

My Inclusive Life



With my parents, my brother Isaiah, and my service dog Proton in Rocky Mountain National Park

















Alliances	stalemate	Treaty of Versailles	Spanish-American war	Mobilization	trench warfare	Internment Camps
Imperialism	fascist	Neutrality Acts	rosie the riveter	War Bonds	rationing	Zoot Suit Riots
Militarism		Arsenal of Democracy Speech		Deficit Spending		Double Campaign
Nationalism		Four Freedoms Speech		Victory Gardens		Congress of Racial Equality
close popup 		Lend Lease Act	Patriotism	Dollars and Victory		Save and Sacrifice



Unsung hero: Mark Hassapes

THE AUTHOR
Samuel Habib

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▲

'Officer H' and his wife have two children: Olivia and Dylan

SAMUEL HABIB

"Unsung Heroes" is a new series of interviews and photos of Concord High School staff members who are underappreciated. They all help the school in their own way, perhaps by cleaning bathrooms, working in the cafeteria or answering phones.

Second in the series is a conversation with school safety officer Mark Hassapes.

Q: "What did you like or dislike about your own high school growing up?"

A: "I had a great time in high school. What I liked most was that I had a great set of friends. That was really important. And I really liked my teachers. There wasn't anything that I didn't like about high school."

Q: "Have you worked anywhere else?"

A: "Well I've worked at the police station, I worked out on the streets of Concord before I came here. And then I worked down in Massachusetts for two different departments before I came here."

Q: "How long have you worked at Concord High School?"

A: "Six and a half years."



WE ARE CHS

WE ARE CHS

NAMASTE Be The Change!

WE ARE CHS

WE ARE CHS

WE ARE CHS

हम सिखर WE ARE CHS





My team
check-in meeting
Concord H.S.

Today's Agenda

Updates for:

- Classes
- Communication device
- Homework
- OT, PT and Speech
- Transition planning
- Extra-curricular
- PH and other



English Updates

What's going well?
What could be improved?



Biology Updates

What's going well?
What could be improved?







































NO CLIMBING
NO CUTTING
NO BURNING
NO DRUGS
NO ALCOHOL



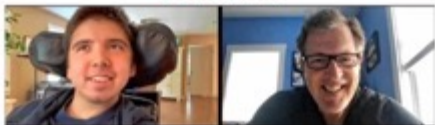








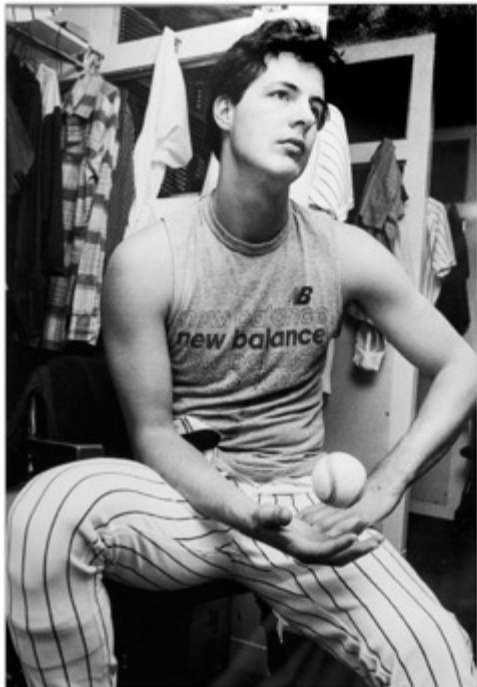




Samuel Habib, left, interviews Bob Tewksbury. Watch the whole interview at concordmentor.com.

THE MENTAL EDGE

Former MLB pitcher is now a mental skills coach for players working to get through the challenges of COVID-19



Concord's Bob Tewksbury sits in his Yankee Stadium locker stall after his successful Major League debut on April 11, 1986. He went on to a 13-year career that included an All-Star appearance.

