



THECIL

SUMMER 2019

NEWSLETTER



INCLUSIVE MEDIA ARTS

Learning the art of filmmaking in an inclusive environment at TheCIL

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



In a crowded conference room at Ed Roberts Campus, the audience takes their seats. This semester's Inclusive Media Arts class is set to debut their latest project to a packed house. Tony, a former student and this semester's teaching assistant, leads the crowd in chanting "Lights, Camera, Action!"

The Berkeley Adult School's Inclusive Media Arts Class was back for its third semester with instructor Ashley Saks. Students from Oakland Unified School District and other Bay Area locations were invited to join the class, hosted at TheCIL, to learn about the entire filmmaking process, from concept to script to final product. This semester's project: remaking the music video for the song "Girls Like You" by Maroon 5 and Cardi B.

"One of the first classes, we got to know each other. We talked about what kind of music we're interested in, what ideas we're interested in, and we have this huge brainstorm," explained Saks.

"We wanted something with a positive message and rhythm that we could dance to. Tony suggested the song, and we just loved it and had so much fun with it."

Inspired by the real music video, the student's video featured Sophie, one of the class's students, filling the role of lead singer. The students in the music video wore T-shirts with strong statements, like "Love is Love," "I Will Always Stand Up For You," and TheCIL's "Be Your Own Normal".

"My favorite part was the singing and the dancing."

During the Q&A period following the premiere, the students were asked if there was a particular moment in this class that they remember as being the most fun. Sophie said, "My favorite part was the singing and the dancing."

"Mine was the video shoot," Henry, a second-year student, said. When asked how they achieved the steady motion of the camera, another student, Simon, explained, "We taped the small camera to the chair, and we just rolled the chair around."

Last semester, the Inclusive Media Arts class made a documentary project about dance, which was also shown at the premiere. It features Anne Marsen, a professional dancer from Colorado who was featured in the album-length music video "Girl Walk // All Day."



Students in the Inclusive Media Arts class use a desk chair as a makeshift dolly while shooting the music video for "Girls Like You".

The class interviewed her via Skype, then danced together on-screen, while hundreds of miles apart.

Last year, the class produced a remake of the music video "Intergalactic" by the Beastie Boys.

At the premiere, Saks explained, "this is a really fun, community-based class where we bring in people from the community to collaborate with. So, it's not only for individuals with disabilities, but it's for anyone to participate. You'll see a lot of people in this project that were not in our class. And that is a really big, important piece of why we make this such an inclusive experience for folks. It's to give everyone a voice here, to give everyone the opportunity to share their talents, to learn new things, behind the scenes or on camera if they're comfortable with that, and to push their comfort level. That's all a part of Inclusive Media Arts."

You can watch the "Girls Like You" music video, the "Let's Get Happy" dance documentary, and last year's "Intergalactic" project by visiting www.TheCIL.org/MediaArts.

Get more info about the Inclusive Media Arts class by following @InclusiveMediaArts on Instagram, visiting [facebook.com/InclusiveMediaArts](https://www.facebook.com/InclusiveMediaArts), or email Ashley Saks at ashleysaks@berkeley.net.

TONY, THE TEACHING ASSISTANT

"Tony is an exemplary student with so much talent and leadership skills. I asked him to TA this semester and he gladly accepted. He's been a huge help, a role model and mentor for students and the lead choreographer on our projects from the beginning!"

- Ashley Saks, Instructor



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THECIL?



AZTEC 5K

Members of TheCIL participated in The Aztec Run, an annual 5K Run/Walk presented by the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation (SSCF). Its purpose is to promote fitness, build community and raise funds for the educational programs of SSCF. The SSCF is a community-based non-profit organization that has served the East Bay since 1965.



DISABILITY IN THE WORKPLACE PANEL

TheCIL presented a panel at the UC Berkeley Career Center, discussing how a disability can be considered an asset in the workplace. Panelists included diversity officers, hiring managers, disability activists, and people with disabilities with competitive employment, including Stuart James, TheCIL's executive director.



YOUTHS MEET MAYOR SCHAAF

During the half-hour meeting with TheCIL's Youth Transitions class, Mayor Schaaf briefly discussed her beliefs as Mayor, and how those beliefs have clashed with the President's in the past few years. Then, she listened to questions and comments that the students had prepared. The topics included issues of homelessness, housing, and education - some of Mayor Schaaf's most important issues.



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

TheCIL's Catherine Callahan hosted a multi-day seminar at Cal State University East Bay, with a focus on how to gain competitive employment. Students with disabilities at CSUEB learned how to apply for jobs, build relationships in the workplace, and even had professional headshots taken for their LinkedIn profiles.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THECIL?



YOUTH SCAVENGER HUNT

TheCIL put on our 4th annual Scavenger Hunt, an event designed to connect local youths with public transit options and local resources. Students from various local schools raced around Oakland, learning who to contact for things like graffiti removal, unsafe buildings, or issues with BART accessibility.



