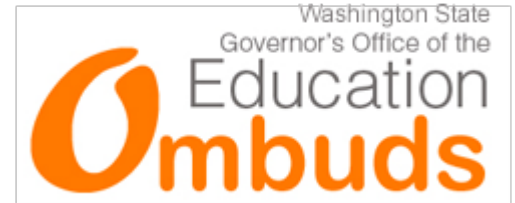


Intersectionality Gallery Walk



Figures in
Black Disability History

Harriet Tubman



[Image description: Black and white photograph of a black woman wearing a patterned headwrap and black shawl.]

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Timeline: 1822-1913

Disability: Epilepsy

What they did: Tubman is an abolitionist known for her work on the Underground Railroad, where she helped runaway slaves to flee to safer areas of the country. Tubman had epilepsy as a result of a head injury from being severely beaten by her master at age 12. Even though she needed to stop and take rest breaks throughout her journeys, Tubman ventured into the depths of slave country many times, saving countless lives.

“Blind Tom” Wiggins



[Image description: Black and white photograph of a black man closing his eyes wearing a suit jacket, dress shirt, and tie.]

Pronouns: He/him/his

Timeline: 1849-1908

Disability: Blindness

What they did: Born blind, Tom Wiggins, as a baby, and his family were sold into slavery. Wiggins had access to a piano, and showed a lot of talent for playing the piano and composing music. Many historians also believe that he was autistic. Later in his life he performed concerts throughout North and South America, as well as Europe. Wiggins’ music has inspired many famous people, including Elton John, who composed a song in his honor.

Fanny Lou Hamer



[Image description: Black and white photograph of a black woman looking off to the side, wearing a patterned dress.]

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Timeline: 1917-1977

Disability: Kidney disease

What they did: Hamer was civil rights activist who was important in efforts to help African Americans register to vote. She had lifelong kidney damage after being beaten. Hamer's disability was the inspiration for her famous words, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Maya Angelou



[Image description: Black woman with short hair wearing gold hoop earrings, a navy coat and a red ribbon pinned to her coat.]

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Timeline: 1928-2014

Disability: Selective mutism

What they did: Angelou was a poet, activist, singer, civil rights activist, and author. One of her most famous works is her memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Angelou had a traumatic childhood, and was sexually assaulted and raped by her mother's boyfriend at the age of eight. As a result of this trauma, she became mute for five years. This condition is called selective mutism.

Quotes

“Black disabled people deserve to be seen and they deserve to be included as part of our rich history. Not including us is to deny our very existence and deny our worth and our accomplishments. And also, it implies that Black people cannot also be disabled which is patently false. Celebrating all kinds of Blackness and Black excellence MUST include Black disabled people.”

-- Loryn Wilson Carter, digital strategist and writer

“Black Disability History matters because the stories of black disabled people are often cast aside as a result of history not being fully explained. We aren’t taught that Harriet Tubman, Fred Hampton and many figures in black history are disabled.”

– Neal Carter, political consultant

“I’m a disabled person whose activism is primarily online. Living in a world that is physically and socially inaccessible (e.g., micro-aggressions, lack of transportation, lack of accessible buildings and venues) and living with a body that has significant energy and assistance needs, makes it difficult for me to ‘show up’ the way most activists imagine what ‘showing up’ means.”

-- Alice Wong, activist and consultant

“Parents of children who are autistic should not assume their child is broken or needs to be fixed. Nor should they rush to sign up their child for every possible therapy or intervention. Autism is a disability, and disability is part of human diversity.”

– Lydia X. Z. Brown, writer and organizer

“Disability and ableism are not secondary issues, though they continually get treated as such. If you are a disabled person out there, I want you to know that our experiences as disabled people matter. Our experiences as disabled queer people of color matter—even if queer, people of color, and queer people of color communities don’t bother to include us in their events, social gatherings, strategies, movements, analysis and communities. We matter and our stories and experiences matter. It means something to be disabled. Never forget that.”

