



# ACCOMMODATING YOUR COMMUNITY

## ADA Requirements for Local Governments

Houston-Galveston Area Council Fall Planning Workshop

Friday, December 2, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to Noon

### AGENDA

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9:00 a.m.

#### Welcome

- Chuck Wemple, Houston-Galveston Area Council

9:02 a.m.

#### Introductions

- Rick Guerrero, Houston-Galveston Area Council

9:04 a.m.

#### Keynote – Planning for Accessibility

- Kori Allen, City of Coppell, Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities

9:44 a.m.

#### Accommodating Your Employees and Residents (Presenters and Q&A)

- Anabel Rios, Houston Center for Independent Living
- Angel Ponce, City of Houston
- Marisa Demaya, Southwest ADA Center

10:34 a.m.

#### ADA and the Built Environment (Presenters and Q&A)

- Jonathan Sparks and Jamie Hill, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- Tim Mills, METRO
- Antonio Rosario, Harris County Pct. 2, Tara Klein, Four and One Landscape Architecture

11:24 a.m.

#### ADA and Engagement Technology (Presentation and Q&A)

- Kristi Avalos, Accessology Too, Inc.

12:00 p.m.

#### Closing Remarks

# TODAY'S PRESENTERS

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## KORI ALLEN



Kori Allen is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Capital Programs Coordinator for the City of Coppell. She is Committee Chair of the City of Coppell ADA Liaison Advocates and ADA Facilities Parks Plan. Additionally, she is Vice President of the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of Little People of America and a volunteer for Metrocrest Services. Kori was reappointed for a second term to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. She has presented her experiences as a disabled individual and ADA Coordinator to the North Central Texas Council of Governments Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Customer Service Institute of Coppell, and Career Success Conference of Tyler. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies from The University of Texas at Tyler and is working toward certification by the Texas Accessibility Academy as a Registered Accessibility Specialist.

## ANABEL RIOS



Anabel Rios is a staff member at the Houston Center for Independent Living, part of the Coalition for Barrier Free Living, which began in 1975. She is a long-time disability advocate and has worked with the HCIL organization for several years. Her current role is that of an Independent Living Specialist/Community Integration Specialist, serving as a peer counselor and advocate for the rights and services of people with disabilities. She promotes the full inclusion, equal opportunity and participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of community life. As an individual with a disability, she can share her firsthand knowledge of the barriers and challenges faced daily by individuals with disabilities. Her background in Social Sciences and personal experience have served as the essence of her passion to empower others to live independently in the community and reach their individual potential.

## ANGEL PONCE



Angel Ponce is the Director of the City of Houston Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). Angel is a bilingual advocacy and government professional with 11 years of experience in city government. He worked as the Senior Community Engagement Liaison at MOPD between 2014 to 2021. In 2004, Ponce suffered a spinal cord injury resulting from an automobile wreck. He is now a wheelchair user. "As a staunch advocate for the disability community, Angel understands the importance of equal participation and full inclusion of all citizens, including citizens with disabilities," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. As a Senior Community Engagement Liaison for MOPD, Angel provided management support to the Houston Commission on Disabilities, served as a translator between legal department attorneys and Spanish-speaking residents, conducted disability awareness workshops for employers and disability etiquette and educational presentations for youth and professionals.



This event is eligible for 3CM Credits from the American Planning Association.

## MARISA DEMAYA

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Marisa Demaya is the Deputy Director of the Southwest ADA Center. She has been with the Independent Living Research Utilization program since 2004 under the Community Living Partnership and National State-to-State Technical Assistance Programs. She served as project associate for the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Spinal Cord Injury until 2008. In 2009, she joined the Southwest ADA Center, a project funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to help educate consumers regarding their civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a member of the Southwest ADA Center, Marisa coordinates training and outreach activities of the staff and the center's five-state regional affiliate training network. She also oversees development and dissemination of the center's publications and informational resources. Her focus is educational outreach, which often involves exploring various distance learning related platforms/mechanisms. She assists consumers and co-hosts the ADA National Network's ADA Legal Webinar series.

## JONATHAN SPARKS

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Jonathan Sparks has worked with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in the Architectural Barriers program for just over a year and a half as a Program Specialist. He has worked primarily in the security industry, but also has experience in automotive mechanics and some construction. Jonathan is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

## JAMIE HILL

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Jamie Hill has worked with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in the Architectural Barriers program for over six years and has a Master's Degree in Liberal Arts from St. Edward's University. She served in the Texas Army National Guard as a mechanic.

**A recording from today's webinar will be available at**  
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## TIM MILLS, P.E.

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Tim Mills is the Director of Universal Accessibility at the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO). He has 18 years of civil engineering design, construction and project management experience in the transit industry. He is currently responsible for METRO's Universal Accessibility Program, which is working to make all of METRO's bus stops ADA compliant, and leading design efforts on METRO's BOOST corridors. Tim has a degree in Civil Engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Texas.

## TARA KLEIN, PLA

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Tara Klein is a Professional Landscape Architect (PLA) and is a principal with Four and One Landscape Architecture. There she works daily on parks and recreation spaces throughout Texas. If you ask her what is her favorite part of the job: it is the educating people on what landscape architecture is, encompasses, and how the design can have a lasting effect on the world we live in. Tara earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Texas A&M University.

## KRISTI AVALOS

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Kristi Avalos is the President and CEO of Accessology Too, LLC. She founded Accessology in 1990 to address accessibility globally. She has more than 40 years of experience in accessibility compliance-related issues and offers extensive training programs for local, national and international municipalities, architects, building owners, property managers, contractors and real estate brokers on local, state and federal accessibility standards. Over the past four decades, Kristi has been involved in all types of access projects from small tenant finish-outs to NFL stadiums and from small town Transition Plans to entire state Transition Plans. She has extensive experience with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Air Carrier Access Act, and various state and local access requirements. She is sought-after as an expert witness for ADA-related cases.