By SAMUEL HABIB
For the Mentor

Concord native Bob Tewksbury went from the playing fields of Merrimack Valley High School in Peabody to big league stadiums from New York to San Diego. His Major League career, which included an All-Star Game appearance, spanned from 1986 to 1998 for the New York Yankees, Chicago Cubs, St. Louis Cardinals, Texas Rangers, San Diego Padres and the Minnesota Twins.

It was after his playing days, though, that Tewksbury's career took an unexpected turn. He pursued a master's degree in sports psychology and coaching at Boston University and transitioned to a new career as a mental skills coach for the Boston Red Sox from 2004-2013. Tewksbury is currently the Mental Skills Coordinator for the Chicago Cubs. He sat down for a virtual interview on June 21.

Samuel Habib: How did you begin your career?
Bob Tewksbury: That's a long answer so that story I'll try to make it short. When I stopped playing in 1998, I went back and finished my undergrad degree in physical education. Then I worked with the Red Sox as a pitching consultant for three years. What I did there was just talk to top prospects, mostly pitchers, just about my experiences in baseball. So three years later, I met a guy that was in spring training. He was doing mental skills work for the Red Sox. He told me that he was a sports psychologist, and I thought, "Well, if I could get a degree in sports psychology, combined with my professional playing experience, then maybe I could carve out my own niche niche for mental skills." That's why it took me three years, but that's what I did. I went to Boston University and I got my degree in 2003 and started working with the Red Sox in 2004, which was a good year. You liked that year?

Namuel: How does your great one experience as a former MLB player help you in your current role as a mental skills coach?

Bob: Well, that's a great question. Not as much as you would think. The nice thing is does help with is that people understand that I played and then they know that I've gone through similar

Becky Bonner: Life inside the NBA Bubble

Concord native is a top executive with Orlando Magic

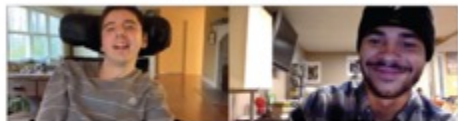
By SAMUEL HABIB
For the Mentor

Concord native Becky Bonner is in her fourth season as the Director of Player Development and Basketball Operations for the Orlando Magic. Bonner says she "wears many hats" in the position, doing things like attending all practices and games, helping with recruiting and much more.

Bonner went to Concord High and



Samuel Habib interviews Becky Bonner. Watch the full interview at concordmentor.com.



Samuel Habib, left, interviews Samuel Alton. Watch the interview at concordmentor.com.

Years after taking knee, he's still standing tall

Samuel Alton reflects on decision that put him in the spotlight and what it taught him

By SAMUEL HABIB
For the Mentor

Samuel Alton, 26, and Samuel Habib, 21, met when they were 17. Both at the summer program at Shaker Road School when they were about 13 years old, but they haven't been in touch since they were young. Alton is a junior at Morehead College in Atlanta studying criminology, forensics and sporting media studies. While he was playing football for Merrimack Valley High School, Alton injured Colin Kaepernick's head and took a knee before a 2016 game to protest police brutality.

Habib: Where did you grow up and go to school?

Alton: I grew up in 2004, you know then I grew up in Brentwood, New Hampshire, and then I started at St. John's, and then moved to the Merrimack Valley school district,



DISABILITY UNSCRIPTED 2020:



SAMUEL HABIB INTERVIEWS NH GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES









basketball game



Inbox x



Samuel Habib <sahabib19@sau8.org>

12/24/16



to Tom, Steve ▾

Dear Mr. Sica and Mr. Mello,

I want to address a problem. I can't get up into the student section of the stands at basketball or football games. I hope you can fix the problem by bringing the student section down to the court and closer to the field.

thanks,
Samuel Habib

(verbally dictated)