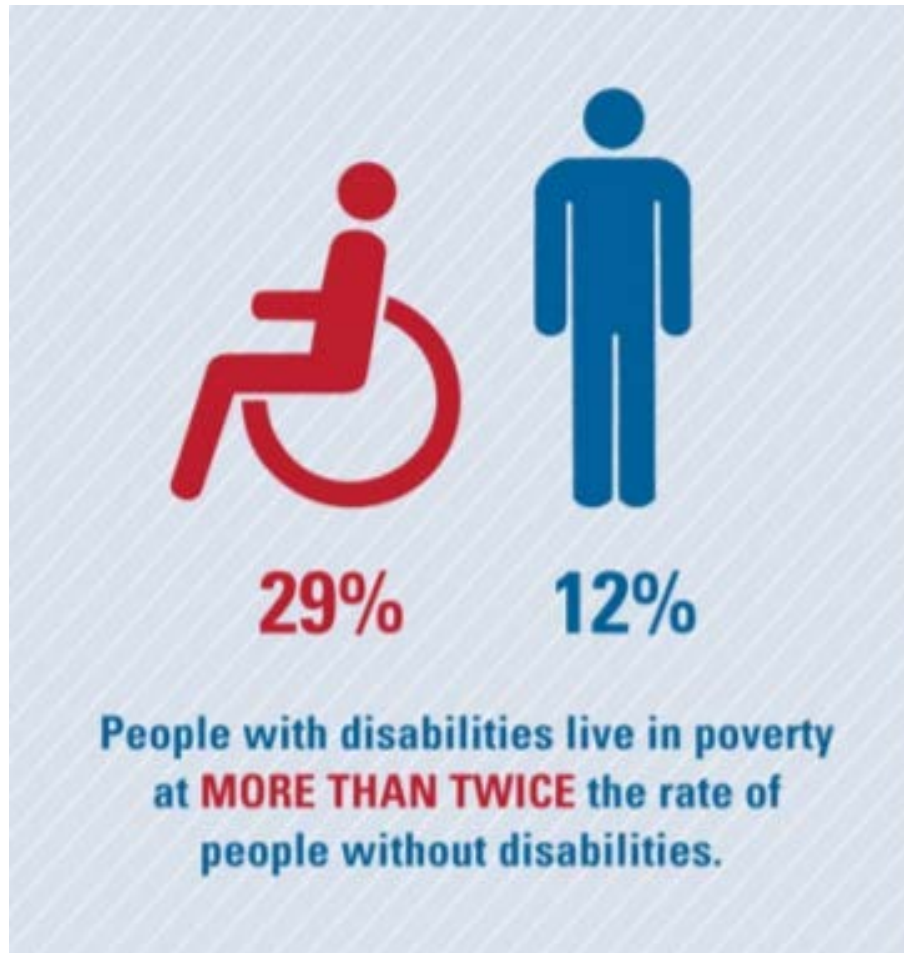
-- Mia Mingus, activist

“Black Disability History means a lot to me as a disabled person. I was born with cystic hygroma. I’m blind in my left eye and I’m deaf in my left ear. Each February when black history month comes around we only seem to celebrate the same...people... It’s always this same narrative every February where we celebrate the achievements of those who are able bodied... I believe that if I had seen myself represented during Black History month as a child I would have felt much better about myself. I’ve always felt like I was alone and that there weren’t as many disabled people in the world. Now that I’m older I know that simply isn’t true but I wish I knew then what I know now.”

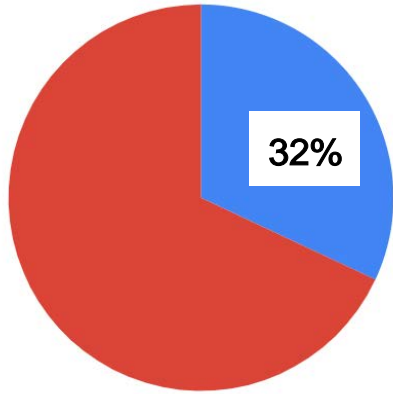
– Sophia Chester, author
Ramp Your Voice 2018

