



May 18, 2025 – June 16, 2026

EMBRACING POSSIBILITY: GEORGIA'S DISABILITY JUSTICE JOURNEY

***An exhibit that redefines how people
with disabilities are seen in society.***

**Tubman
African American Museum
310 Cherry St, Macon, GA 31201**

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Inspiration, Purpose, and Goals

Step into a journey of empowerment and social innovation with "Embracing Possibility," an exhibit that redefines how people with disabilities are seen in society. The Tubman African American Museum is proud to present an illuminating showcase of courage, creativity, and the historic contributions made by people with intellectual disabilities and their allies.

Our vision is both simple and profound: to shift the narrative, inviting visitors to witness the power, dignity, and capacities of people with disabilities. Through interactive scenarios, thought-provoking art, and compelling stories, this exhibit highlights the rich history of disability justice in Georgia and beyond.

Discover new possibilities at the Tubman African American Museum's 2025 exhibit. Through immersive scenarios curated by disability advocates, explore the strength and potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities, their families, and communities. Each experience reveals a unique source of power, inspiring creative and courageous action. Leave transformed by a new understanding of what's possible.

Appreciation to our Partners and Sponsors:



Sangha Unity Network, Inc.



**Val Bradley, Bob Herrin, Tom Kohler,
Sally Lockwood, Cynthia Moe,**

Appreciation to the Tubman African American Museum



STAFF

Harold Young, Director

Jeff Bruce, Curator

**George Crawley,
Education Coordinator**

**Denise Vansant,
IT and Office Manager**

Ivy Dockery, Guest Services

Joseph Porter, Guest Services

Laura Lamoree, Docent

Layout of Powerful Scenarios and Activity Areas

Embracing Possibility showcases the profound impact of people with disabilities on the world, revealed through each of the following compelling scenarios and interactive areas.

LOWER-LEVEL SCENARIOS and ACTIVITY AREA

Origins of Disability Devaluation: Sobering, Hopeful, Transformative

Disability & Justice Activity Room:
Unleash Your Superpower for Change

Discovering Capacities: Visionary, achievable, liberating

Uniting for Change: A Movement for Inclusion

UPPER-LEVEL SCENARIOS and ACTIVITY AREAS

Creating Beloved Communities: Everyone Belongs Together

Disability & Justice Film Room: Watch, Learn, be Inspired

Harriet Tubman: American Abolitionist & Social Activist

Disability & Justice Book Club & Sensory Room: Read, Relax, Discover

Cultivate Support: The Power of Allies

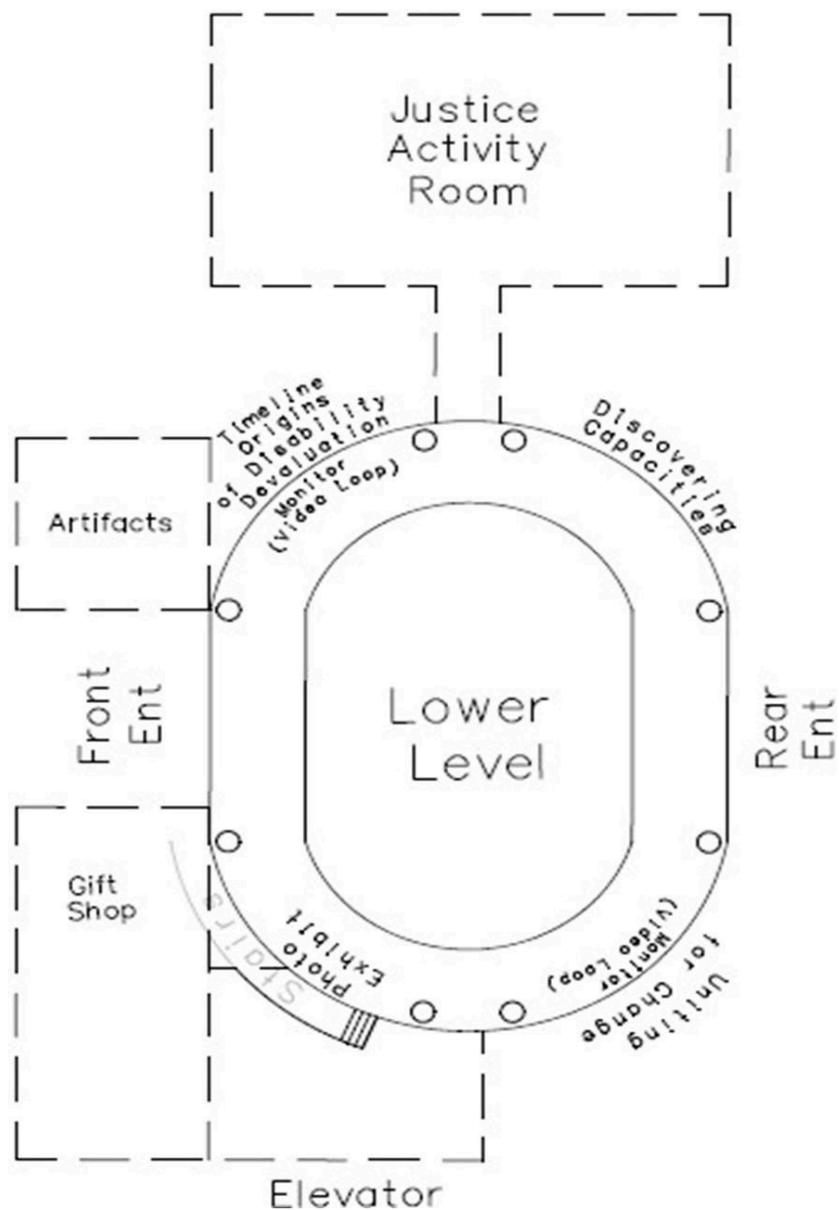
Belonging to Real Communities: Everyone has a place