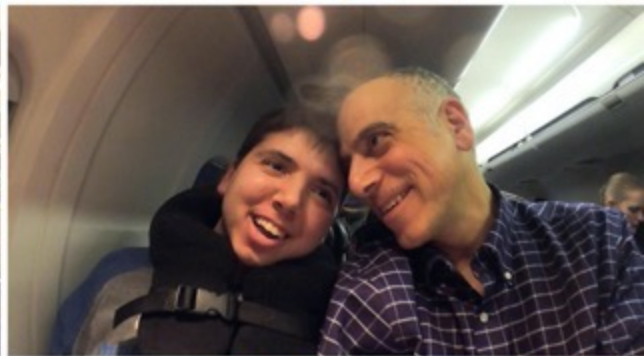












INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY









« THE DISABILITY ROAD MAP »
(working title)

a documentary by
DAN & SAMUEL HABIB

Westchester Institute
for Human Development

Samuel Habib, a young man with complex disabilities, navigates the path to work, college, relationships, and moving out of his family home, while he seeks out wisdom from a diverse mix of remarkable people across the country.



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«co-directors»

Samuel is co-directing the **DISABILITY ROAD MAP** with his filmmaker father, **Dan Habib**, whose landmark 2008 feature documentary **INCLUDING SAMUEL** was broadcast on public television, translated into 17 languages, and continues to be used worldwide as a catalyst for disability rights and inclusive education. In that film, Dan focused on Samuel's elementary school years and their family's fight for his educational and social inclusion. In recent years, Samuel and Dan have continued to document his coming-of-age story nearly every day.

Dan films Samuel in 2007 for **INCLUDING SAMUEL**

«urgent issues»

As youth with disabilities become adults, educational and economic disparities widen:

- » 34% of adults with disabilities, age 18-64, are employed, compared to 76% of adults without disabilities;
- » the annual median earnings of people with disabilities, age 16 and over, is \$23,006, compared to \$35,070 for people without disabilities; and
- » adults with disabilities (age 25 and older) are half as likely as adults without disabilities to have a college degree (10.8% compared to 21.7%).

The authentic perspectives provided by Samuel and the people he interviews will focus attention on the seven million youth with disabilities who, historically, have experienced poor academic, employment, health, and social outcomes.



«finding a path forward»

The **DISABILITY ROAD MAP** film will be told from Samuel's point of view, drawing from his 21 years of lived experience. All of the voices in the film will be those of people with disabilities, and the entire advisory board, and at least half of the production and outreach team, will be people with disabilities.

Big questions loom in Samuel's mind: "Will I be able to leave home and live in my own place? How do I start dating? Will I be able to transfer to a four-year college? What types of supports will I be able to access at work? How can I earn a living without losing my benefits?"



Samuel's underlying health issues often create roadblocks to achieving his goals and dreams. He takes a multitude of medications daily, which cause fatigue and other side effects. His speech requires enormous effort and is hard to understand. He's had multiple surgeries, and countless seizures and hospitalizations.



Samuel recovers from deep brain stimulation surgery in 2019 next to his mother, Betsy McNamara, and his service dog, Proton.

«seeking wisdom»

Over the course of two years, Samuel is learning how to navigate his complicated transition to adulthood through in-depth conversations with innovative and revolutionary people—each with visible and/or invisible disabilities—about their own transition experiences. This thoroughly researched cast of groundbreakers live at the intersection of disability, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

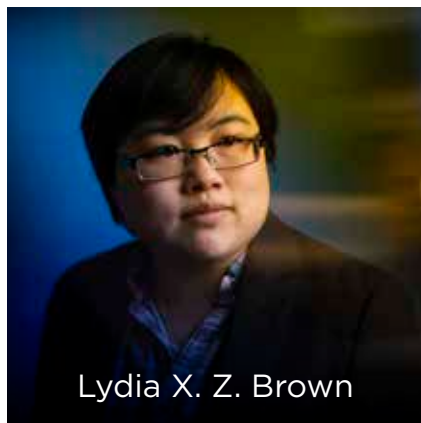
Poignant moments of these filmed exchanges will be brought to life through verité footage, archival photos/videos, and animation. The vivid perspectives and lived experiences of Samuel's interview subjects—as well as his periodic narration—will be woven throughout the compelling story arc of Samuel's transition to adulthood.



