

ACCESS RECREATION BOSTON



SPRING CONFERENCE 2018

April 5th, Hilton Garden Inn
Waltham, Massachusetts



@AccessRecBoston

#AdaptivePros



ACCESS
RECREATION
BOSTON

Access Recreation Boston is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to increasing and enhancing recreation opportunities for people with disabilities in the greater Boston area. We accomplish this through building community awareness, sharing professional expertise, and promoting collaboration. Thank you for joining us today!



A project of the
Institute for Human Centered Design

dedicated to enhancing the experience of people
of all ages and abilities through excellence in design

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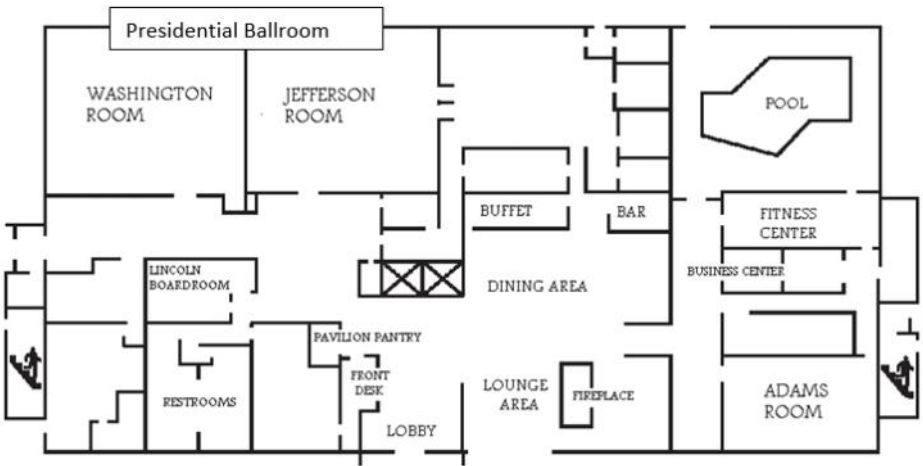
HELPING HANDS
MONKEY HELPERS



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration & Networking Breakfast, Exhibitor tables open Executive Director Roundtable
8:30 AM – 10:05 AM	General Session
10:05 AM – 10:15 AM	<i>Break</i>
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Concurrent Sessions
11:45 AM – 1:45 PM	Lunch, Lightning Round, Exhibitor Hall
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Para-Athlete Meeting with ASNE
1:45 PM – 3:15 PM	Concurrent Sessions
3:15 PM	Informal networking in hotel lounge

Floor Plan



Wi-Fi

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REGISTRATION / NETWORKING BREAKFAST

7:30 - 8:30 AM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROUNDTABLE (Washington Room)

This pre-conference session gives Executive Directors a dedicated opportunity to gather with peers and discuss common challenges and opportunities around fundraising, employment and evaluation, risk management, budgeting, working with a board, or whatever topics of interest arise. An early-morning meeting means participants are available to network, attend sessions, and meet with vendors for the rest of the day! Grab your breakfast and come on in! *This discussion is for executive directors or others in the lead management position in their organization. Only one person from each organization may attend this session.*

EXHIBITOR HALL OPENS (open 7:30 am - 1:45 pm, main foyer and equipment area outside, exit at end of foyer)

GENERAL SESSION

8:30 - 10:05 AM

OPENING REMARKS (Jefferson Room)

Chenine Peloquin, Project Director

WE HAVE THE CAUSE, VOLUNTEERS HAVE THE EFFECT: STRATEGICALLY ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

Presented by Lisl Hacker

.15 CEUs

Research has shown that organizations that fundamentally leverage volunteers and their skills across all leadership levels and in all departments are more adaptable, sustainable and capable of scaling their impact when compared to peer organizations and, as a result, are better able to deliver on their social mission. More specifically, nonprofits that successfully engage volunteers are as effective as their peers without volunteers, but at almost half the median budget. In order to leverage volunteers effectively, organizations must have strong systems in place to manage volunteers effectively.

This workshop will share information and tools to help organization re-envision how they utilize the skills and time of volunteers as well as examples of systems that support effective overall volunteer engagement.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:15 - 11:45 AM (Select one of three options)

UNDERSTANDING AND CHALLENGING ABLEISM TO CREATE INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING **.15 CEUs** (Washington)

Presented by Rachel Donovan, Jeff Lafata, & Ethan Linsky

This interactive workshop will assist participants in examining ableism and how this system of oppression impacts their lives and work. Participants will take the knowledge gained and begin to set action plans to address ableism in their work in order to strengthen the services they provide.

