

# **Welcome!**

**Hillary Pearson, Co-Chair**

**Christena Gunther, Collab Founder**

# Program Accessibility

- Real-Time Captioning provided by Efficiency Reporting
- ASL Interpretation provided by Amy Kisner and Heidi Johnson

The Collab prioritizes accessibility in each of our programs as both an inclusive best practice and as a model for what is possible.



## Access Caption Stream on Personal Device



[www.streamtext.net/player?event=EfcyRtg-CAC](http://www.streamtext.net/player?event=EfcyRtg-CAC)

# Who we are: Mission & Philosophy

To empower Illinois' cultural spaces to become more accessible to visitors with disabilities

How do we serve this mission?

- Acknowledge that everyone is at a different places on their access journey
- Incremental change leads to lasting culture
- Through positive encouragement and striving to go beyond compliance
- Volunteer-run Board, Co-Chairs, and Steering Committee members

## History of the Collab

- The Beginnings - CCAC (2013-2015)
- Equipment Loan Program (2016)
- Nonprofit incorporation (2017-2018)
- New initiatives (ICAN) & Strategic Planning (2020)
- Expanded Vision and Name Change (2023)

## Benefits of Joining the Collab Network

- Finding allyship and partnership
- Building and sharing skills
- Reaching and building broader audiences
- Empowering organizations to better serve their missions
- Volunteer opportunities

# Four Pillars of the Collab

- Professional Development
  - 75 programs
- Access Calendar
  - 25+ events every month
- Network
  - 1085 members
- Accessible Equipment Loans\*
  - Averaging 40-50 rentals per year



*\*Currently Chicago only.*

# Professional Development Opportunities

- Foundational Learning
  - “Access 101”
- Deep dives into specific topics
  - “Service Dogs Welcome”
- Lunch and Learns
  - “Ask About Alt Text...”
- Socials/Networking
- Annual Fundraiser



# Use our resources for skill building!

- [Collab YouTube Page](#):
  - A collection of 40+ videos that can be incorporated into cultural org trainings
  - All captioned and audio described, transcripts available
- Collab Website: [www.CulturalAccessCollaborative.Org](http://www.CulturalAccessCollaborative.Org)
  - [Past Program Resources](#) (downloadable docs!)
  - [General Resources across the Web](#)
    - From Universal Design, to ALT Text, to checklists!
- Lunch and Learns

## Join and use our Listserv!

- You're all being added, just FYI
- Use it to ask questions, source service providers, find resources, create access an Access Task Force, share events, and more!
- Let your colleagues know how to be added:
  - Email [Info@CulturalAccessCollab.org](mailto:Info@CulturalAccessCollab.org) or visit the “Contact Us” section of our homepage.

# What do our Steering Committee Members have to say?

- What brought you to this work and what keeps you engaged?
- How has the Collab helped build your network of access allies?
- How has the Collab helped you build your accessibility toolkit?

# Join Our Steering Committee!

- Recruitment across Illinois begins in Spring 2025
- The next two year term runs from 2025-2027



**Questions?**

# Today's Panelists

**Dr. Tina Childress**



Dr. Tina Childress (she/her) is an audiologist, advocate, late-deafened adult, bilateral cochlear implant user fluent in ASL and self-proclaimed Communication Access Engineer.

**Courtney Davies**



Courtney Davies (she/her) is a special education teacher at Champaign Centennial High School and has been a choreographer with Penguin Project for 5 years.

**Miriam Larson**



Miriam Larson (she/her) became executive director of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center in January 2020.

Connect with us!



[linktr.ee/CulturalAccessCollab](https://linktr.ee/CulturalAccessCollab)

# Great Lakes ADA Event: Loud and Proud! Maximizing Your Accessibility Info for Guests



[www.accessibilityonline.org/ADA-Audio/session?id=111140](http://www.accessibilityonline.org/ADA-Audio/session?id=111140)



# Looking forward to connecting with you!



**\$5 Suggested Donation**

**<https://bit.ly/supportcollab>**

**CulturalAccessCollab.org**