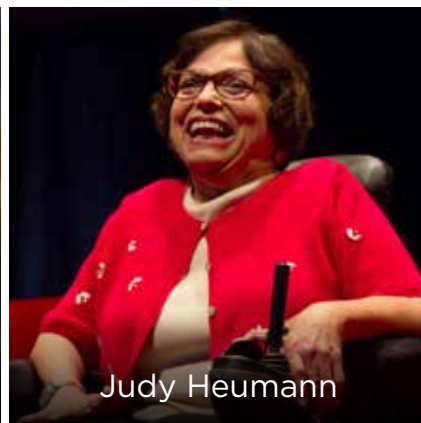
Samuel received a lifetime of wisdom from pioneering disability rights advocate and author Judy Heumann at her Washington, DC home in February, 2020.

«interviews & intersectionality»

Samuel is conducting preliminary interviews via Zoom with film subjects in Los Angeles, New York City, Washington, DC, Indiana, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. Initial and planned interviews include: **Lydia X. Z. Brown** (disability justice and queer rights advocate, organizer, and writer); **Judy Heumann** (author, pioneering disability rights advocate, *Crip Camp* star); **Najma Johnson** (social justice and Deaf rights organizer); **Keith Jones** (hip-hop artist, civil rights advocate); **Andrew Peterson** (competitive runner and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome advocate); **Ali Stroker** (Broadway actress, recent Tony Award winner); **Bob Williams** (former Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities); **Maysoon Zayid** (Palestinian rights advocate, actress, comedian); and **Tariq Zubhuza** (musician, tattoo artist, mental health advocate who was incarcerated for a large portion of his life).



Lydia X. Z. Brown



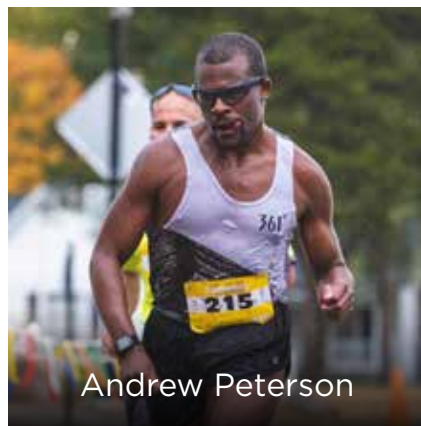
Judy Heumann



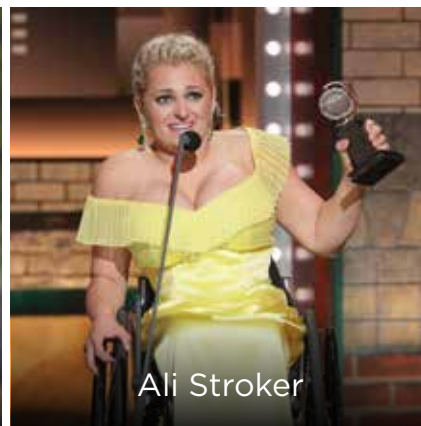
Najma Johnson



Keith Jones



Andrew Peterson



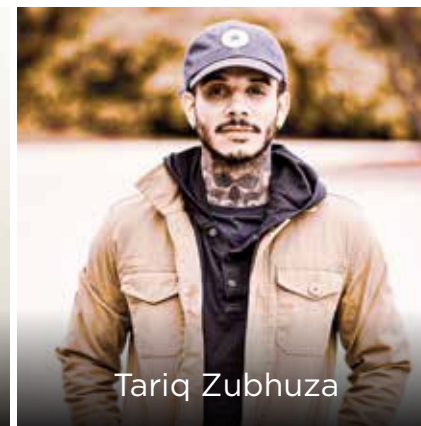
Ali Stroker



Bob Williams



Maysoon Zayid



Tariq Zubhuza



«current realities»

The film and outreach/educational materials will have a strong focus on the disproportionately poor outcomes and low expectations for disabled youth of color, which can be seen through a wide spectrum of disheartening data, such as:

- » Only 3% of Black and Hispanic 12th-grade students with disabilities achieved proficiency in reading, while practically none of these students achieved proficiency in math.
- » Black students who receive special education services are suspended and expelled to the most disproportionate degree of all groups of students.
- » 85% of incarcerated youth, who are disproportionately people of color, have learning and/or emotional disabilities.
- » People with intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders are three times more likely to die if they have COVID-19.

