

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

- **Dawn Koceja (she/her)**
Community Engagement and Advocacy Officer
Milwaukee Public Museum
Email: Koceja@mpm.edu
- **Cheryl Orgas (she/her)**
Executive Director
Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. (ABLE)
Email: Corgas@ablenow.org



WEBINAR SERIES: WISCONSIN ADA COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION



Disclaimer

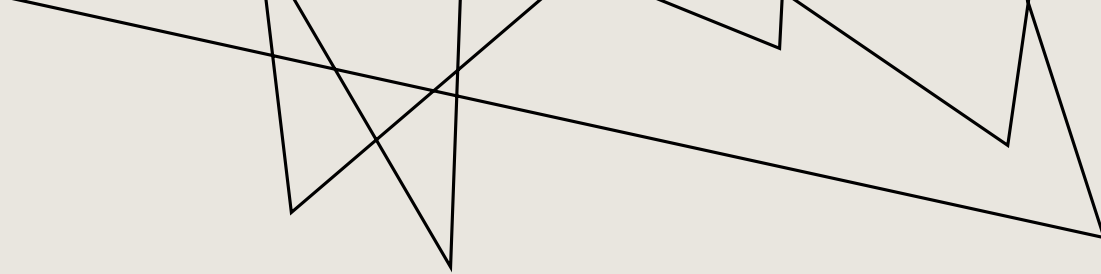
This webinar hosted by the Wisconsin ADA Coordinators Association is not meant to be legal advice. Although we may refer to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or similar state and local laws, this presentation is provided as an educational resource.

Our goal is to give public entities a framework for access and providing accommodations or modifications. We encourage attendees to seek guidance about their obligations from their own legal counsel.



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

- We are dedicated to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where every individual feels seen, heard, and valued.
- Our commitment is to ensure that accessibility is at the heart of everything we do — from our exhibits and programs to our physical and digital spaces.
- Through ongoing collaboration, education, and innovation, we strive to make the museum a place where everyone belongs.



ABLE

- Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement (ABLE): Our vision is that **everyone** has access to the printed word because reading—in whatever form it takes—is the key to learning, growth, productivity, self-sufficiency, and full participation in one's community.
- To that end, our mission is to provide alternative ways for people with print disabilities to read.

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

1. Engagement
2. Inclusivity
3. Reciprocity
4. Understanding
5. Benefit

ENGAGEMENT

A collaborative process of working with groups of people—based on location or shared interests—to address issues that affect their well-being. It involves building relationships, fostering participation, and working together to create positive outcomes and improve the quality of life within a community.

Collaboration

Working together on a shared goal, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment.

Participation

Including stakeholders in decision-making processes, such as public meetings, consultations, and online forums.

Relationship-building

Creating stronger bonds between community members through shared activities and projects.

Empowerment

Providing community members with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to participate meaningfully.

INCLUSIVITY

Ensuring that all community members, including traditionally marginalized groups, have a voice and opportunity to participate.

Better outcomes

Engaging people who are closest to an issue leads to more informed and effective solutions.

Increased trust

It can build trust between citizens and organizations by making decision-making more transparent and legitimate.

Sustainability

Involving the community in decisions makes them more likely to commit to and support the outcomes.

Community cohesion

It can lead to stronger social bonds and a greater sense of community among residents.

RECIPROCITY

Fosters mutual respect, trust, and shared responsibility, creating connections that are balanced and sustainable.

Trust and Respect

Reciprocity builds confidence and appreciation between individuals and groups, strengthening long-term relationships.

Collaboration

It encourages active participation and shared effort, leading to more effective and inclusive outcomes.

Equity and Balance

Giving and receiving in equal measure helps prevent one-sided relationships and ensures fairness.

Sustainability

Mutual support creates a resilient community that can grow and adapt together over time.

UNDERSTANDING

Fosters empathy, trust, and respect among individuals with diverse perspectives and experiences.

- When people take time to understand one another, it reduces misunderstanding and helps resolve conflicts more effectively.
- Understanding builds a foundation of trust, allowing community members to feel valued and heard.
- Encourages collaboration by recognizing and appreciating the strengths and contributions of others.
- Through understanding, communities become more inclusive and resilient, creating stronger, lasting connections.

