



## From your 2020 APA president

Hi Everyone!

This year has had many challenges and I hope that each of you are staying safe. We've had to postpone pursuing some of our larger goals, but with any luck things will start to ramp back up in 2021. I hope to "see" you all at our Virtual Annual Conference in January.

APA accomplished a number of exciting goals in 2020, despite the year's hardships. Through our partnership with our website host and UsableNet, we conducted an audit of our website's most utilized pages and implemented changes to provide a more accessible website. We have also updated our newsletters and emails to be more visually accessible.

We provided over 3300 hours of continuing education, through TDLR, AIA, ADA coordinators, and ICC-approved CE units of training. We conducted two regional training meetings and webinars to reach members and guests through our National Conference and two webinar-based trainings. And we're committed to maintaining this high level of training, as evidenced by our impressive lineup of speakers for the 2021 National Conference, which will be held virtually via webinar.

Through a new approach using a raffle at last year's National Conference, as well as through donations and corporate matches, the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Committee raised \$5,160 and awarded two scholarships for \$1,500 each. The deserving recipients were Tyler Kleinsasser (Civil Construction Engineering and Management) and Matthew L. Gilbert (Construction Management).

We look forward to getting back to a regular rhythm next year and seeing all of you in person!

[Robin Roberts](#)

**2020 APA president**



## From your 2021 APA president-elect

I am looking forward to this coming 2021 year. Many things we have never encountered before can create great opportunity. We will have our first virtual conference. Who knows, maybe it will reach some who might not be able to travel here. I know the committee has a great agenda of presenters. Healthcare is such an appropriate topic. In the course of doing

inspections I personally have had my temperature taken more times in the last few months than my entire life!

This is why I would like to look forward to “Raising Awareness” of APA’s involvement in TAS, ADA, etc. Since the accessibility law has been around for over 25 years people have grown accustomed to accessibility. However, sometimes practical application escapes us. For instance it is easier to draw a slope on paper than to construct one. It is easy to insert a spec sheet but more difficult to physically apply on-site. A group I see missed in much of the training and applications is our contractors. In addition, building owners and property managers who rely on others for compliance can use some refreshing.

That is why the type of training provided by APA is so practical, citing case studies, common errors and application. Additionally, providing training directly from TDLR themselves is invaluable information.

The legislative impact of APA cannot be overstated. The website and forum can be essential tools in dealing with accessibility. Together let’s continue on a process that has provided timely, practical information for everyone, keeping in mind our goal is more than just compliance. For over twenty years APA has provided professional and technical insight as an organization with a wealth of knowledge.

[Robert Ronson](#)

**2021 APA president-elect**

---

# **Classroom Acoustics: Educational Environment Design Not Just "Background Noise"**

**by Kimberly Paarlberg, RA, Senior Architect, ICC**



Research shows that good classroom acoustics are essential to support language acquisition and learning for all children, particularly younger children.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

### [Registration is now open!](#)

The APA 2021 Annual Conference, "Raising Awareness," will be virtual this year, on January 27 and 28.

As everyone is aware, this past year (and what is looking like next year) is quite different from what we're used to. Virtually everything has changed in one way or another. It's only fitting then that our annual conference should be... well... virtual. But, rest assured that we have a very impressive list of speakers for what should be a great two days full of informative presentations. Please check out the [agenda](#) on the website. You'll understand. I look forward to [virtually] seeing you there!

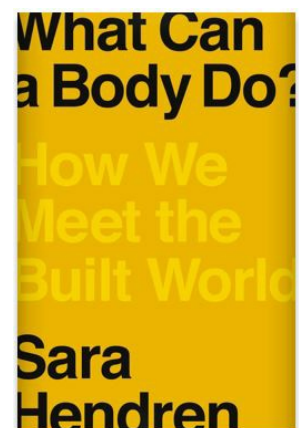
## Book review, submitted by [Kim Hooker, AIA, RAS](#)

*What Can a Body Do?  
How We Meet the Built  
World*

By Sara Hendren

This is the book you have been waiting for. It is deeply thought provoking and takes you on a marvelous mental journey to really think about what is designed and what could be accomplished with more awareness.

