

2022

**MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



City of
Philadelphia

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

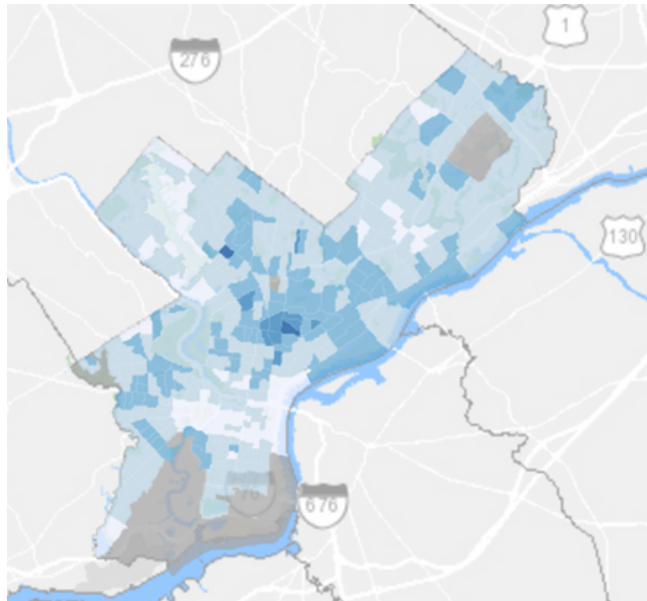
Amy Nieves, Executive Director

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) aims to ensure equity, inclusion, and opportunity for residents with disabilities throughout our community. The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities houses the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities and the Office of ADA Compliance. Both offices work to make Philadelphia a better place for people with disabilities.

The Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities advocates for policies, programs, and systemic changes that maximize independence and community integration for Philadelphians with disabilities. The Office of ADA Compliance writes policies and procedures and develops resources to ensure equal access to City-provided services, programs, and activities for people with disabilities

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JANUARY



Caption: The Philadelphia Disability Characteristics [Map](#) showing all neighborhoods in different shades of blue based on the number of people with disabilities.

In January, with the support of Philly Counts, the MOPD launched the nation's first and only [disability characteristics map](#) of Philadelphia that brings forward the diverse disability community in a way that has never been done before. The map was unveiled to City Council on January 20, 2022. Given that Philadelphia has the highest rate of disability of any U.S. city, the map immediately began impacting the way in which the City views and understands disability representation. The map was also mentioned at the January 2022 public meeting and throughout the year. Five trainings were provided in January, including training for [ADA liaisons](#) for city departments and on the map. Learn more about the map on the [MOPD website](#).

FEBRUARY

In February, the MOPD provided support to City Council and the Streets Department to ensure that the outdoor dining and streetway regulations incorporated accessibility and ADA compliance. Additionally, the office hosted several trainings and continued to provide ADA guidance and support to internal departments and work groups.

MARCH

In March, the MOPD provided 8 trainings, including kicking off DBHIDS's month-long training and events programming for Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month. The Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities ("the Commission") held a public meeting on March 23rd, which included an update on the Fair Housing annual report process, the launch of a new commissioner's open call, and upcoming community conversations. A request for information (RFI) was published on March 11th to support the city's [ADA Transition Plan](#).

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APRIL

The Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities completed their open call for Commissioners in April with 36 diverse applicants, all of whom had direct lived experience with disability. MOPD provided 12 total trainings internally and externally on the ADA plan, the disability characteristics map, and best practices around accessibility and ableism. The Commission hosted a Community Conversation on Public Safety with the Philadelphia Police Department and elevate the [911 registry program for people with disabilities](#).

MAY

The Commission hosted a Community Conversation with the [Department of Planning and Development](#), [City Council](#), and [Liberty Resources](#) on the [Housing Trust Fund](#) on May 12, 2022. The MOPD provided 8 total trainings internally and externally in May, including a presentation at the School District's youth leadership conference on youth voting engagement, Cities of Inclusion, and the Police department.

JUNE

Amy Nieves, Executive Director of the MOPD, presented at the 26th Annual Immunology Conference for PA's Department of Health in Hershey. The MOPD offered welcoming remarks at the 10th Annual [Disability Pride](#) Flag Raising and the parade. In June, the MOPD was awarded \$300,000 for the ADA Unit project from the [Operations Transformation Fund](#). The ADA unit will allow Philadelphia to increase the rate of implementation and address as many as one-third of the projects ahead of schedule.