Two significant social issues—the COVID-19 pandemic and the national racial justice movement—will be important elements of the story arc, since they spotlight and exacerbate the already poor outcomes experienced by people with disabilities, and are currently impacting the trajectory of Samuel and the other characters' journeys.

»

“I’m being responsible in a public health crisis. But the running joke, which is a sad joke: ‘You want me to be Black with a mask and walk into a store? In America?’ In a pandemic, racism is exacerbated. In crises, people’s worst tendencies rumble to the surface.”

- Keith Jones



⋈ *“When non-disabled people tell our stories, we only get to have three stories: ‘Help me, I’m disabled.’ ‘Cure me.’ Or, ‘Kill me.’ We have to tell our own stories. Because when you have more disabled people behind the camera, writing, shooting, editing, directing, creating docs like you are, then it won’t be the endless pity party.”*

- Maysoon Zayid



“I feel very, very strongly that we put stories out there that are real, that are authentic, and that include stories around [⧘] sexuality or around relationships because it’s just not represented. At times I feel like I just need to do it for 15-year-old Ali, who was looking around for stories like her, and there weren’t any.”

- Ali Stroker



⧘ “To be a disability advocate, for me, is not an option. If not us, then who? Because for us, as disabled people, we can’t wait for, or rely upon, non-disabled people to save us. So what motivates me is the knowledge that there is still injustice and oppression. And I cannot rest until I end it—until all the people that I work in community with together end it.”

- Lydia X. Z. Brown

“It has never been more critical for the disability community to fight and join with groups like Black Lives Matter. I believe any attempt to strip any person of their self-worth, identity, voice, and humanity is meant to brand them inferior. That to me is hate. And hate is violence that must be called out and stopped.”

– Bob Williams



Samuel interviews Bob Williams, the former Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, at his Washington, DC home in February, 2020. Both Bob and Samuel use communication devices.



«decisive moments»

As Samuel comes to understand the intersection of disability rights with other social justice movements, he and Dan are capturing his transition to adulthood that includes immersion into college life; his evolving relationship with his older brother, Isaiah; and his choice to undergo an elective, nine-hour deep brain stimulation surgery to stifle his wildly uncontrollable movements—a surgery which, among other things, has enabled him to get his first (but not last) tattoo.





