



Cultural Access
Collaborative

Welcome!

Please keep your cameras off and stay muted. To see only presenters and ASL interpreters, click the three dots on your image in Zoom and select "Hide Non-Video Participants."



\$5 Suggested Donation

<https://bit.ly/supportcollab>

CulturalAccessCollab.org

Cultural Access Collaborative

We believe arts and culture are for **everyone**. Our mission is to empower Illinois' cultural spaces to become more accessible to visitors with disabilities.

4 Pillars:

- Professional Development
- Accessible Equipment Loans
- Access Calendar
- Network

Program Accessibility

- Real-Time Captioning provided by Efficiency Reporting



- ASL Interpretation provided by Havalah Teaman & First Choice Interpreting
- Please use Chat for Question Submission
- Please Chat with hosts for Tech and Access Support

Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD)

-What is LEAD?

-Who is LEAD for?

-Proposals open now!

LEAD 2026 is August 10-14 in Philadelphia, PA



Today's Speakers



Craig
McNabb



Chile
Ochoa



Diamond
Warren-Tucker

Bill
Green

Reflections from LEAD 2025

Craig McNabb

Audience & Access Services Manager

Harris Theater for Music and Dance

Access Grows Through Relationships

- Trust builds access.
- Progress happens through conversation.
- Relationships make inclusion lasting.
- Connection matters most.

Speaking So Everyone Can Join In

- Plain language is access.
- Clear words welcome people in.
- Simpler isn't lesser.
- If it's easy to understand, it works.

The Conference Is Only the Beginning

- Everyone wants to connect.
- Say hello in sessions and hallways.
- Follow up and stay in touch.
- Small conversations grow big ideas.

Thank You

Craig McNabb

Audience & Access Services Manager

Harris Theater for Music and Dance

cmcnabb@harristheaterchicago.org

Building a Culture of Accessibility in Film & Media



Chile Ochoa | FWD-Doc

chile@fwd-doc.org

Sample Sessions

Welcome Begins at the Job Posting

Emma Allen / Bell Museum
Rebecca McGinnis / Accessibility Consultant

Plain Language as a Tool for Accessibility

Judith Evans / Smithsonian

The Accessibility That Goes Wrong

Rachel Arfa / City of Chicago Mayor's Office for
PWD
Tina Childress / See.Hear.Communications.Matters

How to Craft Accessible Display Signs

Jules Patalita / The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

Quick Snapshots

Integrate Accessibility from the Start

Layer captioning, audio description, large signage, access requests, and contingencies in planning.

Be Clear & Prioritize Plain Language

Simplify language across materials to reach readers with diverse literacy and cognitive needs.

Embed Accessibility into Policies & Org Values

Develop policies that make accessibility a core value across all departments and partnerships.



Quick Snapshots

Encourage Learning & Staff Training

Train staff on accessibility within their role (e.g. ops, marketing, production, and public events).

Engage with Disabled Audiences & Community

Partner with disability orgs and communities for resources, feedback, and best practices.

Create a Feedback & Improvement Loop

Be flexible and regularly adapt practices based on audience feedback and evolving standards.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Co-creation with the disability community
- Considerations for caregivers of disabled participants
- Plain language to promote equity.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Audio description for dance
- Variety of sessions to choose from
- Openness of and networking with attendees

THANK YOU!



Presenting at LEAD

Presentation types:

Access Lab

Think Tank

Panel Presentation

Lightning Talk

Capacity Building Workshop

Be Collaborative, Be Creative, Be Challenging

Submissions open until Nov. 21



Q&A

Join us in November!

**One State in the Arts & Humanities Conference:
Meeting the Moment
November 5-7, 2025 | Champaign-Urbana, IL**

ilhumanities.org/onestate

**Presented by Illinois Art Council
& Illinois Humanities**

Our 2025 Fundraiser is Tomorrow!

**Collab with Us!
Laugh out Loud for CAC!**

\$75 per Ticket

6:00pm - 9:00pm

National Public Housing Museum

919 S Ada St, Chicago IL



SCAN ME



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Thank you for joining us!

This session has now ended



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