BENEFIT

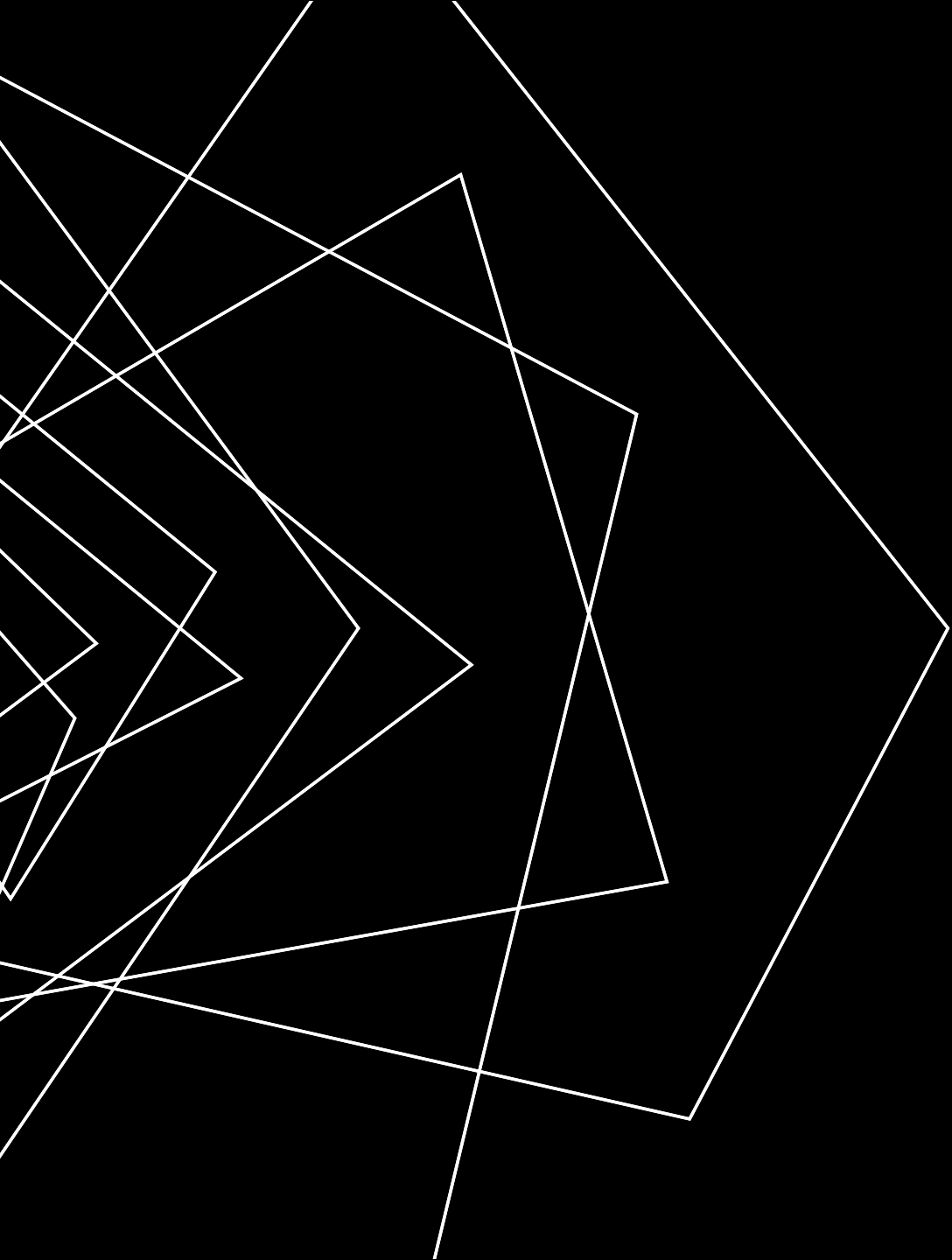
Fosters a sense of belonging, mutual support, and shared purpose that strengthens the well-being of everyone involved.

- Strong community relationships create networks of support that help individuals and families thrive during times of need.
- They encourage collaboration and resource sharing, making communities more resilient and self-sustaining.
- Meaningful connections foster trust and open communication, leading to safer and more welcoming environments.
- A sense of belonging enhances overall well-being, promoting pride and active participation in community life.

CLOSING REMARKS

- In conclusion, building strong community relationships is vital to creating connected, supportive, and thriving communities. When individuals come together with understanding, trust, and shared purpose, they strengthen the foundation for collective well-being and resilience.
- These relationships foster a sense of belonging, encourage collaboration, and empower people to work toward common goals. Ultimately, strong community connections enrich the lives of everyone involved and help ensure a brighter, more inclusive future for all.





THANK YOU

- **Dawn Koceja (she/her)**
Community Engagement and
Advocacy Officer
Milwaukee Public Museum
Email: Koceja@mpm.edu
- **Cheryl Orgas (she/her)**
Executive Director
Audio and Braille Literacy
Enhancement, Inc. (ABLE)
Email: Corgas@ablenow.org