Have Faith: Strength in Resilience

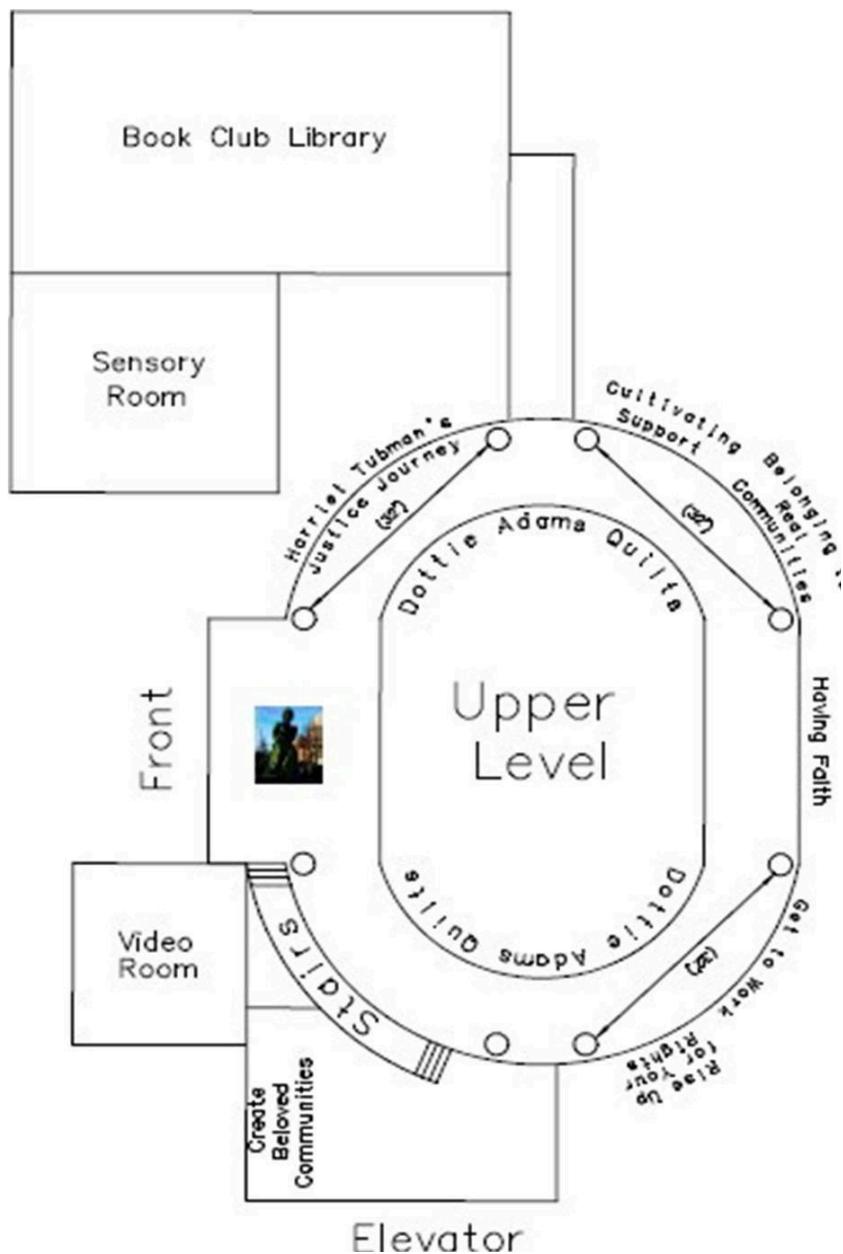
Get to Work: Expanding Opportunities

Rise Up: Demand Your Rights!

Lower Level Diagram



Lower Level Diagram



Docents with disabilities bring invaluable perspectives to our museum experience, **fostering inclusive dialogue and enriching understanding** through lived experiences.

Their contributions help ensure that the exhibit reflects diverse narratives and resonates with all visitors, making history and culture accessible and meaningful to everyone.

Carla Geeslin

James Thigpin

Austin Lanier

Valerya Robinson

Whitney Granville

Tamika Woods

Origins of Disability Devaluation: Sobering, hopeful, transformative

Upon entrance into the museum, the entire space is transformed into a **Disability & Justice Journey**.

Beginning to your left, you are immediately transported through a time with powerful imagery that portrays the historic devaluation of people with disabilities. This somber beginning serves as a **reflection on past injustices**, challenging visitors to confront the societal norms that once excluded and diminished those with disabilities.