Look at the cover of the book. Sara Hendren asks us, is the cover too small or are the letters too big? Hendren teaches design for disability at Olin College of Engineering. This book is a result of her investigation into disability as a source for



[Check out the details of the conference here.](#)



## Interested in being a sponsor?

Sponsors of the annual conference enjoy a wide range of benefits, and sponsor fees have recently been reduced! [Click here to learn more](#) or contact [Camille North](#).

---

## Inaugural mentorship program

**APA is proud to announce the inauguration of the APA Mentorship Program!** We are on the search for Mentees and Mentors to fill our 2021 class! The program will run from January 2021 to January 2022.

Mentors and Mentees will enjoy a private (virtual) kick-off event at the APA 2021 annual conference, partake in individual mentoring sessions throughout the year, and attend quarterly (virtual) events. The program will conclude at the annual conference in 2022 with recognition of both the Mentors and Mentees.

If you are interested in being part of this invaluable program, please contact [Camille North](#). Members that are interested in directly contributing to the growth of our profession by volunteering as a Mentor should have at least 3 years of professional

creativity and invention.

People with disabilities have always confronted barriers between their bodies and the built world. Why do we use the word disabled? It is a group of people with bodies that don't easily match the built world. Hendren uses the word "misfit" to describe the conflict when the body does not fit the space and asks us to think about how the body and the room could meet each other differently.

She asks us to consider the silliness of the word "normal" and how normalcy is not as dominant as it might appear. "Disability is a common part of human life – an ordinary experience, infinite in variety, replete with creativity and heartbreak, from sources internal and external, and carrying social stakes everywhere." The built world can present a flexible or hard environment. Hendren leads us through examples of exceptional design that include a folding lectern that fits in a suitcase; a custom chair for a growing child who needs special support and made of cardboard, the history and significance of a curb cut, and collaboration between a young child on the autistic spectrum and an urban artist.

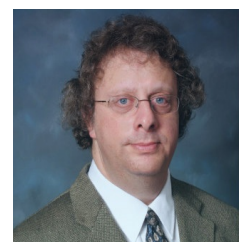
For the very last profound punch, Hendren adds the dimension of time to the discussion about body and space. She asks, "How long does it take, or should it take, for a body to move through the world?"

It takes an artist/thinker/teacher of design to remind us that the International Symbol of Access (ISA) is a symbol that is "not just for... accessible material features of the world but also for everything that material access makes possible: entryways to public life, school and transportation and workplace."

---

## ADA relevant articles from an APA member attorney

[William Goren](#) visits the [proposed Online](#)



accessibility experience, and Mentees should have no more than 1.5 years of experience. Mentors and Mentees will be notified in January and formally introduced at the APA Conference.

---

## ADA tips and news

Check out "[10 Tips for Voters with](#)

[Disabilities](#)" from the

U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Provided by [Charlie Watt](#), APA Communications Committee



## We need you!

**Volunteer in 2021!** APA is looking for professionals who are interested in promoting accessibility throughout the nation. We would love to have you come on board one of the committees. See the bottom of this newsletter for a list of the committees and their chairs. If you're a current member, [click here](#) to see all APA committees. For any questions, please contact [Camille North](#).

---

## Welcome our new members!

Click on the member's name to view their profile in our Member Directory.

[Denise Barfield](#), Point, TX

[Samual Hero](#), San Antonio, TX

[Rogelio Luna](#), El Paso, TX

[Michelle Mendoza](#), Houston, TX

---

## Advertise with APA!

If you or a company you know of would benefit from reaching other accessibility professionals, consider advertising on our website or in our

[Accessibility Act in his October blogpost.](#)

Check out his blog [Understanding the ADA](#) for more about accessibility and the ADA.

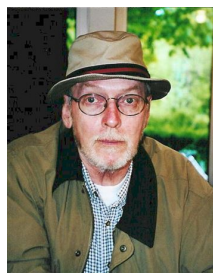
---

## In memoriam

APA recently lost an honored member, Jim Durham. Jim was a much-loved member of APA with first-hand experience of accessibility issues. [Click here to read](#)

[his obituary or to sign his guest book](#). If you'd like to honor him by making a donation to the scholarship fund, please contact [Shirley Knox](#).

---



**Sponsor the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship and be recognized during this year's virtual annual conference!**

Jim Boyce was a leader both at TDLR and in the world of accessibility compliance. He had the idea to create the Texas Registered Accessibility Specialists Association (now Accessibility Professionals Association). APA created the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship to honor his legacy and never forget his efforts. We award scholarships each year to university students majoring in architecture or related fields that have a keen interest in ensuring accessible designs. By encouraging students to make accessibility part of their career development, we hope to further promote accessibility in the built environment.

