

DICAPTA'S NEWSLETTER

Monthly Accessibility News - March 2023



CURRENT EVENTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND MORE BELOW



FEATURED PROJECT

Donkey Hodie won Best Website at the Kidscreen Awards

Dicapta wishes to congratulate Fred Rogers's puppet show *Donkey Hodie*, made in collaboration with Curious Media and PBS Kids, for their win in the 2023 edition of the Kidscreen Awards.

The show won the "best website" award in the Preschool Digital Category. It was in competition with *Alma's Way* (another Fred Rogers Production), and received the award last February 14 during Kidscreen Summit 2023 in Miami. It was also nominated for the Best Alternative Game category.

Donkey Hodie is an 11-minute episodic show which follows the adventures of the granddaughter of the original Donkey Hodie character from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. She and her friends live in the land of Someplace Else, and their adventures seek to teach children the value of emotional regulation, persistence, problem-solving, resilience, and self-control.

Thanks to the funding of the Department of Education, Dicapta has created Spanish captions and audio description for this show, as well as several other Fred Rogers productions. Currently, we are working on creating accessibility elements for the second season of the show.



OUR MENTOR'S CORNER Dean Lermen

Dean Lermen has a long and rich history advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. As part of the Latin American Union for the Blind, he participated in the negotiation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Throughout his career, he has been an advisor to the Colombian government on public policies, human rights, the rights of people with disabilities, labor inclusion, and audio description. In fact, he was the Director of the National Institute for the Blind (INCI) in that country.

We had the pleasure of speaking for a bit with Dean. Here is a small excerpt from our talk.

Dicapta: You once told us that people should not be sensitized, that human beings are sensitive. Can you explain this philosophy?

I am the son of a teacher, and I know what education means because I lived it as a student and teacher. I think that the processes happen through education, not through sensitivity.

People are sensitive to blindness. Blindness is not indifferent to you. It touches you, often on the emotional side. That leads people to treat people with disabilities as little children or, worse, babies. People want to hug you and protect you.

But people also come into conflict because their emotions are contradictory. Just as blindness draws your attention, it generates resistance and fear, and that is difficult to handle.

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

CURRENT EVENTS

March 9

Cine Con Sentido presents "Historias de luz: Antonio Turok"
Spanish CC and AD are available using All4Access.
At 5:30 p.m. PT, [Los Angeles Mexican Consulate](#).

March 10

Cine Con Sentido presents "Maru Toledo y las mujeres del maíz".
Spanish CC and AD are available using All4Access.
At 6:00 p.m PT, [Museum of Latin American Art](#).



BREAK THE ICE

This is a series of ASL words or phrases to help anybody establish a connection with a deaf person who uses ASL. These clips aren't an ASL course; they are just conversation starters.

This time we present the sign for *Have a nice day*. Hopefully, after you learn the signs in our series, you may be encouraged to delve deeper into ASL.



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