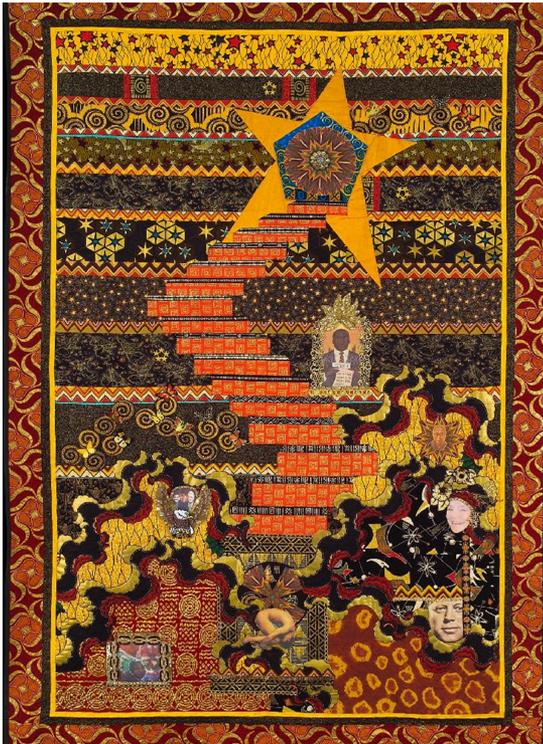
Reflection #1

Name a societal norm that contributed to the past injustice of people with disabilities.

What image most represents that injustice for you?

The Transformation Quilt

Emerging from the room of Disability Devaluation, you are greeted with a vibrant display of **hope and transformation** on the upper railing. *The Transfiguration Quilt*, created by renowned artist Dr. Beth Mount, symbolizes the shift toward a more inclusive society. Entitled "**Creating Pathways to Beloved Community,**" this striking quilt represents the power of creativity, resilience, and unity in building communities where everyone belongs. The bright, intricate patterns serve as a metaphor for the potential within every individual, inviting visitors to embrace possibility and join in the creation of a beloved, inclusive world.



Reflection #2

The Transformation Quilt is filled with powerful colors and images of hope and possibility.

Imagine yourself as the artist. What colors and images would you use to represent hope and possibility?

Why would you chosen those colors?

Why have you chosen those images?

