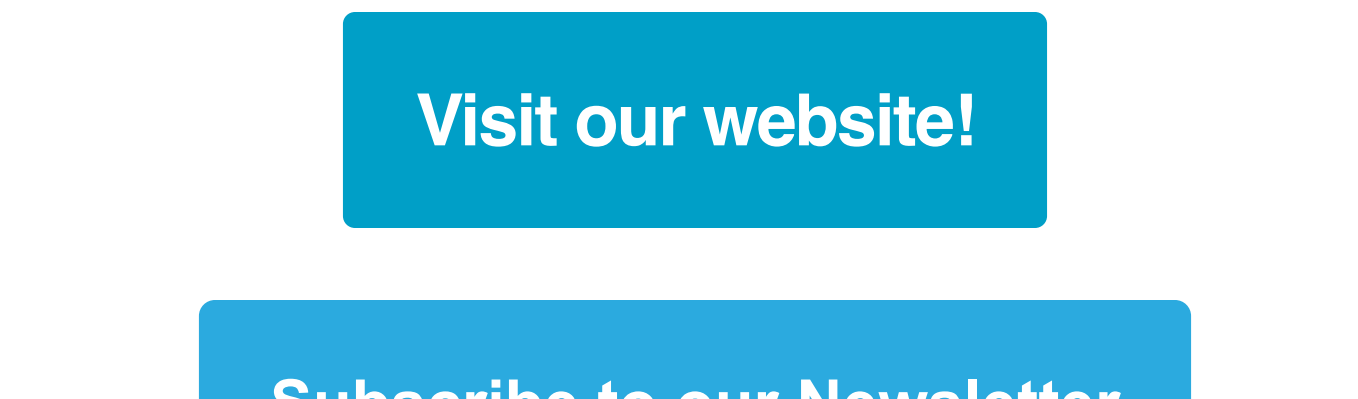
For our youngest viewers, **Plaza Sésamo** offers new episodes with ASL every week on its YouTube channel, engaging children with educational and fun, accessible content. Additionally, Semillitas TV features **Ziggy and the Zootram**, where Ziggy and friends embark on magical adventures at the zoo. Fred Rogers Productions presents **Odd Squad**, where kids use math to solve strange challenges, proving that teamwork can tackle any odd occurrence!

Don't miss the **Superfest Disability Film Festival**, Dicapta collaborates with Superfest to highlight stories of individuals with disabilities, prioritizing accessibility. Featured titles include 4 Deaf Yorkshiremen's Contest, A Wonderful Ride, Diagnosense, Friendly Signs, I Told You So, LUKi and the Lights, Mobility Rights and Tie Your Camel and Trust in God.

The accessibility of these titles is made possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education under project #H327C210001. [For the full list of releases, visit our website.](#)

Important Dates

- [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)
- World Sight Day, October 10
- [M-Enable Summit](#), October 15-17. **Don't miss the "AI-based Audio Description, Image, and Video Accessibility" session on Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 PM ET.**
- [Superfest Disability Film Festival](#), October 17-20. Don't miss the Award Winner's Screening on Friday, October 18



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