In 2021, the American Council of the Blind (ACB) celebrated its 60th anniversary. The year afforded us a chance to reflect on our 60 years of success, offering enough distance to admire the rising range that we built in the name of independence and opportunity. This horizon, drawn with its peaks and valleys, is a reminder of the long journey that often accompanies advocacy and the heights we can achieve.

This past year served as the summit for our long journey. The introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine offered us great hope, but at the same time, the blind and low vision community lacked access to in-home COVID-19 tests that could be used safely and independently. In July, the ACB community rallied together for our second virtual conference and convention, embracing voice, choice and collaboration. And thanks to our newly retooled communications across the organization, the whole world could finally see the progress that ACB and its members continue to make toward expanding equal opportunity, inclusion and independence for all people who are blind and low vision.
Of course, our successful climb was made possible through the many volunteer hours donated by our members, who helped launch over 5,000 virtual community meetings and lead the expansive growth of the ACB Media Network. At the same time, our private sector partners continue to help strengthen our bedrock and elevate our advocacy. From our Health Heroes who came on board for the Get Up & Get Moving campaign, to the industry giants in the entertainment and tech industry who contributed to the inaugural ACB Audio Description Awards Gala, we were able to reach new audiences across the globe and make new friends who now walk alongside us in our journey.

Indeed, looking back on the past 60 years, we have a lot to be thankful for as we continue on our journey. Yes, there will be mountains and valleys along the way. But by traveling together, we know that true equality will meet us all on the other side of the mountain.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

• Members contributed more than $1M in volunteer hours
• Held the first ACB Audio Description Awards Gala, featuring celebrity guests and streamed live on the NBC Peacock platform
• Received a significant in-kind contribution from Verizon Media, which provided free advertising space on Verizon and its subsidiary platforms
• Celebrated a year of community, hosting over 5K events
• Landmark agreement with HBO Max initiated the release of audio described content and enhanced accessibility of web and mobile platforms
• Commemorated our 60 year anniversary and hosted the 60th annual conference and convention virtually in July
• Launched newly branded ACB Media Network along with a new website to support ACB Media content
## FINANCIALS

### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>$503,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$482,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$57,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Investment Return</td>
<td>$522,048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$649,624</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrift stores</td>
<td>$194,479</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,408,929</strong></td>
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</table>

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,526,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$263,276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$163,908</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,953,944</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net</strong></td>
<td><strong>$454,985</strong></td>
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</table>

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$365,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$5,523,118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$27,454</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,999,444</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets (Unrestricted)</td>
<td>$3,827,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets ( Restricted)</td>
<td>$1,579,941</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,999,444</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Program Expense by Percentage

- Fundraising: 14%
- Scholarships: 23%
- Convention: 12%
- Audio Description Project: 12%
- Information & Peer Support: 8%
- Advocacy: 14%
- Membership Services: 4%
- Management & General: 8%
- Public Awareness: 5%
- Management & General: 5%
ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Worked closely with federal, state and corporate partners to further key policies impacting people who are blind and low vision. Successes include expanding healthcare protections amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing access to remote accessible voting, advocating for greater availability of audio-described content, promoting pedestrian safety through the installation of accessible pedestrian signals, and improving access to accessible health and wellness resources.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION PROJECT (ADP)

Maintained robust enrollment in the virtual Audio Description Institute, held the annual BADIE (Benefits of Audio Description in Education) contest and ADP Achievement Awards, partnered with the National Park Service and University of Hawaii’s UniDescription Project to promote accessibility in national parks, and posted information on thousands of streamed programs, television listings, and DVDs to the ADP website.
CONVENTION
Held virtually in July 2021, the 60th Annual Convention featured over 150 workshops, seminars, and business meetings held throughout the convention. Attendees participated by attending sessions live or listening later to podcasted sessions. There was a virtual exhibit hall and many virtual tours for registrants to attend. For the first time, all ACB eligible members had the opportunity to vote during ACB’s business meeting.

INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND PEER SUPPORT
Provided vital information to people who are blind and low vision as well as supporters. Informational and advocacy related inquiries range from accessible and assistive technology, local blindness resources, federal and civil disability rights related laws and regulations, and many other vital areas.

MEMBERSHIP
Building connections through the Be My Eyes app, ACB Media, Clubhouse, and community activities with our affiliates widened our reach to the blind community and elevated the overall member experience. Through ACB’s community platform, volunteers learned how to host and manage over 5K community events ranging from social to educational, peer support, and topic-driven.

PUBLIC AWARENESS
Implemented a strategic communications plan in 2021, along with an editorial calendar. ACB Radio was rebranded as the ACB Media Network, with significant focus on podcast distribution of ACB programs and streaming over Alexa-enabled devices.

ACB SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS
Awarded $97,000 across 24 scholarships to blind post-secondary students. Other award programs, such as the JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows and DKM First-Timer awards, foster future leaders through mentoring, training, and peer development.
STATE AFFILIATES

Alabama Council of the Blind
Arizona Council of the Blind
Arkansas Council of the Blind
California Council of the Blind
Colorado Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired
ACB of Connecticut
Delaware Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired
District of Columbia Council of the Blind
Florida Council of the Blind
Georgia Council of the Blind
Hawaii Association of the Blind
Illinois Council of the Blind
ACB of Indiana
Iowa Council of the United Blind
Kansas Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Bluegrass Council of the Blind
Kentucky Council of the Blind
Louisiana Council of the Blind
ACB of Maine
ACB of Maryland
Bay State Council of the Blind
Michigan Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired
ACB of Minnesota
Mississippi Council of the Blind
Missouri Council of the Blind
ACB of Nebraska
Nevada Council of the Blind
New Jersey Council of the Blind
ACB of New Mexico
ACB of New York
North Carolina Council of the Blind
North Dakota Association of the Blind
ACB of Ohio
Oklahoma Council of the Blind
ACB of Oregon
Pennsylvania Council of the Blind
South Dakota Association of the Blind
Tennessee Council of the Blind
ACB of Texas
Utah Council of the Blind
Vermont Council of the Blind
ACB of Virginia
Washington Council of the Blind
Mountain State Council of the Blind
ACB of Wisconsin
Wyoming Council of the Blind
SPECIAL-INTEREST AFFILIATES

Alliance on Aging and Vision Loss
American Association of Blind Teachers
American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys
ACB Diabetics in Action
ACB Families
ACB Government Employees
ACB Lions
ACB Next Generation
ACB Radio Amateurs
ACB Students
Blind Information Technology Specialists
Blind LGBT Pride International
Braille Revival League
Council of Citizens with Low Vision International
Friends-in-Art of ACB
Guide Dog Users, Inc.
Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs
Library Users of America
Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America
Visually Impaired Veterans of America

ACB wishes to extend a special thanks to all our generous contributors with particular thanks to the following foundations:

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Dr. Scholl Foundation
The Gibney Family Foundation
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