

# Disability Visibility Project

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14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Developmental Disabilities:  
An Update for Health Professionals  
March 6, 2015

## Disclosure Statement

- **The presenter, Alice Wong, has nothing to disclose and no conflicts of interest of any kind.**



## DISABILITY VISIBILITY PROJECT

*- A community partnership with StoryCorps -*



SF

ATLANTA

CHICAGO

MOBILE TOUR

“Recording disability history, one story at a time.”

**JULY 2014-2015**

[DisabilityVisibilityProject.com](http://DisabilityVisibilityProject.com)

[@DisVisibility](https://twitter.com/DisVisibility)

[#DisabilityVisibility](https://twitter.com/DisabilityVisibility) [#ADA25](https://twitter.com/ADA25)

## Disability Visibility Project (DVP)

- Launched July 2014
- Grassroots campaign aimed at disability community
- Encourage recording oral histories at StoryCorps
- Celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA in July 2015



## StoryCorps: Mission

- Opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories
- Shared humanity
- Strengthen and build connections
- Value of listening
- Everyone's story matters

## StoryCorps since 2003: 50,000 interviews (9k participants)



## DVP: Disclaimer

- DVP is a **community partnership** with StoryCorps
- No formal relationship with StoryCorps
- DVP does not speak for or represent StoryCorps

## DVP: Goals

- Document the zeitgeist of Americans with disabilities
- Preserve and share these stories
- Highlight lived experience of disability
- Diversity of disability communities by race, culture, LGBTQ, immigrants, veterans, etc.

## DVP: Outreach

- Website, Twitter, Facebook
- Re-blogging & original content
- Engage in conversations
- DVP Media Partners

## DVP: How to Participate

- **StoryCorps locations: San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta and Mobile Tour**
- **Reservation online or phone**
- **2 people interview one another, have a conversation**
- **40-minute recording session with trained facilitator**

## DVP: How to Participate

- **Participant pair receives one CD at the end**
- **Second copy archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress**
- **Participants can use and share their recording**

## DVP: Other details

- No guidelines: center the conversation on the lived experience of disability
- Recordings for DVP will be searchable at the Library of Congress
- Distinct subset of recordings archived of disability culture

***“Recording disability history,  
one story at a time.”***

**Disability Visibility Project**

**@DisVisibility**

## Disability History Matters

- **Historian Douglas Baynton**
- **Disability is a key element for historians making sense of the past**
- **Understanding inequality, society and culture**

SOURCE: Baynton, D. "Disability and the Justification of Inequality in American History," in Paul K. Longmore and Lauri Urmansky, *The New Disability History: American Perspectives* (New York: New York University Press, 2001), 52.

## DVP: Purpose

- **Each story matters and has value**
- **Going beyond the well-known names in the disability rights movement**
- **Lives unfiltered**
- **Narrative in control by people with disabilities**



## DVP Interview: Christina Mills and Eli Gelardin

- Married couple
- Bay Area disability community
- Proud disabled people with two disabled children, Olivia and Sage

Christina Mills and Eli Gelardin  
StoryCorps San Francisco  
January 3, 2015



## DVP Interview: Christina Mills and Eli Gelardin

- **Discrimination and ableist attitudes from healthcare providers**
- **Disability pride, pregnancy, and prenatal testing**
- **Being a parent of a child with physical and developmental disabilities (Olivia)**

## Discrimination on becoming parents



## Disability pride, pregnancy, and prenatal testing



## Being pregnant with Olivia



## Being a parent of a child with physical and developmental disabilities



## DVP on NPR!



## DVP: Overview

- +70 recordings by people with disabilities
- 82 DVP Media Partners
- 251 blog posts
- 646 Twitter followers
- 2068 Facebook group members

## DVP: Contact Info

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Twitter: [@DisVisibility](https://twitter.com/DisVisibility)

DVP: <http://disabilityvisibilityproject.com>

StoryCorps: <http://storycorps.org>

*THANK YOU!!!*



View video again on YouTube here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/dd2015alicerwong>