Intersectional Facts

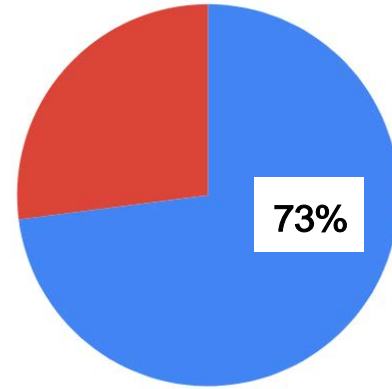
According to the US Census, 24% of Native Americans and Alaska Natives have a disability, compared to 19% of the general population. Many Native Americans and Alaska Natives with disabilities are discriminated against in multiple ways. Some barriers include inadequate funding for programs and supports, shortages of people to help individuals and programs, lack of coordination between agencies, lack of consultation with tribes, and problems identifying persons eligible for services.





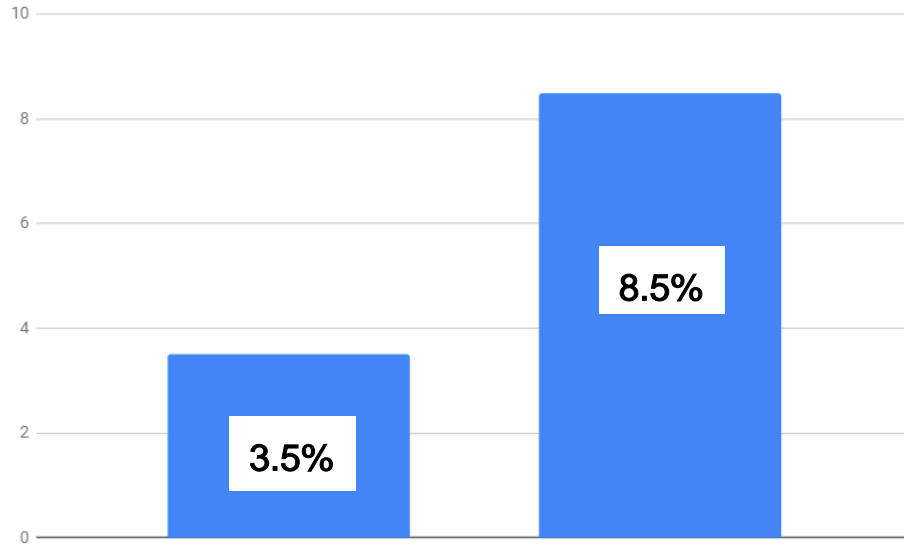


PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE WORKING



PEOPLE WITHOUT DISABILITIES WHO ARE WORKING

Only 32 percent of working -age (16 and over) people with disabilities are employed compared with 73 percent of those without disabilities.



The unemployment rate for people without disabilities is 3.5 percent and the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 8.5 percent.

Even after obtaining a postsecondary education, people with disabilities earn 38 PERCENT LESS than their peers without disabilities.



Present Day Intersectional Disability Voices

For all of these slides, the authors have maintained the self-descriptions and identities of the people, so you will see words like “disabled”, “queer”, and “non-binary”, for example because that is how the people have described themselves.

“Kid President” aka Robby Novak



[Image description: Black boy wearing a black suit, white dress shirt, and red tie standing in front of a Presidential seal.]

Soul Pancake, 2018

Pronouns: He/him/his

Disability : Osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease)

What they do: Kid President is a public speaker, poet, author, and actor. He is famous on YouTube for giving talks and speeches on ways we can be better people to ourselves and those around us. Kid President has interviewed President Obama, met Beyoncé, and launched his own TV show. His book, *Kid President’s Guide to Being Awesome* is a bestseller.

Lydia X. Z. Brown



[Image description: An Asian, nonbinary person smiling wearing glasses, and a plaid shirt under a black blazer.]

Autistic Hoya, 2018

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

Disability : Autism

What they do: Lydia is a nonbinary disability justice advocate, organizer, and writer. Lydia recently completed a term as Chairperson of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (2015-2017) as the youngest appointee nationally to chair any state developmental disabilities council. Lydia is the lead editor behind *All the Weight of Our Dreams*, the first-ever anthology of writings and artwork by autistic people of color, published by the Autism Women's Network in June 2017. Lydia has been honored by the White House, Washington Peace Center, National Council on Independent Living, and many other places. Lydia is now a Public Interest Law Scholar at Northeastern University School of Law.

