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For Immediate Release

American Printing House for the Blind Announces \$50,000 Sponsorship for The Dot Experience

Louisville, KY (March 18, 2024) – American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is pleased to be a recipient of a \$50,000 sponsorship from Vispero for The Dot Experience. Vispero is a leading technology provider for the blind or low vision field. Vispero and APH have partnered on technology for many years.

"This generous sponsorship reiterates how important partnerships are in the field of blindness and low vision, said Craig Meador, Ed.D., APH President. "This sponsorship is proof that they are not only is Vispero a business partner, but that they are invested in The Dot Experience and know this first-class destination will properly showcase the lived experiences of individuals who are blind or low vision."

The Dot Experience is being designed as not just a museum, but also as an experience. It incorporates elements of an attraction, factory tour and center of education. The Dot Experience's mission is to change perspectives about blindness and encourage people to act in their own ways to make the world more welcoming for everyone and to lead as a model museum of inclusivity.

"Vispero is proud to partner with APH on this groundbreaking project, as it naturally extends our mission to empower the low vision and blindness community, fostering independence and inclusivity," said Richard Tapping, Vice President of Vispero. "This collaboration exemplifies the seamless synergy between our organizations, driving innovation and inspiring the next generation of parents and students."

The Dot Experience name pays homage to APH's history and commitment to braille, a series of six dots that in combination, form letters, numbers, music, and words, and serve as the code for communication and lifelong literacy for individuals who are blind.

Museums have traditionally been structured in a way that limits the experience and enjoyment of visitors with disabilities, and while much work has been done to open doors, many of these efforts are selective or pocketed to one audience or one area of a museum.

The Dot Experience will focus on inclusion, accessibility, and innovation embracing the expression "nothing about us without us" in a comprehensive way – through first-person stories of blind and low vision individuals, and through intentional involvement of the blindness community at every level of the project.

Every aspect of The Dot Experience is being planned with accessibility in mind. To help bring the vision to life, APH is working with Solid Light, a nationally recognized design-build firm, located in Louisville and with Prime Access Consulting (PAC), inclusive design consultants. The Dot Experience will open in 2026.

For additional information, renderings, and more, The Dot Experience Media Kit.

The Dot Experience Project:

- The Dot Experience construction is \$22 million, which includes exhibits.
- The Dot Experience Museum will be 28,000 square feet. This is nearly five times the size of the existing Museum. This will create a new "front door and attraction" for APH.
- APH is working to raise \$15 million in contributed funds from corporate, individual, and philanthropic sources toward the museum.
- All additional funds for this expansion will come from APH's endowment and investments

About Vispero

<u>Vispero</u> is the global leader in assistive technology products for those with vision impairments. Freedom Scientific, TPGi, Enhanced Vision, and Optelec, all Vispero brands, have a long history of innovation for customers with accessibility needs. Our product portfolio is considered one of the most diverse and reliable on the market.

About the American Printing House for the Blind

The American Printing House for the Blind is a nonprofit organization whose mission is empowering people who are blind or low vision by providing accessible and innovative products, materials, and services for lifelong success. The American Printing House is located at 1839 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY. For additional information, please visit www.aph.org. Follow on Facebook and on X (formerly known as Twitter).