**Dots and Dashes**

**November 18, 2024**

# **Announcing the 2024 Audio Description Awards Gala Recipients**

The [**2024 Audio Description Awards Gala**](https://adawardsgala.org/) was held November 14 and featured celebrity guests, film clips, and multiple award categories. Created in 2021 to recognize achievement in audio description in entertainment and educational media, the Awards Gala was broadcast with captions, audio description, ASL interpretation, and Spanish dubbing and AD.

Hosts Marilee Talkington and Alie B. Gorrie welcomed guests from the arts, entertainment, and sports worlds to celebrate accessible media.

Awards were presented to:

* Joel Snyder, Ph.D. – AD Visionary
* Vimeo – Innovation
* Sony Interactive Entertainment and Insomniac Games – Gaming
* Fred Rogers Productions – Education
* Paramount Global – Popular Entertainment
* Microsoft – Advertising and Promotion
* NBCUniversal – Live Events
* Plaza Sesamo – Spanish Media (USA)
* SkyUK – International
* Prospector Theater – Total Access
* All the Light We Cannot See (Netflix/IDC) – People’s Choice Award (Series)
* Dune 2 (Warner Bros. Discovery/Deluxe U.S.) - People’s Choice Award (Film)

The English AD was written by Joel Snyder (Audio Description Associates, LLC) and performed by Steve Saylor. The Spanish AD and Spanish dubbing was created by Dicapta, with a Spanish AD script written by Andrea Gimenez and performed by José Miguel Derisán. Captions were provided by VITAC and ASL interpretation by Bridge Multimedia.

Visit [**ADAwardsGala.org**](https://adawardsgala.org/) for more information.

# **Where to Find the Audio Description Awards Gala**

If you missed the premiere of the 2024 ACB Audio Description Awards Gala (or want to see it again), no worries. Here’s where you can catch it at your convenience.

 The “full inclusion” video of the Gala can be seen on YouTube and Peacock:

* [**ACB Audio Description Awards Gala - Home**](https://adawardsgala.org/)
* [**ACB 2024 AD Gala - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IU0VEs3N2s&t=59s)
* [**ACB 2024 AD Gala Spanish - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6GoxF1ZRps&t=56s)
* [**ACB 2024 AD Gala  - Peacock**](https://www.peacocktv.com/watch/asset/tv/2024-audio-description-awards-gala/2eb76f03-0c0c-33b9-9166-cd1efcd031ea)

The podcasts of the Gala and Pre-Show/Preview are available at:

* [**2024 ACB AD Gala Pre-Show Podcast**](https://pnc.st/s/acb-events/37611f4f/2024-acb-audio-description-awards-gala-pre-show-preview)
* [**2024 ACB AD Gala Podcast**](https://pnc.st/s/acb-events/d13668e2/the-american-council-of-the-blind-s-2024-audio-description-awards-gala)
* [**2024 ACB AD Gala Spanish Podcast**](https://pnc.st/s/acb-espanol/e95c9118/la-gala-de-premios-de-audiodescripci-n-2024-del-consejo-americano-de-ciegos-se-transmite-este-14-de-noviembre)

The 2024 Audio Description Awards Gala is being replayed every two hours on ACB Media Two at the top of each even number hour.

* [**ACB Media 2 – ACB Media Network**](https://acbmedia.org/home/streams/media2/)

The 2024 Audio Description Awards Gala dubbed in Spanish is being replayed every two hours on ACB Media Seven at the top of each even number hour.

* [**ACB Media 7 – ACB Media Network**](https://www.acbmedia.org/home/streams/media7/)

Enjoy the Gala and thank you for your support of the American Council of the Blind and ACB’s Audio Description Project.

# **IVIE Business Expo Now Available**

The edited recording of the IVIE Business Expo held Saturday, November 16, is now available to listen to on-demand and/or as a podcast.

[**https://pnc.st/s/acb-events/b53fe231/20241116-ivie-online-business-expo**](https://pnc.st/s/acb-events/b53fe231/20241116-ivie-online-business-expo).

We apologize if you attempted to listen to the event live on ACB Media. We are making this podcast available sooner than normal to compensate for any inconvenience and confusion you experienced Saturday.

Thanks for your support of ACB Media.

