



Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Disability Resource Guide

Below is a non-exhaustive list of resources to learn more about resources for disabled people, disability rights history, and more. For questions or additions, please email the Office of DEI at diversity@pratt.edu.

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Ableism and Language Around Disability

It's important to start off any conversation around disability by discussing [ableism](#).

- Ableism: Oppression, prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination against disabled people on the basis of actual or presumed disability. The belief that people are superior or inferior, have better quality of life, or have lives more valuable or worth living on the basis of actual or perceived disability. (Lydia X.Z. Brown)

In one sense, ableism is about individual behavior, but it is also about our social structures and institutions. We live in an ableist society, and through it, intrinsically learned ableist behavior. It is important to learn about how ableism is perpetuated on both levels, in order for us to unlearn our own attitudes towards disability and change society as a whole.

The first way to start unlearning ableism, is how we refer to disabled people. Each disabled person has their own preferences on how to refer to their disability. Like other identity groups, some people within the disabled community choose to reclaim slurs, some argue for [person-first language](#) ("person with a disability"), some advocate for [identity first language](#) ("disabled person"), and others don't care one way or the other. For example, this section uses identity-first language.

- Person-first language: Language that refers to the person first and the identity second. For example: "The writer, who has a bipolar disorder" as opposed to "the disabled writer."
- Identity-first language: Language that refers to the person's identity first. For example, "bipolar people". The basic reason behind members of some identity groups' dislike for the application of people-first language to themselves is that they consider their identity to be inseparable parts of who they are.

There are a wide variety of disabilities (e.g. physical, visual, hearing, mental health, visible, invisible, intellectual, learning, and more) each with particular language. If it is necessary to list a person's disability, it is best left to the disabled individual to determine which type of language they prefer.

For more information on ableism and language on disability, please refer to the articles below:

- ["Ableism 101"](#) by Ashley Eisenmenger
- ["Ableist Words and Terms to Avoid"](#) by Lydia X.Z. Brown
- ["On Being a Cripple"](#) by Nancy Mairs
- ["Identity and Hypocrisy: A Second Argument Against Person-First Language"](#) by Lydia X.Z. Brown
- ["To Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for All, It's Time to Embrace People First Language"](#) by Kathie Snow
- ["Words Matter, And It's Time To Explore The Meaning Of 'Ableism.'"](#) by Andrew Pulrang

On-Campus Organizations and Programs

- [Learning/Access Center](#): The L/AC facilitates full access for students with disabilities so that they can freely and actively participate in all facets of Pratt life. The L/AC collaborates to provide Institute-wide advice and consultation on disability-related matters (including legal compliance and universal design) and provides individual services and tools to facilitate diverse learning styles and accommodations in a sustainable inclusive manner.
- [Accessibility Advisory Committee](#): The Pratt Accessibility Advisory Committee is charged with creating a plan to improve the physical campus environment, implementing actions, policies, and practices needed to improve access to campus facilities and programs, and other tasks dedicated to creating a more accessible campus. Visit their website for the full list of the Committee's responsibilities, membership, past town hall recordings, and accomplishments.
- [Sick and Disabled Student Union](#): The Sick and Disabled Student Union functions as a peer-led support and advocacy network for students dealing with the challenges of balancing school and health. It offers support group meetings, workshops, and other support programming, as well as being a resource to confront ableism.
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Allies Training Certificate Program](#): The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Allies Training Certificate Program educates the Pratt community on important terms and concepts integral to an in-depth understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Articles and Essays

- ["28 Movies, Books, TV Shows \(and More\) That Explore Disability Culture"](#) by Deborah Leiderman
- ["A Failed System': What It's Like to Vote With a Disability During a Pandemic"](#) by Maggie Astor
- ["After #OscarsSoWhite, Disability Waits for Its Moment"](#) by Various Authors
- ["Changing the Framework: Disability Justice"](#) by Mia Mingus
- ["Collecting \[a\] home for Disability Justice in the Library"](#) by Dana Bishop-Root and Dustin Gibson in collaboration with Bekezela Mguni
- ["Discovering Digital Pathways To Disability Culture"](#) by Andrew Pulrang
- ["Fatphobia, Ableism, and the COVID-19 Pandemic"](#) by Finn Gardiner
- ["I'm Autistic. I Didn't Know Until I Was 27."](#) by Marianne Eloise
- ["I'm obese. I want a healthy lifestyle. But it's often inaccessible to disabled people like me."](#) by Pasquale Toscano
- ["Nothing About Us Without Us': 16 Moments in the Fight for Disability Rights"](#) by Julia Carmel
- ["People With 'Invisible Disabilities' Fight For Understanding"](#) by Naomi Gingold
- ["Pods and Pod Mapping Worksheet"](#) by Mia Mingus
- ["Radical Disability Politics"](#) by A.J. Withers and Liat Ben-Moshe (eds) with Lydia X. Z. Brown, Loree Erickson, Rachel da Silva Gorman, Talila A. Lewis, Lateef McLeod and Mia Mingus
- ["Scary Is How You Act, Not Look, Disability Advocates Tell Filmmakers"](#) by Cara Buckley
- ["Trump's Rule Attacking Disabled and Low-Income Migrants Has Violent History"](#) by Talila A. Lewis

