



BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Salt Lake City

Accessibility and Disability Commission

Annual Report 2023

A Message from the Chair

2023 was the first full year of the Accessibility and Disability Commission. I had the honor of being elected as Chair and Nate Crippes was elected Vice Chair. We also welcomed 3 new commissioners: Kristy Chambers, Ivana Powell, and Damon Talbot. We were excited to continue the work of making sure people with disabilities have access and inclusion to the many offerings our capital city has to offer and to continue expanding Mayor Mendenhall's agenda towards a fully accessible and inclusive city.

We are so proud of the Closed Captioning ordinance passed by the Salt Lake City Council urging all public businesses in Salt Lake City to provide closed captioning for our deaf and hard of hearing citizens. We are also proud of the City's focus to expand visual interpreting services to Liberty Park, Jordan Park and downtown Central Business District. Now SLC's blind and low vision community have greater access and independence to participate, shop, and thrive in our great city. We continue to monitor sidewalk access, transportation expansion, and snow removal, providing universal access to everyone.

The Commission has a great champion in our ADA Coordinator, Ashley Lichtle. We are also grateful for the support of the City's new Chief Equity Officer, Damian Choi. In Salt Lake City, people with disabilities are welcomed partners in all of our communities, our sponsored events, and so much more. We are proud to join our disabled community and state that access is a human right in Salt Lake City.

Commission Members

Everette Bacon, Chair
(HRC Commissioner)
Scott Browning
Amy Carmen
Kristy Chambers
Todd Claflin

Nate Crippes, Vice
Chair
Janis Ferre
Rich Foster
Jeff Kenyon
Leah Lobato

Kayci Lynam
Pamela Mower
Ivana Powell
Damon Talbot (ending
September 2023)
Margo Thurman

2023 Overview

The Accessibility and Disability Commission (ADC) continued working on many goals and priorities from 2022, including the City's adoption of the Closed Captioning Ordinance for businesses in February 2023. Throughout the year, the Commission worked with many City departments and divisions including Community and Neighborhoods, Sustainability, SLC Arts Council, Transportation, and Public Lands.

Some highlights of the Commission's work this year include:

- Providing 10 hours of disability training to 27 new SLCPD Community Response Specialists,
- Increasing Aira services to include Jordan Park, Liberty Park, and the Central Business District,
- Site walk and feedback for the Miller Bird Refuge and Nature Park Accessibility Capital Improvement Project, and
- Holding the City's first annual Disability Community Forum in October 2023.

Review of 2023 Goals & Priorities

COMPLETE:

- Recruit Commissioners with diverse perspectives
- Closed Captioning ordinance for all public TVs in Salt Lake City
- Provide training to City staff—SLCPD Community Response Unit
- Partner with C-REP to form neurodiversity subcommittee
- Improve Citywide snow removal communications for access in the public right of way after a snowstorm

IN PROGRESS/ ONGOING:

- Provide SLC employees Seizure First Aid training
- More audible traffic signals throughout Salt Lake City
- Free AIRA software available citywide
- Increase audio description showings at all theaters in Salt Lake City
- Improve communication and pedestrian access through construction zones in the public right of way (PROW)
- Develop or update City preparedness plans for people with disabilities

Commission Goals for 2024

- I. Continue working on the 2022-2023 Priorities that are in progress or ongoing.
- II. Continue to identify and address ways Salt Lake City can improve inclusion and accessibility for all.
- III. Create or facilitate trainings for City departments on a variety of disability related topics.
- IV. Identify and address ways Salt Lake City can best serve people with disabilities experiencing homelessness.
- V. Improve City partnership with UTA's Paratransit Program to strengthen paratransit public education campaign and services.