



Contact Info:
Cindy Tarshish
cindy@mcil-mn.org
651-603-2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Americans with Disabilities Act 31st Anniversary Celebrates Resilience *July 26 virtual event to feature presenters and performers from across Minnesota*

ST. PAUL (July 6, 2021): July 26, 2021, marks the 31st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The day will bring a welcome occasion for celebration and reflection as members of the disability community, policymakers, advocates, friends, allies, and more join for a virtual gathering and recollection of a year unlike any other. The "Celebrating Resilience" theme will set the stage for a host of presenters and performers from around the state, highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resourcefulness, innovation, and persistence that prevailed.

Governor Tim Walz and **Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan** will provide a virtual greeting to event attendees and offer a special Proclamation recognizing July 26, 2021, as the 31st Anniversary of the ADA. Other featured presenters include **Duluth Mayor Emily Larson**, who will welcome attendees to Duluth and share ways the Zenith City is working to ensure greater accessibility for all its residents and visitors. **NAMI Minnesota's Executive Director Sue Abderholden** will reflect on ways the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people with disabilities and the resilience shown by so many. **Great Lakes ADA Center Project Manager Peter Berg** will discuss the transformation to teleworking as a vital accessibility accommodation during the pandemic. **Disability lead for the COVID-19 Community Coordinators Initiative Mai Thor** will share the state's efforts to reach people with disabilities during the pandemic. **ARC Northland's Adult and Family Services Manager Meredith Kujala** will serve as event emcee. Attendees will also be treated to special performances by acclaimed jazz guitarist and recording artist **Sam Miltich** and Duluth-based **BOLD-choice Theatre Company**.

The event will be held **Monday, July 26, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.** The virtual event is free and open to the public. Register for this event at <http://bit.ly/ada-31>. The registration deadline is July 25. Although this is a virtual event, participation is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

ASL and CART services will be provided. Portions will be audio described. To request additional accommodations, contact Cindy Tarshish at 651-603-2015, 1-888-630-9793, MN Relay 711, or cindy@mcil-mn.org. The deadline for accommodation requests is July 12.

Thanks to the ADA 31st Anniversary Planning Committee for their work and dedication in making this event possible.

Find more information at CelebrateADAMN.com and on Facebook at [CelebrateADAMN](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateADAMN).

###