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS: MAKING RADICAL INCLUSION POSSIBLE **.15 CEUs** (Jefferson)

Presented by Jeff Gagnon & Margaret Keller

How can you create a culture of “radical inclusion” —one that allows individuals to fully participate, explore, and develop, from wherever their starting point may be? And how can the arts provide both an opportunity and a framework for this inclusivity? We’ll explain CATA’s top tips for success, detailing an arts-centered, individualized approach to instruction that draws from the principles of Universal Design for learning and from CATA’s own 25-year history serving hundreds of artists with a diverse range of disabilities and abilities, including individuals with developmental, physical, and intellectual disabilities, and autism. This session is offered in partnership with the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation.

RISK MANAGEMENT: TEN PRACTICES TO CREATE A CULTURE OF SAFETY **.15 CEUs** (Adams)

Presented by Barbara Schneider, Esq. Providers of recreational opportunities for people with serve vulnerable populations; we must be especially mindful of creating a “culture of safety” within our organizations. Whether you are running competitive outdoor sporting events or managing an after-school program, in organizations large and small, risk management is critical to the success of your mission. Incidents are rarely black and white, and judgment plays a significant role in how situations are managed. However, by looking at both internal and external factors, and developing systems to guide that process, organizations can build a culture of safety.

Would you like to share *your* expertise in a future session? Do you know someone who should? Contact Chenine at chenine@accessrecboston.org

LUNCH & COLLABORATION FORUM

11:45 AM - 1:45 PM

Our attendees have asked for “facilitated networking,” and multiple opportunities to meet, well, *everyone* else attending! This extended lunch time includes a few different ways to get conversations started around different topics and with a variety of people. As a community of practice, we believe in the *philosophy of abundance*: that there is more than enough to go around (and our work and communities benefit) when we share ideas, resources, referrals, and more. We hope you will join in the conversations!

For those earning CEUs, please remember to return your form to the registration desk at this time.

11:45 AM Lunch opens in the main hallway

11:45 - 1:45 **Exhibitor Hall:** stop, talk, and brainstorm. Try out new equipment and explore partnerships!

12:00 - 1:00 **Para-Sport Programs: Identification and recruitment of participants who have a visual or physical impairment (Adams Room)** In partnership with Adaptive Sports New England, we invite organizations that serve Para sport athletes (individuals who have a visual or a mobility/physical impairment) to discuss how we can collaborate on current and future participant identification, communication, recruitment and retention.

12:40 - 1:35 **Lightning Round:** Check out one or all of these 15-minute short sessions in the Washington Room:

12:40 - 12:55 **TBA**

1:00 - 1:15 **Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers**

Say what? Monkeys as service animals? You bet! Come hear about this locally-grown and now national effort to train and match monkeys with people with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments, including an eligibility and animal training overview.



1:20 - 1:35 **Hiking Accessibility Working Group**

Recent studies have shown what many in this field have known all along: spending time in the woods improves mood, stimulates the immune system, and is generally awesome. The question is: how can we maximize our



collective resources and expertise to give people with disabilities in New England opportunities to spend time in the woods? Come for an update on what the working group has been up to!

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:45- 3:15 PM (Select one of three options)

DISABILITY AND ACCESS TO THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

.15 CEUs

(Washington)

Facilitated by David Lee, CTRS/L and the ARB Hiking Working Group

Working with Individuals with disabilities in outdoor environments can be challenging. Take away accessible routes and pavement, and add in natural features and now it may be overwhelming. Identify solutions to these settings and learn how to get your clients participating in their environment of choice. Bring your equipment solutions to share!

CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL STORIES AND OTHER

VISUAL SUPPORTS IN RECREATION SETTINGS

(Jefferson)

Presented by Kelsey Shannon, M.S., CCC-SLP

.15 CEUs

Come learn about visual supports and how they can be used to increase comprehension and participation with clients on the autism spectrum as well as others. This session will provide an overview of visual supports through the lens of autism and its underlying neurology. We will also take a deeper look into what social stories are, how they are used well (and not!), and the basic principles of writing them. Attendees will then be able to participate in a hands-on portion of the workshop to write their own social stories and get feedback from peers.

THE GOLDILOCKS EFFECT: HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR BOARD SO

EVERYONE IS FULFILLED AND NOT FRUSTRATED

(Adams)

Presented by Angela Lett, CFRE

.15 CEUs

Do your board members know what they're doing? Do you know what they should be doing? Are you expecting too much? Too little? Are they expecting too much or too little? We'll review the life cycle of a nonprofit board and identify key issues to focus on with your board depending on your current organizational stage. We'll also focus on best practices for making sure your board is actively working to make your organization successful.

**PLEASE TURN IN YOUR EVALUATIONS AND
JOIN US FOR INFORMAL NETWORKING IN THE
LOUNGE FROM 3:15 - 4:30 PM**

SPEAKER BIOS

RACHEL DONOVAN

Rachel is a graduate of Revere High School and currently works at Primark in Boston. Rachel joined EPIC in 2016 as an EPIC Service Warrior to make a difference in her community and to continue to learn the skills she needed to reach her goals. After her Service Warrior year, Rachel returned to the program as a Service Leader so that she could guide and mentor the new team of Service Warriors. In the fall of 2017, Rachel became an EPIC Youth Trainer. She now travels around the Commonwealth teaching trainings about ableism, inclusion, and advocacy for youth and adults.