- [“We’re 20 Percent of America, and We’re Still Invisible”](#) by Judith Heumann and John Wodatch
- [“What Happens When You’re Disabled but Nobody Can Tell”](#) by Andrew Solomon

Books

- [A Disability History of the United States](#) by Kim E. Nielsen
- [All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism](#) by Lydia X. Z. Brown and the Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
- [An Unquiet Mind](#) by Kay Redfield Jamison
- [Bodymap: Poems](#) by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
- [Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure](#) by Eli Clare
- [The Cancer Journals](#) by Audre Lorde
- [Capitalism & Disability: Selected Writings](#) by Marta Russell (edited by Keith Rosenthal)
- [Crippled \(Austerity and the Demonization of Disabled People\)](#) by Frances Ryan
- [Decarcerating Disability: Deinstitutionalization and Prison Abolition](#) by Liat Ben-Moshe
- [Disability Politics and Theory](#) by A.J. Withers
- [Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the 21st Century](#) edited by Alice Wong
- [Far from the Tree](#) by Andrew Solomon
- [Feminist, Queer, Crip](#) by Alison Kafer
- [Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger’s](#) by John Elder Robison
- [Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability Oppression and Empowerment](#) by James I. Charlton
- [The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became A Black Disease](#) by Jonathan M. Metzl
- [Resistance and Hope: Essays by Disabled People](#)
- [Skin, Tooth, and Bone: The Basis of Movement is Our People \(2nd Edition\)](#) by Sins Invalid
- [The Ugly Laws: Disability in Public](#) by Susan M. Schweik
- [The War on Disabled People: Capitalism, Welfare and the Making of a Human Catastrophe](#) by Ellen Clifford
- [Thinking in Pictures: My Life in Autism](#) by Temple Grandin
- [“What Happened to You?” Writing by Disabled Women](#) edited by Lois Keith

Films

- [Crip Camp](#) (2020): A documentary chronicling a groundbreaking summer camp which galvanizes a group of teens with disabilities to help build a movement, forging a new path toward greater equality.
- [Sins Invalid: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty](#) (2013): A documentary following *Sins Invalid*, a performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and queer and gender-variant artists.
- [Sound of Metal](#) (2020): A fictional film following a heavy-metal drummer's life which is thrown into freefall when he begins to lose his hearing.

- [Unrest](#) (2017): Jennifer Brea’s Sundance award-winning documentary, Unrest, is a personal journey from patient to advocate to storyteller. Jennifer is twenty-eight years-old, working on her PhD at Harvard, and months away from marrying the love of her life when a mysterious fever leaves her bedridden. When doctors tell her it’s “all in her head,” she picks up her camera as an act of defiance and brings us into a hidden world of millions that medicine abandoned.
- [Vision Portraits](#) (2019): Director, producer and editor of a documentary feature that chronicles the experiences of several blind artists including John Dugdale (photographer) and Ryan Knighton (writer). It specifically focuses on the ways each artist was impacted by the loss of their vision and how their creative process thrives in spite of their blindness.
- [Who Am I To Stop](#) (2016): A documentary about the traumatic brain injury community made by a filmmaker with disabilities from brain injury.
- [Wretches and Jabberers](#) (2019): This documentary chronicles the world travels of disability rights advocates Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonnette, in a bold quest to change attitudes about the intelligence and abilities of people with autism.