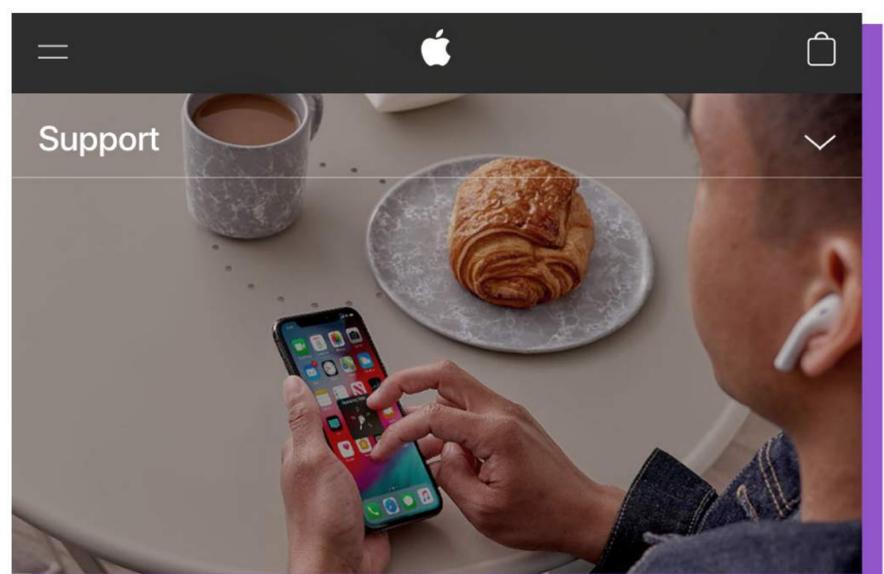
DESIGNING BERKELEY BOOK TALK

TheCIL hosted a discussion at Ed Roberts Campus called 'Designing Disability Rights in Berkeley' with Bess Williamson, author of *Accessible America: A History of Disability and Design*, and Elizabeth Guffey, author of *Designing Disability: Symbols, Space, and Society*. Find their books on Amazon.com.



VALOR GAMES

TheCIL provided sports wheelchairs and presented information about our programs to participants at Valor Games Far West. The goal of Valor Games is to introduce adaptive sports to veterans and active duty service members with disabilities.



APPLE ACCESSIBILITY

Photographers from Apple captured TheCIL's Assistive Technology Specialist, Jeshua Aveno, using Apple's accessibility features for the iPhone. His photo is now featured as the banner for Apple Accessibility Support.

Check it out by visiting support.apple.com/accessibility.

MOMENTUM

Transportation & Mobility

EXPO



MOMENTUM EXPO 2019

TheCIL hosted Momentum Expo 2019 on Saturday, April 27, at Ed Roberts Campus, featuring resources, assistive technology, recreation, and a full lineup of informational speakers. This event gave people with disabilities the knowledge and information required to travel independently around the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

Resources were available from organizations all over Northern California, like The Alameda County Registrar of Voters, who were providing information about their accessible voting machines. Other resources were available from Easy Does It Wheelchair Repair, California Department of Rehabilitation, Guide Dogs for The Blind, and more.

Assistive technology was also on display at Momentum Expo 2019, highlighted by demos of the latest power wheelchair technology, like the WHILL Model Ci and Invacare TDX SP2. TheCIL debuted our 3D-Printed Tactile Maps for people with low vision (www.thecil.org/3D). Thanks to everyone who joined us at April's expo!



LIVE STREAM

Couldn't make it to the Expo? Watch interviews with exhibitors, speakers, and guests - like The Berkeley Times editor and publisher, R. Todd Kerr.

To watch clips from the live broadcast, visit www.YouTube.com/TheCIL.

THECIL SUCCESS STORIES



GEOFF EVANS

TheCIL Benefits Counselor
on Helping a Client
Understand SSI Benefits

I first met with this client back in May of 2016 when he first started receiving services at Telecare. He had just come out of a period of incarceration and hospitalization and needed to learn about reinstatement of his SSI benefits. I met with him again in January of 2018 as he was being awarded his SSI back-pay in installments. He was working with an employment specialist to pursue going back to work, and needed to learn about SSI work incentives and asset management strategies to maintain Medi-Cal.

We met several times throughout the time he was working with the Employment Specialist to find suitable work, including meeting with his parents to make sure everyone understood the various concerns to maintain the benefits and support services as he pursued work. We decided to open an ABLE account to manage the back-pay SSI, mostly to ensure that he maintained Medi-Cal eligibility that would cover his services through Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services.

I initially advised that he start working part-time, to assess how this activity would impact his health, and gradually increase his work if this seemed possible. After a few trial and error situations, he eventually took on a part-time position and learned how to report his income and how SSI would count this income.

He just contacted me again recently, and I am happy to report that he has taken a full-time job at a delivery company that is a good situation in terms of accommodating his disability. He understands that his SSI cash benefits will stop, but would like to maintain Medi-Cal coverage for the time being, in case this job proves to be too demanding and/or his disability symptoms increase and he needs to start receiving services again. He will request to be put on the 250% Working Disabled Program Medi-Cal category that will allow him to earn more income, and he has the ABLE account in place to manage asset/resource limits.



T H E C I L

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