Vilissa Thompson



[Image description: Black woman with glasses sitting in wheelchair wearing dangly earrings, a white blouse, and a black skirt.]

Ramp Your Voice, 2018

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Disability : Osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease)

What they did: Vilissa is a disability rights consultant, writer, and advocate. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), and founder/CEO of Ramp Your Voice!, an organization focused on promoting self-advocacy and strengthening empowerment among people with disabilities. She also created the #DisabilityTooWhite hashtag addressing the lack of diversity within the disability community and how a lack of representation impacts disabled people of color and their ability to feel fully included and accepted within the community.

Alice Wong



[Image description: Asian American woman in a wheelchair. She is wearing a black jacket with a black patterned scarf. She is wearing a mask over her nose with a tube for her Bi-Pap machine. Behind her is a wall full of colorful street art.]

Disability Visibility Project, 2018

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Disability : Spinal muscular atrophy

What they do: Alice is a disability activist, media maker, and consultant. She is the Founder and Director of the Disability Visibility Project® (DVP), an online community dedicated to recording, amplifying, and sharing disability stories and culture created in 2014. Alice is also a co-partner in two projects: DisabledWriters.com, a resource to help editors connect with disabled writers and journalists, and #CripTheVote, a nonpartisan online movement encouraging the political participation of disabled people.

Claudia Gordon



[Image description: A Black woman with a cropped haircut sits with her hands folded. She is smiling.]

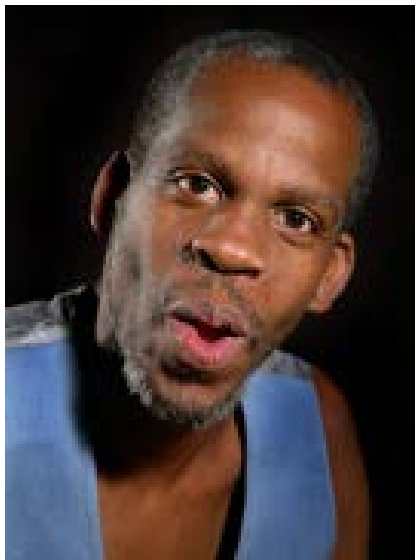
Gallaudet University Trustees, 2018

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Disability/Identity: Deaf

What they do: Claudia L. Gordon is the first deaf Black woman attorney in the United States. She immigrated from Jamaica to the United States when she was 11. She remembers arriving in the U.S. and feeling as if she could finally receive an education. In Jamaica, her hearing loss had been stigmatized even more than in the States. President Obama appointed Claudia to head the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Today, she works as a key adviser to Sprint on accessibility and serves on the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University, one of the leading universities for Deaf and hard of hearing students.

Leroy F. Moore Jr.



[Image description: Black man wearing a blue vest with his mouth slightly open.]

Pronouns: He/him/his

Disability : Cerebral palsy

What they do: Leroy is a writer, poet, musician, and activist. He is a co-Founder of Sins Invalid, a disability performance art collective. He created a lecture series called, "On the Outskirts: Race & Disability". He is also producer and columnist of Illin-N-Chillin at Poor Magazine. Leroy is the creator of Krip-Hop Nation, a movement that uses hip-hop music as a means of expression for people with a disabilities. The goal of Krip -Hop is to educate the music, media industries and general public about the talents, history, rights and marketability of Hip -Hop artists and other musicians with disabilities.

Sins Invalid, 2018

Andrés J. Gallegos



[Image description: A Latinx man with gray hair wearing a black suit, white dress shirt, and maroon tie. He smiles and sits in a wheelchair in front of a gray background.]

Robbins, Salomon, and Patt LTD, 2018

Pronouns: He/him/his

Disability: Physical disability

What they do: Gallegos is an attorney at a law firm in Chicago, Illinois, where he focuses his practice on disability rights and healthcare law. Gallegos founded and spearheaded his law firm's 4-year old initiative to improve access to healthcare and wellness programs for persons across all types of disabilities. Gallegos provides advice and counsel to healthcare and other entities on compliance matters relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act and other state and local human and civil rights laws, ordinances and regulations. Gallegos also represents individuals, and classes of individuals, with disabilities to address violations of those civil and human rights laws.

