**Because of the ADA Calendar of Events**

**May**

Thursday, May 28 @ 9:00am

*DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities meeting:* (441 4th Street, NW ste. 1117 Washington, DC 2001) Get more involved by attending an official meeting of the DC Commission of Persons with Disabilities, a mayoral-elected advisory commission that advocates for effective public policy, protects the rights of all residents of and visitors to the District of Columbia, regardless of their physical or mental ability.

Sunday, May 31 @ 1:45pm

*The Martin M.S. Alliance Foundation* (Walter E. Washington Convention Center 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, Room 103A, Washington, DC 20001).In conjunction with Awesome Con, the Martin M.S. Alliance Foundation will be hosting a panel discussion on the images of disability in Comics. [www.ManyFacesofMS.org](http://www.ManyFacesofMS.org) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204172104/>

**June**

Thursday, June 4 @ 4:00pm

*DC Housing Forum:* (Old Council Chambers at 441 4th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001) The DC Office of Disability Rights and community partners proudly invite you to the DC Housing Forum. Come to this free, open event to learn about accessible housing, gain a better understanding of your rights, and empower yourself with knowledge about housing for people with disabilities! <http://dchousingforum15.eventbrite.com>

**July**

Tuesday, July 14

*DC Office of Disabilities Rights* *Because of the ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration*

Wednesday, July 15

*End the Awkward: Focus on the Person, Not the Disability* (Office of Human Rights) The “End the Awkward” project is a one-day campaign in the District of Columbia on July 15 that empowers the public and businesses to share information about disability issues, and to take the pledge to raise awareness and better understand them. The participants are provided a pin that prompts people to ask about how to “end the awkward,” as well as talking points the participant can use to respond. The talking points are intended to instruct people in how to act respectfully toward people with disabilities without being awkward, and are varied in length so they are useful in several scenarios. The project intends to quickly engage people who do not typically think about disability issues, in part so they are primed for the coverage and attention around the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act on July 26.

<http://ohr.dc.gov/page/endtheawkwardDC>

Thursday, July 16

*Josh Blue, An evening of comedy* (Kennedy Center)

*ADA 25th Anniversary: Champion Disability Rights* (Kennedy Center Family Theater Lobby) As one of the chief sponsors of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Senator Edward M. Kennedy ensured that millions of Americans living with disabilities would be protected against discrimination. This exhibit examines the Senator’s contributions to the passage of this legislation, and includes two portraits from the VSA Permanent Art Collection of Senator Kennedy by well-known artists Andy Warhol and Jamie Wyeth.

<http://www.2540celebration.com/>

Monday, July 20

*Screen on the Green: The Best Years of Our Lives*

Wednesday, July 22

*Justice for All Awards and Rooftop Reception*

Thursday, July 23

*National Council on Disability Quarterly Meeting*

*Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper bluegrass concert (Kennedy Center)*

Thursday, July 23- Sunday, July 26

*Smithsonian Film Festival*

Friday, July 24- Sunday, July 26

*Disability Culture Festival (*Museum of American History)

*Smithsonian Festival’s ADA: 25 Years of Disability Civil Rights*

The Smithsonian is partnering with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts in producing a range of activities to mark this historic moment and highlight the ADA’s on-going legacy in American life. All events are at the National Museum of American History, free, and accessible.<http://www.2540celebration.com/events/event/smithsonians-festival-ada-25-years-of-disability-civil-rights/>

Friday, July 24

*Blessing Offor, rhythm & blues vocalist* (Kennedy Center)

*The Americans with Disabilities Act: Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future (US Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave, SW).*

The U.S. Department of Education will bring together policy and program leaders, community organizations, and youth to examine current implications of the ADA’s implementation and cross-cutting issues with other federal civil rights laws, and plant the seeds for the next 25 years of achieving new milestones to advance civil rights for people with all types of disabilities. To unite thought leaders with today’s up-and-coming generation of youth and young adults with disabilities, three event elements are being put into place. To learn more, contact Ollie Cantos at (202) 453-6543 or [Ollie.cantos@ed.gov](mailto:Ollie.cantos@ed.gov).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DOEDADA25>

Saturday, July 25

*National Dance Day, Axis Dance Company* (Kennedy Center)

Sunday, July 26

*Official 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act*

*ADA Legacy Bus arrives in Washington, DC* [*http://www.adalegacy.com/ada25/ada-legacy-tour*](http://www.adalegacy.com/ada25/ada-legacy-tour)

*Millennium Stage Performances* @ 6:00pm (Kennedy Center)

*VSA’s Jean Kennedy Smith Inaugural* *Lecture* @8:00pm-10pm) (Kennedy Center)

Monday, July 27

*National Disability Leadership Alliance (NDLA) Americans with Disabilities Act 25th Anniversary* [*http://www.disabilityleadership.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=96&Itemid=40*](http://www.disabilityleadership.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=96&Itemid=40)

Monday, July 27- Wednesday, July 29

*Access Board Meeting*

Tuesday, July 28

*National Center for Independent Living March, Rally, and Hill Visit*