# **Holiday Auction Coming Up**

The 13th Annual ACB Media Holiday Auction is just around the corner. This year’s auction will be filled with lots of wonderful gifts for the holidays.  We will be showcasing homemade delicious food items, original crafts, jewelry, the latest technology and beautiful quilts. The auction will be on Sunday, December 1 at 6 p.m. Eastern, and there will be two days of the Sneak a Peek Appetizer Auction on Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30 to whet your appetite. Now is the time to sign up!

Here’s how to register:

1. You will need to log in to [members.acb.org](https://members.acb.org/).  If you haven’t already created an account, click on CREATE AN ACCOUNT, complete the registration form and when you are finished entering your information click on the ‘CREATE AN ACCOUNT’ button.
2. At the top of the next screen, there will be the Holiday Auction Registration link. Click on the link and then click on the Holiday Auction sign up button.
3. After signing up, you will receive an email with detailed Holiday Auction information. If you do not receive this email, check your junk/spam folder. If you still have not received the email, call (612) 332-3242.

**Sneak a Peek Auction guidelines:**

* Contact Leslie Spoone at (407) 678-4163 or email [**lesliespoone@cfl.rr.com**](mailto:lesliespoone@cfl.rr.com) with your bid. Please provide your name, phone number, email address, item number, and bid amount.
* Bids must be in $5 increments.
* The Sneak a Peek Auction information communicating the high bid on each item will be emailed out at 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. Eastern time. After the close of each mini-auction, an email will be sent announcing who has won each item.
* Billing for both the Sneak a Peek and Holiday auction will take place starting on Monday, December 2 for all the winning purchases. The auction items need to be paid for by December 19.

# **Using the My Talking Book Skill on Smart Speaker**

The Patron Engagement Section is offering a new program to assist patrons using the My Talking Book Skill on their smart speaker. The first program will be on November 21 at 7 p.m. NLS will record this program.

A brief presentation will begin the session. Presenters will spend the remainder of the time answering questions about the presentation.

This program is the first of a limited series that will be provided as we roll out this new way to access and play talking books available through BARD. The session can be joined by going to: [**https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1602732941?pwd=HVJush54XIaZVgJ6NNmog1JId5aLBm.1**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/loc.zoomgov.com/j/1602732941?pwd=HVJush54XIaZVgJ6NNmog1JId5aLBm.1__;!!EDx7F7x-0XSOB8YS_BQ!cpOF6-S88HwMWM1TnNmnTEQy-N0roi15GPMPMF1moltsj661VA3EQwo00IyAJbD00dNENoM21CGlQw5-i6W5Rr1ZpRyr$).

If you’re participating by phone, call (646) 828-7666 and use the meeting ID and passcode below:

Meeting ID: 160 273 2941

Passcode: 7323465

**Virginia Tech Researchers Develop Mobile App**

A team of researchers from Virginia Tech has developed an AI-enhanced mobile app to facilitate the interaction of vision-impaired individuals with the built environment. We are currently seeking volunteers to assess the usability of our app and provide feedback. The entire study will take place this November on Virginia Tech's campus and will require between 90-120 minutes per participant. All participants should be 18 years of age or older and visually impaired. We're offering $150 worth of Amazon gift cards as compensation for travel expenses (food will be provided on site). If you are interested in participating, or have questions, contact Mahir Asef Kabir via email, [**mdmahirasefk@vt.edu**](mailto:mdmahirasefk@vt.edu).

# **AAPD Announces Coelho Media Scholarship Recipients**

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is proud to announce the eight 2024 NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship recipients. With generous support from NBCUniversal, the NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship was named for a former United States Representative and the primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The scholarship is provided to undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities who are interested in increasing disability representation in their future careers in the communications, media, or entertainment industries.

The recipients are:

* Kayla Abramowitz - University of Texas at Austin
* Makayla Allen - California State University-Northridge
* Amanda DeJesus - New York University
* Chelsea Glover - Pace University, New York Campus
* Qusay Hussein - University of Texas at Austin
* Emma O’Neill-Dietel - University of Massachusetts-Amherst
* Gary Dylan Miller - University of Tennessee-Knoxville
* Pearl Zhang - Harvard University Graduate School of Education

For more information, visit [**https://www.aapd.com/nbcuniversal-tony-coelho-media-scholarship/**](https://www.aapd.com/nbcuniversal-tony-coelho-media-scholarship/).