Mia Mingus



[Image description: Asian woman smiling wearing silver hoop earrings and a red top.]

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Disability: Physical disability

What they do: Mia is a writer and organizer working for disability justice to end child sexual abuse. She describes herself as a queer physically disabled Korean woman transracial and transnational adoptee who is dedicated to communities and movements working for social justice. She travels nationally, giving talks and trainings, and is a member of the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collaborative (BATJC), a local collective working to build and support community responses to end child sexual abuse.

The Obama White House, 2016

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha



[Image description: A woman of color with tan skin, tattoos, and green hair smiles and looks away from the camera. She wears a black tank top with a shark on it and stands in front of a green bush.]

Brown Star Girl, 2018

Pronouns: She/they/hers/theirs

Disability : Neurodivergent and has chronic illness

What they do: Piepzna-Samarasinha is a queer disabled nonbinary femme writer and cultural worker of Burger/Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/Roma ascent. Her work has been widely published and received many awards. She is currently a lead artist with the disability justice performance collective Sins Invalid, she teaches, performs and lectures across North America. Piepzna-Samarasinha co-founded and co-directed Mangos With Chili, North America's longest running queer and trans people of color performance art tour. Her new book of essays, *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice* is forthcoming in fall 2018 from Arsenal Pulp Press. Raised in Worcester, MA, she divides her time between T'karonto and South Seattle.

Dominick Evans



[Image description: White man wearing glasses and a blue argyle sweater sits in a wheelchair. He is seated in front of a grassy area with a sidewalk.]

Pronouns: He/him/his

Disability: Spinal muscular atrophy, OCD

What they do: Dominick is a filmmaker and activist. He completed his first film, *trip* in 2014. He is currently working on his next film, *Inamorata*. He is a trans and disability advocate and spokesperson, he is committed to helping the world understand and accept trans identified individuals.

The Crip Crusader, 2018

Annie Segarra



[Image description: Latinx woman with blue hair wearing a black gloves and a black tank top that says, "NEW YORK CITY." She sits in a wheelchair in front of a colorful brick wall.]

Pronouns: She/they/hers/theirs

Disability : Ehlers–Danlos syndrome

What they do: Annie is an American YouTuber, artist, and activist for LGBT and disability rights. Annie is queer, Latinx, and disabled. Annie developed her disability later in life and wasn't diagnosed until she was 26 years old. She has created the viral hashtags #TheFutureIsAccessible and #AmbulatoryWheelchairUsersExist.

Rooted in Rights, 2017

Katherine Perez



[Image description: Latinx woman with long brown hair and glasses wearing a flowered blazer over a blue shirt. She stands in front of a brick wall.]

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Disability : Mental disability

What they do: Perez is an attorney, scholar, and activist. She analyzes disability laws and policies through critical legal and historical frameworks. She founded Coalición Nacional para Latinxs con Discapacidades (CNLD) or National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities. Perez was a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellow in Washington D.C. (2006-2007) and a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru (2008-2010). She currently serves on the Rooted in Rights National Advisory Board, as a REV UP Advisory Committee Member, and a Student Representative on the National Advisory Board of the National Center for College Students with Disabilities. She identifies as a Latina with mental disabilities.

National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities

Shain M. Neumeier



[Image description: A white, nonbinary person wears glasses and smiles. They are wearing a white collared shirt under a blue sweater and black blazer.]

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

Disability: Autism, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, cleft lip and palate, ectodermal dysplasia

What they do: Shain is an attorney, activist and community organizer, as well as an out and proud member of the disability & LGBTQ+ communities. They are passionate on the issue of ending abuse and neglect of youth with disabilities in schools and treatment facilities stems from their own experiences with involuntary medical treatment and bullying. They work in Western Massachusetts in their own law practice focusing on disability, youth and transgender rights.

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