Since 2003, we have awarded numerous scholarships to well-deserved students thanks to the generous support of our APA members. The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship Committee will not have an online raffle at this year's Virtual APA National Conference. However, please consider making an online tax-deductible donation to the **Jim Boyce Scholarship fund** on the Jim Boyce Scholarship page on the APA website. Does your employer or your spouse's



newsletter. [Contact APA](#) for details.

---

## Current member?



This year's [APA logo](#) is available for your use.

---

## Have ADA, FHA, TAS, or other technical questions?

It's easy to get answers via the APA members-only [Forum](#):

- Log in and access your member profile.
- Under the Forums heading select Forum Memberships.
- Choose the forums and threads that interest you.
- You may opt in for any or all discussions.

Sign up for [Job Opportunities](#) and [Member News](#):

- Remember to opt in for any new discussions, even if you have previously opted in for all discussions.

Don't forget that we also have [FAQs](#) for members only!

---

## APA needs your expertise!

The APA committees always welcome help. Consider volunteering as either a committee member or a volunteer for a special one-time task.

Minutes from past committee meetings are available to APA

members [here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss how you can help.

- **Communications:** [Maggie McCarthy](#)
- **Education & Events:** [Gene Boecker](#)
- **Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship:** [Tanya Allen](#)
- **Legislative & Legal:** [Shirley Knox](#)
- **Membership:** [Camille North](#)
- **Technical Standards:** [Kim Hooker](#)
- **Exhibitor/Sponsors:** [Camille North](#)
- **Expansion:** [Jack McClellan](#)

employer match gifts? If so, please indicate this in the donation form and have them make a separate donation through the online form. We have three donation levels and will recognize our supporters throughout this year's conference.

Thank you in advance for all your support.

### JBMS Bronze Donors

Up to \$99

### JBMS Silver Donors

\$100-249

### JBMS Gold Donors

\$250-499

### JBMS Platinum Donors

\$500 or more

The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by APA to honor and recognize our friend and colleague, Jim Boyce. [Click here](#) for applications and donations.

---

## Are you in need of an accessibility specialist?

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs or making inspections? If so, we have the expertise you need right on our website! Check our [Hire a Professional](#) page and search our complete directory by expertise, name, or location.

---

- Florida Chapter: [Diana Ibarra](#)

---

## Learn more about Accessibility Professionals Association - APA

- [About us - Our vision and mission](#)
- [APA annual reports](#)
- [History](#)
- [Past Board members](#)

### APA Board of Directors

Meet this year's Board of Directors. Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Robin Roberts](#): President

[Robert Ronson](#): President-Elect

[Meghan Simecek](#): Secretary

[Clark Teel](#): Treasurer

[Stacey Brewer](#): Board Member

[Mark Morley](#): Board Member

[John Torkelson](#): Board Member

[Sharon Massey Woodmore](#): Past President

---

### APA is an approved\* provider for the Florida DBPR, AIA, ICC, TDLR and more!

Continuing Education - \*APA is a registered provider with the American Institute of Architects (AIA/CES, #G583), Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR, Provider #0007855 / license #PVD312), Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR, #1521) and a preferred provider for the International Code Council (ICC, #1321). APA provides pre-verified ACTCP credits for the ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program (ACTCP). We provide courses of study and award an Accessibility Standards Basics completion, as well as Designations for APA-ADA Specialist, APA-ADA Assembly Specialist and APA-ADA Transient Lodging Specialist, when all criteria are met. Members/guests can meet the CE/LU requirements of numerous organizations by attending APA Training, and verifying with organizations when a course has been registered.



---

The APA Newsletter is provided to share general accessibility information and other resources that may be of interest to our members and constituents. While the APA Newsletter is published by the Accessibility Professionals Association, it is not intended to draw legal conclusions nor does it substitute for the advice of an attorney. The APA Newsletter does not speak for and does not represent the U.S. Department of Justice interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) interpretation of the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS).

Additionally, we provide space for advertisers but we do not claim any knowledge of or approval of advertisers' products or services.

If you have any articles for our next newsletter please submit your articles to [Camille North](#), APA Communications Director.



[Accessibility  
Professionals  
Association](#)