JEFF GAGNON

Jeff Gagnon is a visual artist, arts administrator, and educator. Jeff's work has been exhibited at Gallery 51 in North Adams, MA, the campus center gallery at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Gallery 524 in NYC. He began volunteering at CATA in 2008, and is currently Program Manager and a member of the faculty. Jeff is a former intern of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art where he developed arts-based curriculum and led after-school programming for the education department. Jeff holds a B.A. in Arts Management from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and is currently pursuing an M.Ed. in Community Arts Education at Lesley University.

LISL HACKER

Lisl Hacker is currently the Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Massachusetts Service Alliance. She is a very accomplished public speaker and has presented locally, nationally and internationally on a variety of topics throughout her career. She currently implements the Service Enterprise Curriculum (4th year of this) which includes 16+ hours of training delivered as well as presents on average at 3-4 local conferences a year. She is also scheduled to participate in two different panel workshops at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service sponsored by Points of Light in Atlanta this June.

MARGARET KELLER

Margaret Keller is Executive Director of Community Access to the Arts (CATA), a non-profit arts organization that nurtures and celebrates the creativity of 700 people with disabilities across Berkshire County. Under her leadership, CATA has significantly expanded its partnerships, public programs, and the number of people it serves. In 2016, CATA became the first nonprofit in Berkshire County to receive NEPR's Arts & Humanities Award. Margaret received her B.A. from University of Virginia and her Master's degree in English from the University of Chicago. After completing her doctoral coursework, she was lured away from the ivory tower by the nonprofit world,

where she discovered her passion for bringing the arts and humanities to wider audiences. She spearheaded public programs for a major university and was the founder of a magazine that brought scholars' ground-breaking research to alumni and others. As Associate Director of the Chicago Humanities Festival, Margaret led programs for an annual city-wide celebration of arts and ideas, working with major thinkers, artists, and cultural organizations. For her work expanding the festival's programming and audience, she was chosen by the *Chicago Tribune* as one of the most influential people in arts and culture in the city in 2001. She was manager of foundation relations at Bard College at Simon's Rock and has been on advisory boards for the Chicago History Museum and the Center for Public Intellectuals. She lives in Lenox with her husband, the writer Brendan Mathews, and their four children, and serves on the boards of 1Berkshire and the Lenox Educational Enrichment Foundation at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

JEFF LAFATA

Jeff founded Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) in March of 2011, to address the growing need for transition aged youth with disabilities to develop their leadership skills, and to become more active in their communities. With a lifelong passion for social justice and community service, Jeff began his career in the fall of 1999 as an AmeriCorps Member at City Year Boston, where he worked with students with disabilities in a Boston Public School. Since that time, Jeff has devoted his career to working within the disability community in varied settings: classrooms, community organizations, residential programs and vocational environments. In 2015, Jeff was awarded the Comcast NBCUniversal City Year Leadership Award for his work in founding EPIC.

DAVID LEE, M.S., CTRS/L

David is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, licensed in NH, and is the Associate Director of Programs at Northeast Passage. He oversees all adaptive sports programs and equipment and specializes in outdoor access, adaptive equipment, cycling, and waterskiing.

ANGELA LETT, CFRE

Angela has spent the past 12 years honing her development skills at a variety of non-profits. Prior to joining Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers, she was the Director of Development & External Communications at The Food Project where she enjoyed veggie puns and learned how to cook every vegetable imaginable. Angela has also worked in development offices at the following organizations: The Boston Conservatory, University of North Carolina - Charlotte, Michigan State University, and the Women's Lunch Place. One of the aspects she enjoys most about working in the nonprofit sector is the opportunity to work with leading experts and change-agents in a wide variety of mission driven organizations. In addition to working for non-profits, Angela has also had the opportunity to start a successful non-profit as one of the original members of Boston Opera Collaborative (BOC). During her time with

BOC, Angela served on the Marketing and PR Committee and was a Board-Member-At-Large on the Executive Board, while also having the opportunity to perform opera with world-class musicians and artists. Before settling into the field of nonprofit management, Angela explored a number of other careers. These included testing diapers as a polymer applications chemist, traveling around the world as a cruise ship director, and performing abroad as an opera singer. When not working, Angela can be found enjoying the rich performing arts scene in Boston, leading runs with Forest Hills Runners, singing around New England with her *a cappella* group NOTA – None Of The Above, and snuggling with her adopted cat, Sable.