Disability & Justice Activity Room: Unleash Your Super Power for Change

This engaging *Activity Room* is designed to empower visitors to **become agents of positive change**. Here, you'll discover your own "superpowers" and explore how to use them to **create a more just and inclusive community**. Express your reflections on the exhibition and your commitment to action by contributing to a collaborative community mural, or through creative writing and drawing activities.



Artist, Beth Mount

Reflection #3

Name your superpower.

**In what ways can you use your
superpower to effect positive change
in your community?**

Discovering Capacities: visionary, achievable, liberating



Person-Centered Planning is a visual and interactive process, utilizing approaches like **MAPS** and **PATH**, to explore an individual's **strengths**, **aspirations**, and **potential**. By focusing on innate abilities, this approach not only expands personal opportunities but also reveals a community's untapped possibilities, fostering **greater inclusion** and **connection**.

Reflections #4

Do you know your strengths?

Ask yourself, “What do I know or do well enough that I would be able to teach to others?”

Do you have aspirations?

Ask yourself, “What is one thing I have always wanted to learn?”

Who would you invite to join you on your journey to discover your capacities?

Who could you come along side to help discover their capacities?

Uniting for Change: A Movement for Inclusion

Explore the self-advocacy movement and its power to bring people together and demand change. This display celebrates the voices of people with disabilities who are leading the charge for **equity, representation, and rights**. Through stories, photos, and historical moments, witness how collective action has transformed communities—and continues to light the path toward justice.



Creating Beloved Communities



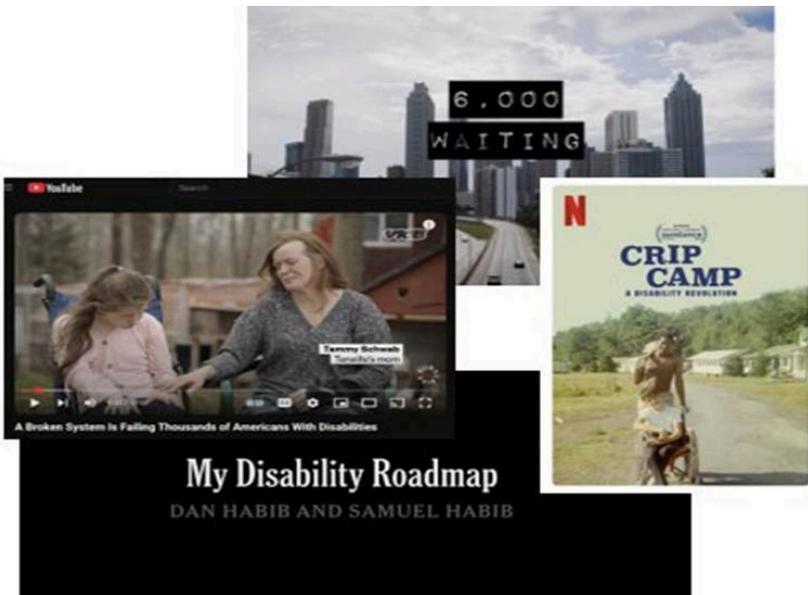
display host, **Katina Atmore**

Experience the power of inclusion through the stories of *Citizen Advocacy* as Inspired by the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the legacy of grassroots advocates like Tom Kohler. This display honors the work of building **inclusive, welcoming communities** where every person is valued.

Featuring intimate table settings, personal photos, and community artifacts; it invites visitors to reflect on what it means to truly belong. Through everyday acts of connection, we can create spaces rooted in dignity, love, and mutual support.

Disability and Justice Film Room: Watch, learn, be inspired

Step into the *Disability and Justice Film Room*, where powerful stories unfold through film and documentary. This immersive space showcases the resilience, activism, and lived experiences of people with disabilities fighting for justice, equity, and civil rights. Through curated screenings, historical footage, and contemporary narratives, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of the **intersection of disability and social justice movements**. Engage in thought-provoking discussions, explore the ongoing struggle for inclusion, and leave inspired to take action.



Harriet Tubman Exhibit (*existing*) American Abolitionist & Social Activist



Step into the legacy of *Harriet Tubman*, the fearless abolitionist known as “the Moses of her people.” This exhibit honors her extraordinary life—her daring **escape from slavery**, her courageous missions to free hundreds through the Underground Railroad, and her unwavering **fight for justice**.

