**The Dot Experience Museum Cast**

The Dot Experience Museum will share compelling first-person stories of blindness and the human experience that offers a view to the world of accessibility. APH is in the process of recruiting an eclectic group of people who are blind and low vision who are artists, adventurers, businesspeople, advocates, parents, students, teachers, and innovators to serve as its “cast” whose authentic, personal narratives will drive the visitor experience. We will hear their stories - their successes, struggles, realities, hopes, and hurdles. The “cast” offers a wide range of representation in age, background, identity, vision acuity, and context of vision loss. These individuals and their stories will grow and rotate over time as a key element of The Dot Experience Museum.



**Name:** Denna Lambert

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Denna Lambert— a woman with dark skin tone and black curled hair falling to her shoulders, smiles at the camera.

**Background Information:** In her 20 years working at NASA, Denna Lambert has been instrumental in transforming the Goddard Space Flight Center into an inclusive and accessible place, ultimately increasing the representation of employees with disabilities in all skill groups.



**Name:** Christine Ha

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Christine Ha— a woman with medium-light skin tone wears a white chef’s coat and smiles, her dark, straight hair comes to her chin.

**Background Information:** After winning MasterChef season 3 in 2012, Christine Ha has since written a New York Times bestselling cookbook and opened 2 award winning restaurants in Houston.



**Name:** Bradford and Bryan Manning

**Alt Text**: Bradford and Bryan Manning stand side by side—on the left a man with light skin tone and short brown hair smiles with his thumbs hooked into his jean pockets; on the right, a man with light skin tone and gray hair and a neutral facial expression stands with his hands in his pockets.

**Background Information:** Brothers Bradford and Bryan Manning founded their company Two Blind Brothers to create “the softest clothing ever made” and raise funds for research geared towards finding cures for retinal diseases.



**Name:** Sugandha Gupta

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Sugandha Gupta—a young woman with light skin tone and white hair wears a large white scarf wrapped around her neck, the hair merging into the scarf.

**Background Information:** Sugandha Gupta is a textile artist working to bridge the gaps between “able-bodied and disabled communities” by creating multi-sensory, immersive pieces which “exist between the realms of art and design and carries a message of inclusion in society.”



**Name:** Anthony Ferraro

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Anthony Ferraro—a young man with light skin tone, dark hair parted in the center and pulled into a low ponytail, and a short dark beard smiles.

**Background Information:** Olympic athlete Anthony Ferraro is one host of Four Bad Eyes, a podcast which demystifies blindness through candid conversations, special guests, and humor. Ferraro starred in a film called "A Shot in the Dark" chronicling his high school years as a wrestler.



**Name:** Dan Mancina

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Dan Mancina—a young man with medium-light skin tone and a serene facial expression holds his cane to his chest as he looks forward, his wavy light brown hair falling behind him, past his shoulders.

**Background Information:** When Dan Mancina's vision really deteriorated in his 20s, he thought his skateboarding days were over. After a few year break, Mancina has rediscovered his love of skating, and is fundraising to build the first fully adaptive skatepark designed around visual impairments. He is one of the hosts of Four Bad Eyes, a podcast which demystifies blindness through candid conversations and humor.



**Name:** Joe Strechay

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Joe Strechay—a man with light skin tone sits with his cane resting in his left arm, his dark straight hair falling past his shoulders, matching his dark beard.

**Background Information:** Joe Strechay is an entertainment accessibility and inclusion expert who has worked on acclaimed sets such as See, Daredevil, and the OA.



**Name:** Tim Hornik

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Tim Hornik- a man with light skin tone wears a tan suit and holds the top of his cane in his left hand.

**Background Information:** Tim Hornik was in Iraq when he was shot in the head by a sniper, resulting in losing most of his vision. He now runs his own business, Blind Not Alone, in which he consults with social workers and companies.



**Name:** Haben Girma

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Haben Girma—a woman with medium skin tone and long, straight, dark hair which falls past her shoulders and out of the frame.

**Background Information:** The first deafblind graduate of Harvard Law School, Haben Girma works as a human rights lawyer advancing disability justice; her memoir has been featured in the New York Times, Oprah Magazine, and the Today Show.



**Name:** Yokasta Urena

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Yokasta Urena—a woman with medium-light skin tone, dark curly shoulder-length hair, and wearing glasses, smiles.

**Background Information:** Yokasta Urena is a TVI from Queens, New York who uses her own life experiences to advocate for her students.



**Name:** Marcus Engel

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Marcus Engel—a man with light skin tone and curly hair wears dark rectangular glasses and smiles.

**Background Information:** Marcus Engel was blinded during a drunk driving accident while in college and has since dedicated his career to teaching ER and hospital staff the human side of medical care.



**Name:** Patrick Henry Hughes

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Patrick Henry Hughes—a man with light skin tone and buzzed brown hair smiles candidly.

**Background Information:** A Louisville native, Patrick Henry Hughes entered the national spotlight in 2006 when he played for the U of L Marching Band while his father pushed him through the marching routines in his wheelchair.



**Name:** Chris Downey

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Chris Downey—a bald, older man with light skin tone smiles.

**Background Information:** Having unexpectedly lost his vision in 2008 during an operation to remove a brain tumor, architect Chris Downey used his experiences and new perspective to begin a new chapter as an accessibility consultant for architectural firms.



**Name:** John Furniss

**Alt Text:** John Furniss—A man with light skin tone and curly brown hair smiles as he holds a large wooden bowl.

**Background Information:** An artistic woodworker known as “The Blind Woodsman”, John Furniss and his wife use their social media platforms to spread awareness of blindness, mental health, and art.



**Name:** Pete Eckert

**Alt Text:** Photo of Pete Eckert—An older man with light skin tone stands in front of a trellis with dark round glasses, holding a film camera. He has a gray goatee and thinning hair.

**Background Information:** Unbound by “by the assumptions of the sighted or their assumed limits” Pete Eckert describes himself as a “tourist in the sighted world” and uses this unique perspective to create striking photographs which he hopes gets sighted people thinking.



**Name:** Mike May

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Mike May—an older man with light skin tone and grey hair wears a suit as he smiles.

**Background Information:** A pioneer in wayfinding technology, Mike May is currently the Chief Evangelist for GoodMaps. In 2000, May underwent a rare stem cell transplant which restored some vision.



**Name:** Judith Dixon

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Judith Dixon—an older woman with light skin tone and grey chin length hair with bangs sits in front of a braille keyboard.

**Background Information:** Currently the Consumer Relations Officer at the National Library Service, Judith Dixon is an authority on braille and access, and an accessible tech expert.



**Name:** Bhavya Shah

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Bhavya Shah—a young man with medium skin tone and dark, short, curly hair.

**Background Information:** Having grown up in India with limited resources as a student who is blind, Bhavya Shah left his family at the height of the pandemic, in pursuit of academic opportunities in the US.



**Name:** Day Al-Mohamed

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Day Al-Mohamed—a young woman with medium-light skin tone smiles with closed lips. Her hair is tucked behind her ears and glasses rest on her head.

**Background Information:** Day Al-Mohamed is a film maker, author, and policy expert, who currently serves as the Director of Disability Policy at the White House.



**Name:** Khadija Bari

**Alt Text:** A headshot of Khadija Bari—a young woman with medium skin tone smiles with closed lips. brown hair falls passed her shoulders.

**Background Information:** When Khadija Bari moved to the US at the age of 22, she learned she was legally blind and officially diagnosed with Stargardt’s disease. Now, Bari helps others find suitable job placements through her work as Director of Placement services at VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.