Guides

- [Crip Lit: Toward An Intersectional Crip Syllabus](#)
- [Anti-Racist Organizing and Disability Justice](#) (EQUI Institute)
- [Disability Culture, Disability Rights, and Disability Activism Guide](#) by Artist [Riva Lehrer](#)
- [Disability Resources](#) (Meriah Nichols): Resources sorted by types of disability
- [Disability Visibility Book Circle](#)
- [Disability Rights, Studies & Justice Guide](#) (Hampton College)
- [LD Online](#): Resources for learning disabilities and ADHD
- [Nuts and Bolts of Disability Access](#) (Showing Up for Racial Justice)
- [Resources for Biracial People, Indigenous People, and People of Color \(BIPOC\) about COVID-19](#)
- [Working for Disability Equality](#) (MoMA)

Hashtags

- [#CripTheVote](#)
- [#DisabledTwitter](#) or [#DisabilityTwitter](#)
- [#DisabledAndCute](#)
- [#ThingsDisabledPeopleKnow](#)

Organizations and Blogs

- [Active Minds](#): The nation’s premier nonprofit organization supporting mental health awareness and education for young adults.

- [Association of Higher Education and Disability \(AHEAD\)](#): AHEAD is the leading professional membership association for individuals committed to equity for persons with disabilities in higher education.
- [Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network](#): Provides community, support, and resources for Autistic women, girls, nonbinary people, and all others of marginalized genders.
- [Axis Dance \(NYC\)](#): Axis collaborates with disabled and non-disabled artists to create virtuosic productions that challenge perceptions of dance and disability.
- [Black, Disabled and Proud](#): A website for Black disabled college students.
- [Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder \(CHADD\)](#): CHADD serves to provide information and support for families and individuals affected by ADHD.
- [Dance Detour \(Chicago\)](#): The Facebook page for Chicago's first professional "mixed-abilities" dance troupe composed of artists with and without disabilities who explore movement possibilities as EQUALS.
- [Disability Art and Culture Project](#): DACP furthers the artistic expression of people with both apparent and non-apparent disabilities.
- [Disability Justice Club \(DJC\)](#): The Facebook page for DJC, a collective of disabled and/or neurodivergent queer people of color operating out of East Oakland/Chochenyo Ohlone land. Our organizing efforts center the lives of QTBIPOC.
- [Disability Visibility Project](#): An online community dedicated to creating, sharing, and amplifying disability media and culture.
- [Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring \(DREAM\)](#): A national organization for and by college students with disabilities. DREAM advocates for student rights, increased accessibility, and social and policy change.
- [Felicity House](#): A resource center for women with autism in New York City.
- [Harriet Tubman Collective](#): A Collective of Black Deaf & Black Disabled organizers, community builders, activists, dreamers, lovers striving for radical inclusion and collective liberation.
- [HEARD - Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of Deaf Communities](#): The Facebook page for HEARD, a volunteer-based org working to end violence against & incarceration of deaf/disabled people.
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#): NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.
- [National Center for College Students with Disabilities \(NCCSD\)](#): NCCSD a federally-funded national center in the U.S. for college and graduate students with any type of disability, chronic health condition, or mental or emotional illness.
- [Sins Invalid](#): A disability justice based performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and LGBTQ / gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized.

Podcasts

- [Disability Visibility Podcast](#): A podcast hosted by San Francisco night owl Alice Wong featuring conversations on politics, culture, and media with disabled people.
- [Disarming Disability](#): Nicole Kelly and Sarah Tuberty powerfully deconstruct disability through candid conversations with experts exploring topics related to disability. They look to educate, empower, voice, and build a more inclusive society.
- [\(In\)Accessible](#): Host Andrea Pasquale and producer Jaye McAuliffe highlight stories of people with disabilities living in Arizona and resources dedicated to making the state more accessible.

Resources for Artists with Disabilities

- [Art Resources for People with Disabilities](#) (New York Foundation for the Arts): Resources categorized by discipline.
- [Creativity Explored](#): Organization supporting intellectual and developmental disabled adults.
- [Disability Arts International](#): A database of organisations and umbrella bodies linked to the work of disabled artists
- [The Haven Foundation](#): The mission of The Haven Foundation is to offer interim financial assistance to freelance professionals in the arts who have experienced a recent, unforeseen emergency or triggering event that has significantly and adversely affected the qualified person's ability to produce, perform, and/or market their work.
- [Lester Petrillo Memorial Fund for Disabled Musicians](#) (American Federation of Musicians): A charitable trust fund that provides financial aid to disabled members.
- [Resources for Inclusion of People with Disabilities in the Arts](#) (Leeway Foundation)

Videos

- [I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much | Stella Young](#) (TED)
- [Mia Mingus on Disability Justice](#) (EquitableEducation)
- [Patient No More: cripstory](#) by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha | ASL Captioned
- [Our fight for disability rights and why we're not done yet | Judith Heumann](#) (TED)
- [Social Model Animation](#) (YouTube)
- [Social Model of Disability](#) (Shape Arts)