Through powerful storytelling, historical artifacts, and immersive displays, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of Tubman’s resilience, leadership, and lasting impact. Discover how her legacy continues to inspire movements for freedom and equality today. This exhibit is a tribute to her unwavering spirit and the countless lives she changed in the pursuit of liberation.

Disability Book Club and Sensory Room: Relax, read, discover

The *Disability and Justice Book Club* invites visitors to engage with powerful **literature that explores the intersection of disability, civil rights, and social justice**. Hosted in the Tubman Museum Library, this interactive exhibit features a curated collection of books, historical texts, and contemporary works that highlight the struggles and triumphs of individuals with disabilities in their fight for equity.

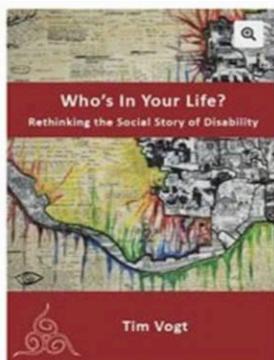
Through guided discussions, author talks, and reading circles, visitors can deepen their understanding of disability justice and its **connections to broader movements for freedom and inclusion**. This space encourages learning, dialogue, and collective action, ensuring that the voices of disabled activists, writers, and leaders are heard and celebrated.



The Story of INCLUSION at the
Hamilton Wentworth Roman Catholic School Board
(HWRCBSB)



Interviews with
Jim Hansani, Phil DiProspero,
Cory Bunck, Corv Leyden



Cultivating Support: The Power of Allies



Behind every movement for justice are **families**, **siblings**, and **allies** who stand together to nurture belonging and possibility. This display celebrates the power of connection—from the everyday love of siblings to the unwavering commitment of families and supporters who **advocate for inclusive lives**.

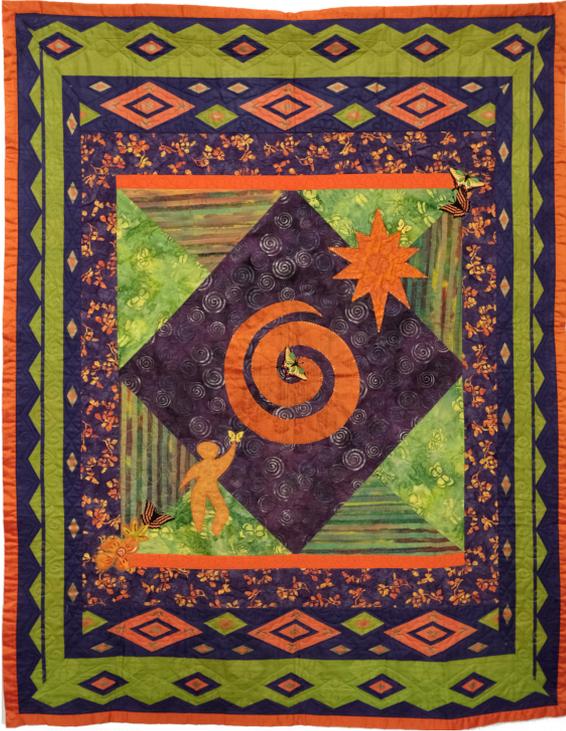
Through photos, stories, and shared memories, we honor those who help cultivate strength, resilience, and lasting change.

Belonging to Real Communities: Everyone has a place

This exhibit highlights the power of true **inclusion through Asset-Based Community Development**. “You know you belong when you are missed when you are not there.” This display celebrates what it means to be truly included, not just present, but needed, known, and valued. Through the lens of Real Communities across Georgia—from Clarkston to Savannah to Macon—experience how shared projects like community gardens, bicycle recycling, and dialogue circles foster deep connection, purpose, and belonging for all.



Have Faith: Strength in Resilience



artist, **Beth Mount**

“Faith” is the quiet force that **sustains hope and fuels change**. This display honors the spiritual strength and inner conviction that have carried countless advocates, families, and communities through struggle and transformation.

Featuring stories like Betty’s role as a member of the Oakhurst Baptist Church choir, greeting card artist, entrepreneur, and Redwoods adventurer, and Yvette’s journey from beauty pageants winner, Ted Talk speaker to PhD in theology. These stories remind us that belief—in ourselves, in others, and in a better world—is a powerful catalyst for justice and joy.