ETHAN LINSKY

Ethan's passions for education, community health, and sports drove him to participate in and coach a variety of adaptive athletic programs. Ethan played wheelchair basketball for the University of Missouri Tigers, where he studied Psychology, Sociology & Human Development, and Family Studies with an emphasis on Multicultural studies. After graduation, Ethan returned to Boston to serve as a City Boston AmeriCorps Member. After his year of service, Ethan put his passion for community service, youth work, and disability rights together when he joined the EPIC team as the Youth Program Specialist.

BARBARA SCHNEIDER, ESQ.

Barbara is the Executive Director of Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation, a Newry, Maine non-profit that offers year-round adaptive sports and recreational programming to people with disabilities. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law School, Barbara came to Maine to clerk for a judge, then joined the firm of Murray Plumb & Murray, where her practice centered on civil litigation, mediation and arbitration, with an emphasis on commercial, construction, and business disputes. Before attending law school, Barbara worked in non-profit association administration and ran a small organization that presented continuing education programs for nurse practitioners. She currently is an Advisor to young women in a Maine High School as part of the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute and a member of the Bethel Area Age-Friendly Community Initiative Council. In her spare time on weekends, Barbara coaches U8 skiers for the Gould Academy Competition Program, and enjoys all the outdoor sports that Maine Adaptive offers, summers and winters, except for golf, which she hasn't quite found the time to learn yet.

KELSEY SHANNON, M.S., CCC-SLP

Kelsey Shannon earned her Master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Vermont, and holds a Certificate of Clinical Competency from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. She has over 5 years experience working in educational settings specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders and intensive special needs. Kelsey currently works as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Burlington High School in Vermont and was previously part of the clinical therapy team at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center.

MEMBER ORGS

- [AccesSport America](#)
- [Achilles International Boston](#)
- [Adaptive Sports New England](#)
- [All Out Adventures](#)
- [Belmont Recreation/SPORT](#)
- [Boating in Boston](#)
- [Boston Children's Museum](#)
- [Boston Conservatory at Berklee](#)
- [Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester](#)
- [The Bridge Center](#)
- [Brookline Recreation](#)
- [Burlington Recreation](#)
- [Cardinal Cushing Centers](#)
- [Community Boating](#)
- [Community Rowing](#)
- [Concord Recreation](#)
- [Crotched Mountain Accessible Recreation & Sports](#)
- [The Dance Complex – Accessible Dance Initiative](#)
- [deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum](#)
- [DCR Universal Access Program](#)
- [Easter Seals Massachusetts](#)
- [Emarc Recreation](#)
- [Empower SCI](#)
- [Golf For All](#)
- [Grotonwood Camp & Conference](#)
- [The Guild for Human Services](#)
- [Ironstone Farm \(Challenge Unlimited\)](#)
- [Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation](#)
- [Mass Audubon](#)
- [Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress](#)
- [Massachusetts Para-Golfers Association – MPGA](#)
- [Michael LoGuidice LICSW, M.Ed](#)
- [Miracle League of Massachusetts](#)
- [New England Disabled Sports \(NEDS\)](#)
- [New England Healing Sports Association \(NEHSA\)](#)
- [New England Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)
- [New England Yachad](#)
- [Northeast Arc](#)
- [Northeast Passage](#)
- [Open Door Theater](#)
- [Our Space Our Place](#)
- [Outdoor Access](#)
- [Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children](#)
- [PATH-WAY Providing Access To Happiness](#)
- [Piers Park Sailing Center](#)
- [The Play Brigade](#)
- [Riverside Community Care](#)
- [Roman Music Therapy Services](#)
- [Sail To Prevail](#)
- [SEEM Collaborative](#)
- [South Boston Boys & Girls Club](#)
- [South Shore YMCA](#)
- [Spaulding Adaptive Sports](#)
- [Special Olympics Massachusetts](#)
- [Special Needs Arts Programs \(SNAP\)](#)
- [Triangle, Inc \(EPIC and IMPACT:Ability\)](#)
- [UMass Boston – Camp Shriver](#)
- [Waypoint Adventure](#)



WHO WE ARE

ACCESS RECREATION

B O S T O N

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Chenine Peloquin, M.A., CTRS
chenine@accessrecboston.org
617-695-1225 x255



Institute for Human Centered Design

STEERING COMMITTEE

Karen Foster, All Out Adventures*
Rachael Lee, DCR Universal Access Program
Tom McCarthy, DCR Universal Access Program
Anna McKeown, Concord Recreation*
Keja McEwan Spaulding Adaptive Sports Network
Mary Patstone, Spaulding Adaptive Sports Network
Jaclyn Ross, The Bridge Center
Greg Rudolph, The Play Brigade/Adaptive Hiking Team
Laila Soleimani, DCR Universal Access Program*
Joe Walsh, Adaptive Sports New England
Eli Wolff, Inclusive Sports Initiative

**Denotes current leadership team*



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