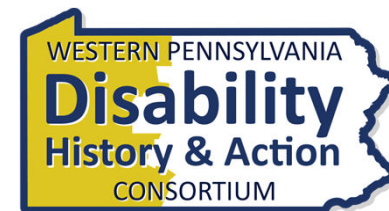


Western Pennsylvania Disability History
and Action Consortium presents:



BEYOND HISTORY



Beyond History

Supporting the Work of the
Western Pennsylvania Disability
History and Action Consortium

Wednesday,
October 21, 2026

Event Sponsorship Guide

Our Mission and Vision

Using Disability History to Ensure Disability Rights



Our Mission

The Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium is a community-based archive that preserves and honors the historic struggle of people with disabilities to attain human and civil rights – and shares the lived experiences of today – in order to promote community access, participation and equal opportunity.

Our Vision

The Consortium's vision is to engage the public in the dynamic history of people with disabilities, to honor people who were mistreated or denied their rights, to recognize the efforts of individuals with and without disabilities to effect positive change, and to raise public awareness of contemporary issues, including the ongoing effort to maintain humane policies and laws.

Event Overview

Partner with Us to Make History.

The Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium invites you to join us for the **2nd annual Beyond History**, our signature fundraising event celebrating disability history, community, and advocacy.

Held at the Heinz History Center, this special evening brings together community members, advocates, educators, disability organizations, funders, and supporters to reflect on our shared history, recognize ongoing work in our region, and support the future of disability rights and inclusion.

Beyond History 2026 will feature keynote speaker **Curtis Pride**, former Major League Baseball player and disability advocate, who will share his story through a short film, live discussion, and audience Q&A. The evening will also honor **Rory A. Cooper**, whose leadership and dedication have helped advance disability rights, accessibility, and innovation in Western Pennsylvania.

Attendees will enjoy an evening of storytelling, conversation, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and opportunities to engage with disability history in meaningful ways - including an art sale featuring work by local students with disabilities.

As a sponsor, your organization will help sustain the Consortium's work preserving disability history, increasing public awareness, and supporting disability rights and inclusion across Western Pennsylvania.



Event Information

Date:

Wednesday,
October 21, 2026

Time:

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Location:

Senator John Heinz
History Center,
Pittsburgh, PA

Program Highlights:

Keynote by Curtis Pride - Former Major League Baseball player and disability advocate Curtis Pride shares his story through a short film, live discussion, and audience Q&A.

Honoring Rory A. Cooper - We will recognize Rory A. Cooper for his leadership, innovation, and longstanding contributions to disability rights and accessibility in Western Pennsylvania.

Networking Reception - Enjoy an evening of conversation and connection with community members, advocates, educators, and supporters, along with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Student Art Sale - Browse and purchase artwork created by local students with disabilities. Participating organizations will manage sales, with proceeds directly supporting their work.

Public recognition of sponsors - across digital, print, and event platforms.

Featured Speaker



CURTIS PRIDE

**Former Major League Baseball Player,
Disability Advocate**

Born profoundly deaf, Curtis Pride became the first and only full-season Deaf player in the modern era of Major League Baseball, building an 11-season career with teams including the Montreal Expos, Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, and Los Angeles Angels. Following his playing career, Pride served as head baseball coach at Gallaudet University and later as a Major League Baseball Ambassador for Inclusion. Today, he shares his story and perspective with audiences across the country.

Honoree



RORY A. COOPER, PhD, PLY

**Professor, Director of HERL, National
Medal Laureate, Paralympic Medalist**

Rory A. Cooper, PhD, PLY, is an internationally recognized leader in rehabilitation engineering, human-centered design, and disability innovation. A Distinguished Professor and Director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL) at the University of Pittsburgh, his work has helped advance technologies that support independence, mobility, and participation for people with disabilities and older adults. Dr. Cooper is a Paralympic medalist and National Medal Laureate.

Emcee



CHAZ KELLEM

**Disability Rights Advocate,
Nonprofit Leader**

Chaz Kellem is a native of Pittsburgh and has been a disability advocate for 25+ years. Professionally, he serves as a Program Manager at Highmark Health within the Institute for Strategic Social and Workforce Programs. Chaz serves as a board member and a volunteer for organizations including the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers and the Miracle League of Moon.

Reach and Demographics

Sponsorship connects your organization with a highly engaged, mission-aligned audience:

- 125+ event guests, including people with disabilities, family members, disability advocates, disability services professionals, donors, and community members
- Bulk email reach: 22,753 total recipients
- Website reach: 8,900 users, 21,031 page views
- Social media reach:
 - Facebook: 38,341 total reach (organic + paid)
 - YouTube: 3,368 total views
- Additional media outreach to regional press, radio, and TV outlets



Sponsorship Opportunities

Support disability history, advocacy, and inclusion while connecting your organization with a highly engaged, mission-aligned audience.

Sponsorship applications requested by Wednesday, September 23, 2026, for inclusion in printed materials.

	Presenting	Champion	Pathfinder	Trailblazer	Ally	Community Partner
Fee	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$250
# of sponsorships available	1 (exclusive)	3	5	7	15	20
# of event tickets included	Full Table (8 tickets)	3/4 Table (6 tickets)	Half Table (4 tickets)	1/4 Table (2 tickets)	-	-
Digital display of corporate logo at event	Logo on exclusive slide	Logo on exclusive slide	Logo on slide w/all sponsors in tier	Logo on slide w/all sponsors in tier	Logo on slide w/all sponsors in tier	List of names only displayed on single slide
Recognition by emcee at event	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-
Logo and link on website event page	Logo (large)	Logo (medium)	Logo (small)	Name only	Name only	Name only
# of social media posts	5	3	2	1	1	-
Program book sponsorship acknowledgement	Logo (large)	Logo (medium)	Logo (small)	Name only	Name only	Name only
Logo on event printed signage	Logo (large)	Logo (medium)	Logo (small)	Name only	Name only	-
Program book ad	Full page, inside front cover	Full page, interior	1/2 page, interior	1/4 page, interior	-	-
Recap Newsletter logo placement	Logo (large)	Logo (medium)	-	-	-	-
Logo on event email marketing emails	Logo (large)	Logo (medium)	-	-	-	-
Front cover program acknowledgment	Yes	-	-	-	-	-
Opportunity to make a toast from the podium	Yes	-	-	-	-	-

Interested in Sponsoring Beyond History 2026?

To become a sponsor, please fill out a 2026 Sponsorship Application Form:

<https://forms.gle/G9LmV4nuLYDYB9Cj6>

Once your application is received and processed, you will receive an invoice and additional participation information by email.

If you have any questions or difficulty using the online form, please contact Cindy Leonard, Executive Director, at info@wpdhac.org.