Get to Work: Expanding Opportunity

“Work” is more than a paycheck—it’s a pathway to **dignity, purpose**, and **full participation** in community life. This display celebrates the progress of Georgia’s inclusive employment movement through powerful photos and stories from National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Inclusive Post Secondary Education programs, the Dignity in Pay Act, and grassroots efforts.

Meet trailblazers and discover how people with disabilities are shaping a future where everyone can thrive at work.



artist, Derek Heard

Rise Up: Demand Your Rights!



artist, Derek Heard

This display honors the bold leadership of disability rights activists who have risen up to **challenge injustice** and **change history**. From “Take Your Legislator to Work Day” to the crawl for access at UGA, witness the courage of advocates like Derek Heard, Galyon Tootle, Dawn Alford, and the legendary Lois Curtis.

Through protest, policy, and personal story, these leaders have transformed public perception and pushed the nation closer to equity, visibility, and freedom.

Reflection #5

THE POWER OF BELONGING

“You know you belong when they ask you to do something.”

-Mark Crenshaw

When do you most feel like you belong?

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



Sally Carter

"Origins of Disability Devaluation"

Sally is a longtime advocate for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Sally has an extensive history in Georgia beginning as a member of the faculty in the Department of Speech Communication and Special Education at UGA. In 1996 Sally was appointed as the Transition Consultant for the DBHDD. In this role, she was instrumental in closing Brook Run/GRC Atl, River's Crossing/GRC/Ath, Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville, Georgia Mental Health Institute/Atl, Bainbridge State Hospital and Central State Hospital in Milledgeville. More importantly to Sally was the opportunity to work directly with people transitioning from the state hospitals (and their families) to design and develop community based residential supports for people with complex medical needs and complex behavioral needs as well as provide support to families who were anxious about the shift from the know to the unknown. She retired in 2020 but continues to engage with the Developmental Disabilities network.

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



James Butler

"Discovering Capacities"

James is a licensed land surveyor for Lamar County and a member of the Community Advisory Council at Georgia State University's Center for Leadership in Disability. He also facilitates futures planning with students and their families in Lamar County and is a Lamar County School board member.



Michelle Schwartz

"Uniting for Change"

Michelle is Executive Director of the Sangha Unity Network and owner of Creative Consulting Services in Georgia. Michelle has been instrumental in supporting individuals with disabilities to transition from institutional settings to inclusive community living, while building a power coalition of self-advocates: Uniting for Change.

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



Katina Atmore

"Creating Beloved Communities"

Katina is the State-wide Citizen Advocacy Coordinator at the Georgia Advocacy Office, where she provides leadership and support to Georgia's local Citizen Advocacy offices. She is a champion of Supported Decision-Making and community-based alternatives to guardianship. Based in Macon, Katina is active in local civic initiatives that promote safety, equity, and community well-being.



Maria Pinkelton

"Belonging to Real Communities"
"Get to Work"
"Disability & Justice Book Club"

Maria is the Public Relations Director at the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD). She has led impactful work including GCDD's Storytelling Project, the documentary "6,000 Waiting", and the Get Out the Vote/Civic Engagement project. Maria is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health at Georgia State University. Based in Decatur, Maria participates in community efforts that support affordable housing, education, and social change.

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



Mark Crenshaw

"Have Faith"

Mark is the Assistant Director of the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University. He develops disability leaders, builds and sustains community partnerships, and advances the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in their communities. Mark has been a key figure in national training initiatives, including the AUCD Leadership Academy.



Derek Heard

"Rise Up!"

Derek is a self-advocate, artist, and founder of Derek's Doodles, a graphic art company that promotes disability advocacy, justice, and voting rights for people with disabilities . Based in Albany, Derek is actively involved in community programs. He is a member of the Uniting for Change Network and Rev Up Georgia . His artwork has been instrumental in spreading messages of equality and empowerment.

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



Dana Lloyd

"Rise Up!"

Dana is Director of Outreach at the Georgia Advocacy Office. She has worked extensively in direct support, community building, and advocacy for individuals with disabilities. Dana also co-leads Georgia's Supported Decision-Making Coalition and serves as a state team lead for the Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice, promoting alternatives to guardianship and empowering individuals to make their own life choices.



