



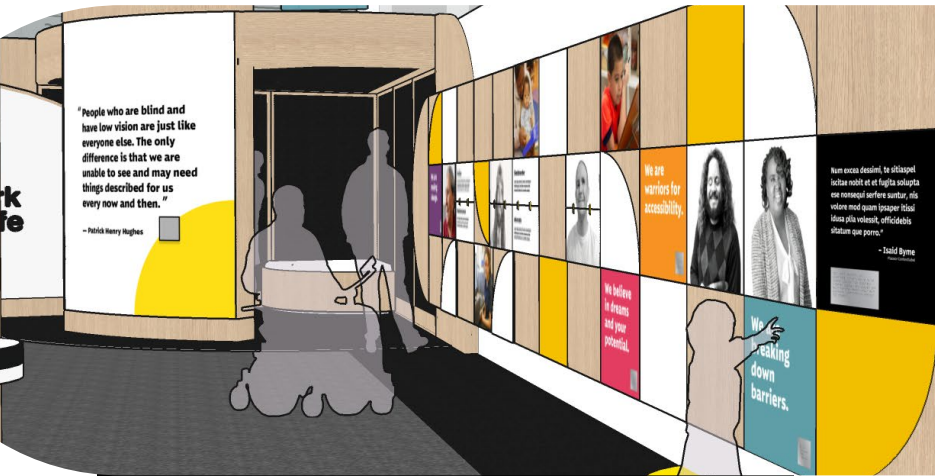
The Dot Experience



AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE

MISSION

To change perspectives about blindness and encourage people to act in their own ways to make the world more welcoming for everyone.
To lead as a model museum of inclusivity.



We are...

A NEW GLOBAL ATTRACTION

The Dot Experience is being designed by American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to be not just a museum. As an *experience* it also incorporates elements of an attraction, factory tour, and center of education. Why? Because everyday barriers and bias exist in our communities, schools, and our places of work. About 89 million individuals in the U.S. are living with a disability, and 7 million of those experience vision loss. All people have a responsibility to identify barriers to inclusion and participate in creating a more open-minded and welcoming society. The Dot Experience aims to do just that.

Scheduled to open in 2026, this innovative and dynamic destination is at the intersection of innovation, insight, and opportunity through:

compelling first-person stories of blindness and the human experience

world-class treasures like Helen Keller's desk, the piano Stevie Wonder played as a child, the first guide dog harness, and a rare 1829 book by Louis Braille.

cutting edge innovations of past, present, and future conceived and created by and with people who are blind or low vision

an unprecedented set of applied inclusive design standards that puts disability access front and center



BREAKTHROUGHS AND INNOVATION

A Legacy of Education

Building on the APH legacy of supporting the education of blind and low vision children, The Dot Experience extends its efforts to be public facing, reaching a general audience of families, adults, schools, business, and community leaders. The motivation to make the world a better place for everyone is at the heart of The Dot Experience.

At five-times the size of the previous APH history museum, it is anticipated that 50,000 annual visitors will visit, tour, and participate in educational programs hosted at and by The Dot Experience.

Nothing About Us Without Us

APH is leading a fully inclusive experience design process that makes access to all meetings and materials an absolute at every step of the way. Blind, low vision and disabled individuals are involved as key decision-makers, internal staff collaborators, part of a National Advisory Committee, and through a dedicated disability access consulting firm led by a prominent blind entrepreneur. An inclusive prototyping team comprised of local individuals of varying backgrounds and disability identifies are meeting monthly with the exhibit design firm to inform each step of the design and fabrication process.

Model Museum

Museums world-wide *are* thinking about disability inclusion, but too often as something additive after an experience is designed or built. Or, to provide access, museums inadvertently create another problem: othering. Imagine wheelchair ramps and entrances far away from the main entrance. Imagine several curator-selected items that are touchable, but not ones that the visitor themselves can choose. Imagine braille labeling or ASL interpretation on only some but not all media. A foundational and comprehensive set of accessibility standards anchor The Dot Experience project every step of the way. A “touch everything” mantra is driving decisions about how visitors will have meaningful experiences with objects and artifacts, and explore exhibits as they choose to.

VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Lobby

As the new front door for APH, the lobby serves to welcome all regardless of their purpose on campus and offers a glimpse of the key Dot Experience themes related to the power of people, the power of touch and the power of braille. The six-dot system of braille, to which The Dot Experience name pays homage, will be emphasized starting here and throughout the experience to educate, empower and encourage literacy for all.

We Are...

In this gallery, the lived experiences of an eclectic group of artists, adventurers, businesspeople, advocates, parents, students, teachers, and innovators who are blind and low vision will be shared in clusters related to life, work, advocacy, expression, navigating the world, and more. Individuals will be presented as whole selves and within real-world context offering stories of success, struggle, reality, hope, and hurdles.

Helen Keller

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Helen Keller Archival Collection is the world's largest repository of letters, speeches, press clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, architectural drawings, artifacts, and audio-video materials relating to Helen Keller. It is through this collection that we meet Helen's parents and teachers, learn about her educational journey and struggles, are with her as she begins finding her voice and then developing into a national and global change maker and human right's activist, speaking out about the suffering of people.





Change the World

From paper to pixels, a horizon of new technology is about to revolutionize braille. In this exhibit, visitors will learn about the origins of educating the blind, early innovators like Louis Braille, meet families, educators, and innovators, and get hands-on with many technologies and products that make tactile learning and living in an inclusive world possible for blind and low vision individuals. Visitors are invited to join as Access Warriors, Barrier Breakers, Change Makers, and Dream Believers armed with new understanding to confront the many barriers that still exist, including the biggest one, perception.

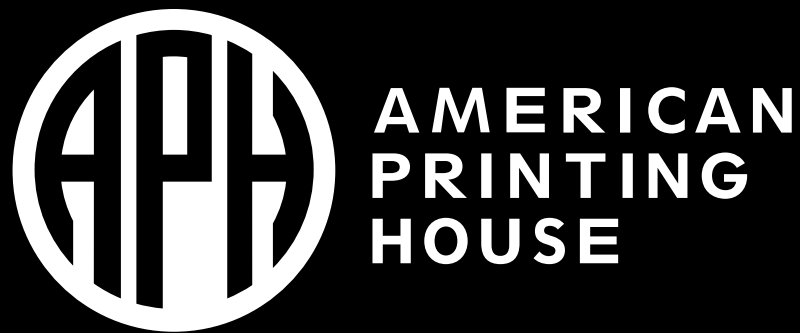
APH Factory Tour

The Dot Experience factory tour puts visitors on a path through APH's working facility, getting a glimpse at braille and graphic production facilities, recording studio, education manufacturing and assembly, and more that are all part of the complex business and innovation enterprise of APH.

Archival Collection

APH maintains the largest, and fastest growing center for historical materials in the nation devoted to the history of blindness and the education of people who are blind and low vision. Objects from this collection will be center stage throughout The Dot Experience, and the full collection is open to researchers from around the world.





ABOUT AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Founded in 1858, The American Printing House for the Blind is a worldwide leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or low vision. In this fast-changing world, we believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal wellbeing. We level the learning playing field by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life.