The Disability Cultural Center at the University of Arizona opened Fall 2018. One of very few in the nation, U Arizona's Disability Cultural Center (DCC) is a space for students, faculty and staff to explore and celebrate disability identity, culture and community. The DCC aims to offer educational, community building, & social justice oriented programming.

**Services Offered:** The DCC offers a variety of programming for students, staff & faculty on campus and for Tucson community members.
- A discussion group about disability, ableism, & activism led by disabled students, offered twice a month.
- A four-part workshop series, ABLEISM 101, offered each semester. This workshop provides base knowledge about disability identity, culture and activism.
- Workshops & talks by national & local disabled speakers every semester.
- A quiet study space, with tea, coffee & snacks *not currently offered due to COVID-19*
- Virtual Movie Nights & Accessible Game Nights
- An introductory disability studies reading group offered monthly
- DCC Cultural Learning Community in partnership with the Thrive Center
- Starting Spring 2021: partnership with CAPS to provide short sessions with students through the DCC

"Learning from the facilitators, the readings/materials, and from peers in the workshop - it’s really powerful and impactful to hear so many insights and perspectives" --Anonymous Ableism 101 participant

"I learned so much more about disability rights and justice. I loved the small groups in the breakouts and the facilitators were AMAZING." --Kelsey, Community Member

"These workshops were so good! I just wanted to reach out to say that I’m in awe of the work you all are doing in the DCC. So much thoughtful, informative, valuable content. I couldn’t believe it when you said there’d been budget cuts & lost staff, because it seems like you are doing so much stuff all the time!! I’ve really been enjoying getting to learn about all of this stuff. Thank you so much." --Miranda, UArizona Staff

"Having the opportunity to work at the Disability Cultural Center as the Graduate Assistant for almost 2 years now, I have been able to see the center grow as we have added new staff, created training, brought in amazing speakers, and built our connections on campus. I have also been able to work in a space where my disability identity is celebrated, where my accommodations are always met, and where I am able to provide support to disabled and chronically ill students, staff, faculty and community members" --Sav Schlauderaff, UArizona Staff & PhD Student

The DCC has continued to grow every semester, and adapt to changes in staffing and budgets due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this shift to fully online programs & support, the DCC has helped educate other cultural & resource centers about accessible virtual content. Additionally, we have been able to reach disabled people nationally & internationally, to positively represent UArizona & to show why we consistently rank among the most accessible campuses in the United States.

**Collaborations:** First Cats Initiative / Thrive, Northern Arizona University, Sonoran Center UCEDD, FORCE & Pride Alliance, ARoSpACE, LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Women & Gender Resource Center, Campus Food Pantry, Graduate Students of Color Collective, The Graduate College, GPSC, Guerrero Student Center, DIRECT Center for Independence, EMERGE, Survivor Advocates, Consortium on Gender Based Violence, Arizona Center for Disability Law, Adaptive Athletics, Deaf Studies

**Invited Speakers:** Eli Clare, Annie Segarra, Naomi Ortiz, Matthew Wangeman, Lydia X.Z Brown, Margaret Price, Alisha Vasquez, Brieanne Buttnner, Osimiri Sprowal (plus numerous local disabled poets), Tatyana McFadden
HOW HAS THE DCC GROWN?
WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

The addition of the Disability Cultural Center to UArizona in 2018--alongside our colleagues at the Disability Resource Center, UCEDD Sonoran Center, Adaptive Athletics, the Disability Studies Initiative, and the many disability related courses offered at the University of Arizona--has positively impacted the students, staff, faculty & community members of Tucson. The DCC has allowed for disability identity, activism, culture, and community to be explored. Moreover, the DCC at UArizona is still one of only a handful of cultural centers dedicated to disability, and now serves as an example for other colleges and universities nationally and globally.

*What have we accomplished since our founding?*
We have recently been graciously gifted funds from Donna & Sam Smith to purchase new accessible furniture and flooring for the Disability Cultural Center. These updates, alongside our purchases of various pieces of artwork from disabled artists and the start of our disability studies library, add to both the usability and impact of the space.

We have fulfilled our proposed initial goals through implementing "flagship" programming, to serve our diverse population of students, staff, faculty, and community members, but also to align with our colleagues at the cultural and resource centers at UArizona.

We have been able to shift our funding and hire two undergraduate workers, providing jobs and community to disabled students on campus, and making our center the only space on campus 100% staffed by disabled people.

*Our Plans for the Future*
With our move under IME, the Disability Cultural Center will be organized alongside the other cultural and resource centers on campus, which we have worked to support and collaborate with over the past two and a half years. Additionally, this move aligns with our peers at Syracuse University & the University of Washington, to organize the DCC separate from disability services.

Beyond continuing our full roster of programming, in the coming years we plan to:
- Continue strengthening our collaborations and relationships with other cultural and resource centers on campus
- Grow and sustain our student staff
- Increase and refine our workshops and trainings on disability topics
- Continue to increase our visibility on campus
- Grow and sustain our peer-mentorship program (CLC), and to outreach to high school students
- Build and strengthen our relationship with CAPS to provide mental health support for students