Gillian Grable

Disability & Justice Activity Room

Gillian is a Community Outreach Coordinator at the University of Georgia's Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD), where she leads initiatives in person-centered planning, inclusive education, and disability history preservation. A dedicated advocate for deinstitutionalization, she played a pivotal role in the Children's Freedom Initiative and co-produced the documentary Not Home, highlighting the experiences of children in nursing facilities. Gillian is also the author of Until We Meet Again: The Life of Jennie Raffield Williams, a compelling narrative that sheds light on the systemic challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in institutional settings.

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



Stacey Ramirez

Disability & Justice Photo/Art & Cultivating Support

Stacey is the Embracing Possibility Project Manager and creator of the Disability & Justice Photo/Art, and Cultivating Support exhibits. She is a lifelong disability advocate, and the Founder of Crimminz & Associates, a creative consulting firm focused on community inclusion and storytelling. Formerly the State Director of The Arc Georgia, she has led initiatives that amplify the voices of people with disabilities and their families—especially disability voting rights. Stacey is also a 2023 Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, using her journey to raise awareness about belonging, resilience, and justice.



Dr. Beth Mount

"Creating Pathways to Beloved Community"

Beth has worked for four decades toward the ideal that every person with a disability can be a valued member of community life. Her groundbreaking work related to Personal Futures Planning promotes the positive futures and images of people with disabilities throughout the globe. Beth also creates art that complements and defines her style of cross cultural and multi-literate communication. She has developed a unique style of fiber art that is both imaginatively graphic and multi-dimensional in detail and meaning. She is well known in the disability world for her "Spirit Keeper" quilts which help people communicate the spirit and beauty of personal, organizational and social change.

Embracing Possibility "Imagineers and Visionaries"



Carl King

**Guidebook Photographs
&
Disability & Justice Film Room**

Carl is a Georgia-based filmmaker and disability rights advocate known for producing and directing *The Art of Being LC*, a documentary that chronicles the life of Lois Curtis, a central figure in the landmark Supreme Court case *Olmstead v. L.C.* His work highlights the importance of community inclusion and the rights of individuals with disabilities to live outside institutional settings.



Derona King

Guidebook & Story Matters

Derona honed her storytelling skills through her years working as a citizen advocacy coordinator. She founded *Story Matters*, a creative practice that teaches nonprofit professionals how to use truthful and image enhancing storytelling to reclaim purpose and creativity in their work.

Learn More and Get Connected

Asset Based Community Development Institute ABCD
<https://abcdinstitute.org>

Center for Leadership and Development CLD
<https://cld.gsu.edu>

Core Gift Institute
<https://www.coregift.org>

Georgia Advocacy Office GAO
<https://thegao.org>

Georgia Council on Developmental Disability GCDD
<https://gcdd.org>

Inclusion Press
<https://inclusion.com>

Institute on Human Development and Disability IHDD
<https://www.fcs.uga.edu/i HDD>

REV UP
<https://www.facebook.com/RevUpGeorgia>

Sangha Unity Network
<https://www.sanghaunitynetwork.org>

Statewide Independent Living Council SILC
<https://www.silcga.org>

The Art of Social Change
<https://www.bethmount.org>

Uniting for Change
<https://www.uniting4change.org>

Disability Justice Principles

1. Intersectionality - We all have many identities (like race, gender, disability, age). They overlap and shape how we experience the world. Disability justice includes all of who we are.

2. Leadership of those most impacted - People who are most affected by systems of oppression should lead the work for change.

3. Anti-capitalism - We believe people have value beyond what they can produce. Everyone deserves care, rest, and support, not just work.

4. Commitment to cross movement organizing - We work with other movements for justice—like racial, gender, and climate justice—because our struggles are connected.

5. Recognizing wholeness - Every person is whole, no matter what support they need. We are more than just our disabilities.

6. Sustainability - We take care of ourselves and each other. We rest, set boundaries, and pace ourselves for long-term work.

7. Commitment to cross disability solidarity - We support and include people with all types of disabilities, whether physical, mental, sensory, or invisible.

8. Interdependence - We all need help sometimes. We value caring for and relying on each other instead of pretending we're independent.

9. Collective access - Access is not one-size-fits-all. We make spaces and information available in ways that work for everyone, together.

10. Collective liberation - None of us are free until all of us are free. We fight for justice for everyone, not just ourselves.