# **Be My Eyes on Meta Ray-Ban Glasses**

Be My Eyes is rolling out to a pair of Meta Ray-Ban Glasses near you!

If you already own Ray-Ban Meta Glasses, you may want to check that they are updated to the latest software release in order to access Be My Eyes. Need help setting up? They’ve created a comprehensive setup guide, including an audio walk-through, so you can get the most out of this hands-free experience. Visit [**the Help Center**](http://emails.bemyeyes.com/r/74d9b3a1fa20323336a6742e9?ct=YTo1OntzOjY6InNvdXJjZSI7YToyOntpOjA7czoxNDoiY2FtcGFpZ24uZXZlbnQiO2k6MTtpOjEyO31zOjU6ImVtYWlsIjtpOjI3O3M6NDoic3RhdCI7czoyMjoiNjczNGMwMjIwMmE0Nzg5MDU3Njk4MSI7czo0OiJsZWFkIjtzOjc6IjM3Mzc2NDkiO3M6NzoiY2hhbm5lbCI7YToxOntzOjU6ImVtYWlsIjtpOjI3O319&) for a step-by-step guide to configuring the glasses, or our dedicated product page for additional [**information about Be My Eyes and Ray-Ban Meta Glasses**](http://emails.bemyeyes.com/r/70f1cb3acfa9db688440c7041?ct=YTo1OntzOjY6InNvdXJjZSI7YToyOntpOjA7czoxNDoiY2FtcGFpZ24uZXZlbnQiO2k6MTtpOjEyO31zOjU6ImVtYWlsIjtpOjI3O3M6NDoic3RhdCI7czoyMjoiNjczNGMwMjIwMmE0Nzg5MDU3Njk4MSI7czo0OiJsZWFkIjtzOjc6IjM3Mzc2NDkiO3M6NzoiY2hhbm5lbCI7YToxOntzOjU6ImVtYWlsIjtpOjI3O319&).

Once you’re set, all you have to do is say, “Hey Meta, Be My Eyes,” and you’ll be connected to one of their 8.1 million global volunteers. The volunteer will view your surroundings through the camera on the glasses and be able answer your questions and provide real-time descriptions.

# **Pittsburgh Regional Transit Partners with Aira**

In honor of World Usability Day, Pittsburgh Regional Transit has launched a partnership with visual interpreting service Aira to enhance accessibility for blind and low-vision transit users. Anyone using transit in

Allegheny County (Pa.) can open the Aira app on their phone and connect free of charge with a professional visual interpreter. The visual interpreter will access the caller’s phone camera and describe, narrate, navigate and read aloud to assist. Aira is available 24/7/365, and no

advance reservations are required.

For more information, visit [**www.rideprt.org/aira**](http://www.rideprt.org/aira).

# **Intro to Google Docs**

The Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library is hosting a Zoom meeting tomorrow evening at 6, designed to introduce screen reader users to Google Docs and Google Drive.

**Intro to Google Docs and Drive - for Screen Reader Users**

**Tuesday, November 19, 6 PM to 7:30 PM Eastern**

By patron request, this study group will cover:

* Turning on accessibility for Docs
* Creating, naming and opening Docs
* Editing, navigating and formatting Docs
* Sharing and finding Docs
* This group may choose to meet again after this initial study group session.

To register, visit [**https://nypl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-ygrD8sGNDogaO6MjyxeCXgQXJupZF3**](https://nypl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-ygrD8sGNDogaO6MjyxeCXgQXJupZF3).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# **Discover Glide**

If you live in the San Jose area, you can sign up to attend an in-person demonstration at the Vista Center on December 6th at either noon to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Pacific time. You’ll get the chance to meet the Glidance team, learn more about Glide’s revolutionary AI-powered navigation device for the blind and low-vision community, ask questions, and share feedback. This innovative tool is set to enhance navigation skills, increasing confidence, comfort, and safety. To register, visit [**https://glidance.typeform.com/to/TeiSLyoB?typeform-source=glidance.io**](https://glidance.typeform.com/to/TeiSLyoB?typeform-source=glidance.io).