Caption: A group of people marching with a banner for Disability Pride's 10th annual parade and celebration. Photo credit: <https://www.disabilitypridepa.org/>

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JULY



Caption: [ADA 32 Logo](#)

In July, Mayor Kenney officially appointed 11 new Commissioners to the [Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities](#) after a robust and accessible selection and interview process. Mayor Kenney joined the Commission to honor their appointments and the [32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) in July. The MOPD also provided 5 trainings in July, including a panel presentation around the ADA with [DBHIDS](#) and for the [Mayor's Internship program](#) participants.

AUGUST

On August 9, 2022, along with the [Mayor's Internship Program](#), [SEPTA](#), [DVRPC](#), [Liberty Resources](#), [ADAPT](#), [AMTRAK](#) the Commission hosted and facilitated a Community Conversation on Accessibility and Transportation. The event reached over 100 attendees and provided the community with updates from our transportation partners and resources. The MOPD provided 6 total trainings internally and externally in August. In partnership with the [Philadelphia School District](#), the Commission hosted a community engagement session with the new Superintendent to elevate the needs of students and families with disabilities in the district.

SEPTEMBER

The MOPD, along with other departments, hosted the [US Access Board](#) for a visit and collaborative trainings in September, including a town hall with the Mayor at [Liberty Resources](#). Amy Nieves and Mayor Kenney offered remarks. The MOPD supported and attended 10 sessions and events with the US Access Board. MOPD also joined SEPTA and others for the groundbreaking ceremony of the launch of the [Morris Station ADA Accessibility project](#). Additionally, MOPD offered 4 trainings during the month.



Caption: The Town Hall with the US Access Board at Liberty Resources in September. Mayor Kenney and Amy Nieves offered remarks. This image was taken while the Mayor was providing a visual introduction of himself to the audience that was captured in the closed captions shown on the screen behind him.

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OCTOBER

In October, the MOPD provided 8 internal and external trainings on the ADA plan, the disability characteristics map, and best practices around accessibility and ableism. In honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Commission hosted a public meeting that spotlighted employment partners and provided key [voting supports](#) for people with disabilities ahead of the November election. In partnership with [CEO](#), the [FDIC, PA Assistive Technology Foundation](#) and the [PA Treasury Department](#), the Disability Financial Inclusion Series kicked off in October and continued in November. The [series](#) reached over 300 community members and financial industry professionals. Amy Nieves was a panelist at the annual Philadelphia [SPARX conference](#) and represented the government sector to discuss building an equitable region.



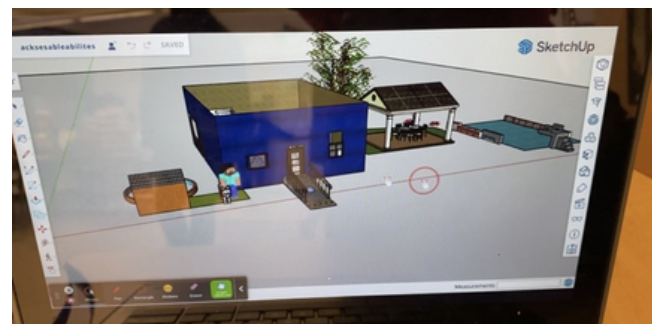
Caption: Voting pins that say Disability Rights are Civil Rights with image of two people, one using a wheelchair giving the peace sign with a capital building and flag behind them on one of the pins.

NOVEMBER

In November, the MOPD hosted its first virtual field trip for the 5th grade students at Frankford Friends to discuss universal design and accessibility to support their innovation projects. The MOPD also provided 8 trainings during the month, including a training on the disability characteristics map for the [U.S. Access Board](#) and federal agencies and a training on accessibility for the Mayor's Office and Department leadership. Lastly a, follow-up Transportation Community Conversation held in partnership with [SEPTA](#), [DVRPC](#), [Liberty Resources](#), [ADAPT](#) and the [Philadelphia International Airport](#) drew over 85 attendees.

DECEMBER

In December, the MOPD joined 5th graders from Frankford Friends for their school EXPO, which featured their ADA accessible design ideas for making their school inclusive and accessible for all. MOPD also played a role in the City's capital budget process, ensuring that accessibility was a priority for all departments. The MOPD held a site visit at City Hall and the [Public Restroom Pilot program](#) as part of the [ADA unit](#) work. Lastly, the MOPD provided 4 trainings during the month, including a training to more than 60 Department [ADA Liaisons](#).



Caption: Image of one of the many design proposals from the Frankford Friends 5th grade class that aimed to create a fully accessible world. The students designed this mock up to show what that might look like with ramps, and accessible homes, pools and gathering spaces.