

**May 2018 Newsletter - DC Office of Disability Rights**

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| district of columbia office of disability rights |

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| **May 2018**  |

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| **ODR Celebrates 2018 Mental Health Awareness Month**

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| [A green ribbon behind the words 1 in 5](https://odr.dc.gov/release/2018-mental-health-awareness-month)**ODR recognizes May 2018 as Mental Health Awareness Month.** We aim to open the conversation and educate the public and advocates surrounding mental health and continue to fight stigma, attitudes and misconceptions associated with it. For more information on what you can do please view our [PSA.](https://odr.dc.gov/release/2018-mental-health-awareness-month) |

**Check out ODR's New YouTube Account!**

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| Youtube logo |  | **ODR has created our very own YouTube account** so that you can easily access our videos including disability sensitivity trainings and our 2016 Telly Award Winning, The New Bob! [Subscribe](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_AvatNi40hYJZesWjusYbA) now to our channel!  |

**Community Events****Adaptive Climbing Day**

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| Adaptive Climbing Community Day |  | **Join Paradox Sports for a half day climbing event at Towson University as part of the Adaptive Climbing Initiative course.**  As adaptive athletes, you will offer invaluable insights and experience for the gym staff, volunteers and climbing facilitators interested in expanding adaptive climbing programs in your area. [Registration is free.](https://impact.paradoxsports.org/event/adaptive-climbing-day-or-towson-university/e179190) If you have any questions, please contact Paradox Sports at info@paradoxsports.org**Date:** Sunday, May 6th, 2018**Time:** 12:00 - 3:00PM**Location:** Towson University, 8000 York Road, Towson, Maryland 21252 |

**Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration**

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| **Mayor Muriel Bowser's Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration** will take place on May 7th at the Lincoln Theater. Join for an exciting night featuring cultural performances by renowned AAPI artists, an awards ceremony, and more! **Admission is free, but an RSVP is required. To RSVP, visit**[**2018aapihm.eventbrite.com**](http://2018aapihm.eventbrite.com/)**.**For reasonable accomodations call: 202-727-3120. **Date:** Monday, May 7th, 2018**Time**: 7:00 - 8:30 PM **Location:** Lincoln Theater (1215 U Street NW)   |  | The 2018 AAPI Heritage Month Celebration Flyer |

**Let's Communicate in American Sign Language: Beginner Level**

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| Image of hands in sign language saying ASL |  | **Want to learn ASL and for free? The DC Public Library is hosting a beginner's level class**, which covers 100+ ASL vocabulary words and rules of grammar. Review what you know, learn new signs and practice conversation. Although the focus is on beginners, everyone is welcome to join the class, regardless of skill level. The class is free. No need to register. Questions? Contact Janice Rosen via 202-559-5368 or email.**When:** Saturday May 5th and May 12th, 2018**Time:** 10:00 AM**Location:** North East Library (330 7th St. NE) |

**Rock the Mic - Poetry Slam**

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| **The DC Department of Behavioral Health will be hosting Let Help In "Rock the Mic",** an inaugural poetry slam in honor of Children's Mental health Awareness Month! This event is designed to connect the community to mental health resources and knowledge through poetry. [Registration is free.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rock-the-mic-poetry-slam-tickets-45296056725)**When:** Wednesday, May 9th, 2018**Time:** 6:00 - 8:30 PM**Location:** Howard Theater (620 T Street NW) |  | DBH Roc the Mic - Poetry Slam flyer |

**Inclusion Best Practices in Arts Education Settings**

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| DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Logo |  | **This workshop designed for teaching artists will help improve confidence and increase skill sets** in facilitating arts education experiences for Pre-K-12 students of all abilities in an inclusive setting. [Registration is free](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inclusion-best-practices-in-arts-education-settings-tickets-45119381284?aff=es2).**When:** Wednesday, May 9th, 2017**Time:** 9:30AM-12:30 PM**Location:**DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Multi-Purpose Room (200 I Street Southeast) |

**Actions Toward Resilience: Developing an Inclusive District Mitigation Plan**

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| **Join the District’s Hazard Mitigation Team for an interactive discussion between stakeholders and the District’s Mitigation Program** to develop and propose new actions and initiatives that will reduce risk in the District. [Registration is free](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/actions-toward-resilience-developing-an-inclusive-district-mitigation-plan-tickets-45449563869).**When:** Thursday, May 17, 2018**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**Location:** Cloyd Heck Marvin Center (800 21st Street NW, Room 403)  |  | HSEMA logo |

**Tech Talk Mondays**

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| Prevention of Blindness Society of Metro DC Logo |  | **Join DC Public Library Adaptive Technology Librarian, Patrick Timony and Leslie Bobbitt in a discussion about the adaptive technology** available for those with low vision. Bring your questions! To [register](http://youreyes.org/events/details/492-assistive-technology-for-low-vision), call (202) 234-1010.**When:** Monday, May 21st**Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 PM**Location:** Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington Headquarters (233 Massachusetts Ave., NE) |

**DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities May Meeting**

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| **The DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities May 2018 Meeting** will be held on Friday, May 25th at 10:00 AM. This month's meeting is in-person meeting and the public are welcome to attend. To learn more about the Commission visit our [website](https://odr.dc.gov/page/dc-commission-persons-disabilities).  |  | The DC Logo, Red Stars and Stripes |

**DC Advocacy Partners is Back!**

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| DC Advocacy Partners Logo |  | **The DC Developmental Disabilities Council is bringing the very popular DC Advocacy Partners program back to life.** [DC Advocacy Partners](http://dcpartners.iel.org/) is a leadership training program designed for self-advocates and family members of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities as well as professionals working with people with disabilities. A formal announcement and application will be available very soon. If you have suggestions of individuals you would like the application to be sent to, please send their contact information to Carly Fahey at faheyc@iel.org |

**Next Chapter Book Club Kick Off**

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| [Next Chapter Book Club Logo](https://nextchapterbookclub.org/)**The District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council launched their Kick Off of the Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC)** on May 3rd. NCBC is designed to be inclusive of people with and without disabilities reading together, making friends, and being apart of their community. To get involved check out the [Next Chapter Book Club Website](https://nextchapterbookclub.org/).  |

**Become an Election Day Worker!**

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| DC Vote Logo |  | **To serve as an election day worker, you are required to be a District resident.** [Learn more](https://www.dcboe.org/Poll-Workers/Apply-to-be-an-Election-Day-Worker) about the requirements and how to register to become an Election Day Worker! If you need an accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator at (202) 727-2525 or TTY: (202) 639-8916. Sign language interpreters and other language access services are available upon request. |

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| **External Job Opportunities** * The United States International Council on Disability (USICD) is hiring for a full-time [Program Manager](http://www.usicd.org/doc/Program%20Manager%20Position%20Description_Final1.pdf)
* The DC Government Department on Disability Services is now hiring for a [Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist](https://careers.dc.gov/psc/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant) and a [Partnerships in Employment Project Manager](https://careers.dc.gov/psc/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant)
* The DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency is hiring for a [Program Analyst](https://careers.dc.gov/psc/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant) to work as a direct support to the Disability Integration Bureau Chief
* The DC Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights is hiring for a [Deputy Compliance Officer](https://careers.dc.gov/psc/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant) and [Equal Opportunity Specialist](https://careers.dc.gov/psc/erecruit/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant)

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| **Looking Back on the Past****9th Annual Voices of Change Conference**

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| DC Youth Leaders Peer Network LOGO |  | **ODR and the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) attended the 9th Annual Voices of Change Conference on April 20th** and we met with many students, parents, teachers, and support providers**.** The Annual Voices of Change Conference provides an opportunity for DC transition-aged youth with disabilities to get helpful information about community-based support services, to meet youth leaders who can shed light on postsecondary pathways to work, education, and independent living, and to explore artistic and creative ways to express their unique strengths, needs, and goals. Learn more about the [DC Voices of Change Peer Network.](http://www.schooltalkdc.org/power-with-youth/dc-youth-leaders-peer-network-voices-of-change/)  |

**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act**

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| **In April, we, along with the Developmental Disabilities Council and many other Agencies and DC residents celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.** The FHA was signed into Law on April 11, 1968 and was established to prohibit discrimination by direct providers of housing ie., landlords and real estate companies as well as other entities, i.e., municipalities, banks or other lending institutions and homeowners insurance companies. The [DC Office of Human Rights](https://ohr.dc.gov/fairhousing) has great resources on Fair Housing including how to file a complaint, educational materials and posters, and webinars. |  | Foundation for a Fair Future image of home |

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| **ODR Office Spotlight****Naquran Smith**

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| Naquran Smith has been working in the Office of Disability Rights as a Clerical Assistant and prior to being promoted to this position worked as the Front Desk Administrator. In his current role, Naquran performs building and facilities compliance surveys including the surveying of DC Public Schools, DC Parks and Recreation Centers, DC Metro Police Departments, and the DC Public Libraries. Naquran who is a native of DC has vast skill training in Automotive Mechanics, web page design and detailed use of Microsoft Office.  |  | Image of Naquaran Smith standing infant of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts |

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| For Information about ODR’s Newsletter call (202)724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.441 4th Street NW, Suite 729 North, Washington DC 20001, Phone: (202)724-5055Fax: (202)727-9484 E-mail: ODR.Complaints@dc.govMISSION STATEMENTThe mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws. |

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