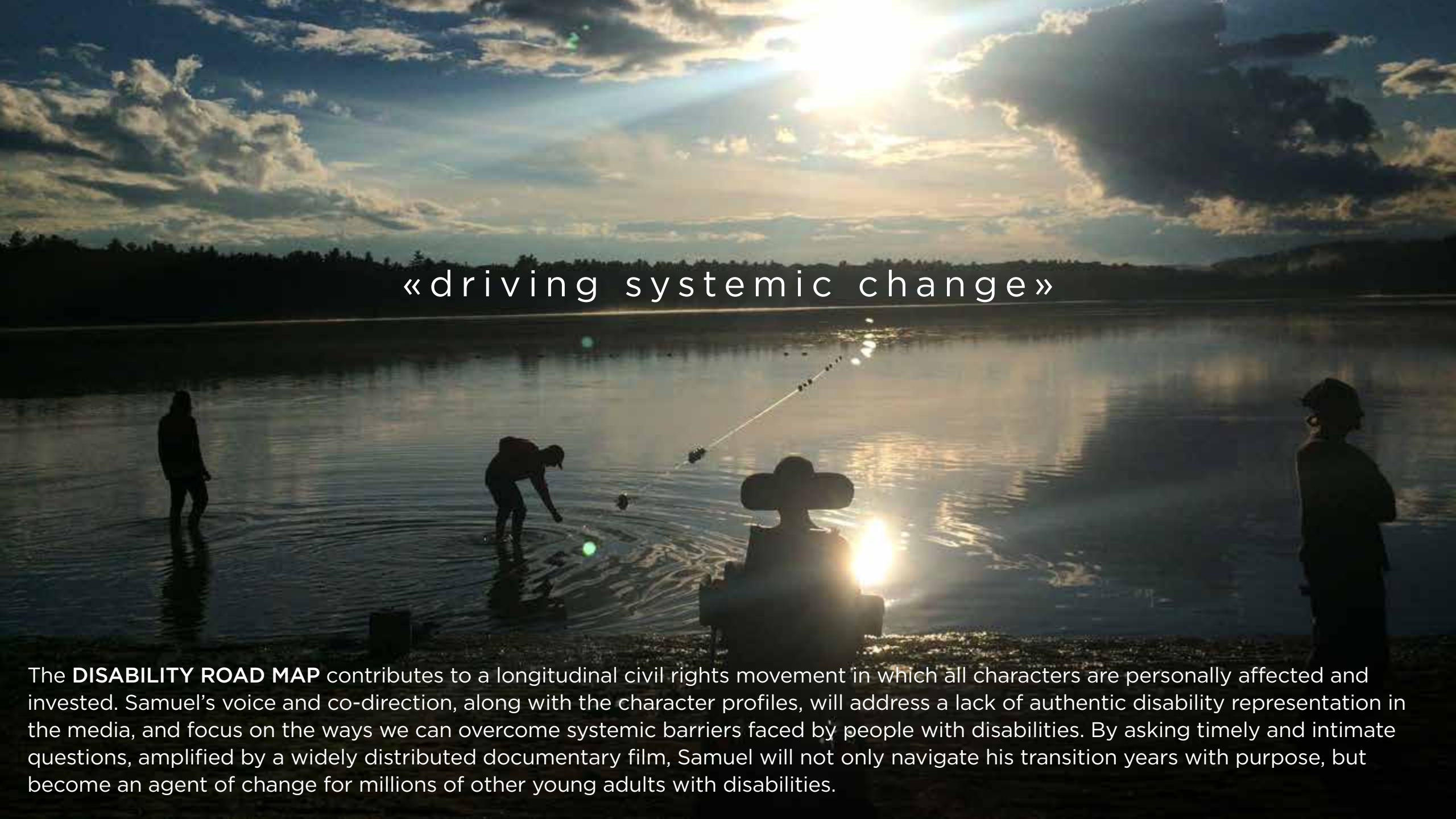
Samuel and Dan have been documenting his coming-of-age story nearly every day in recent years. Dan documents Samuel's life through his intimate cinematography and photography, while Samuel films his first-person point of view via two GoPro cameras mounted to his wheelchair.





“Disabled people who are men or women, with different sexual orientations and religions and racial backgrounds, we’re not a monolith of people. But we have a unifying factor that we call ‘disability.’ My vision for the future is that we learn about each other more, become more emboldened, more empowered. I talk about it as coming together to go apart.”

- Judy Heumann

A sunset over a lake with silhouettes of people and a camera operator. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with scattered clouds. In the foreground, several people are silhouetted against the water. One person is standing on the left, another is bending over in the water, and a third is sitting in a chair in the center, facing the water. A fourth person is standing on the right. A line of buoys or floats extends from the center towards the right. The water is calm, reflecting the sunset.

«driving systemic change»

The **DISABILITY ROAD MAP** contributes to a longitudinal civil rights movement in which all characters are personally affected and invested. Samuel's voice and co-direction, along with the character profiles, will address a lack of authentic disability representation in the media, and focus on the ways we can overcome systemic barriers faced by people with disabilities. By asking timely and intimate questions, amplified by a widely distributed documentary film, Samuel will not only navigate his transition years with purpose, but become an agent of change for millions of other young adults with disabilities.

«the film team»



Dan Habib, Co-Director/Producer, is the Inclusive Communities Project Director at the Westchester Institute of Human Development (WIHD; a 501c3 non-profit) and the creator of the nationally broadcast documentary films *Intelligent Lives*, *Who Cares About Kelsey?* and *Including Samuel*. From 2014-2017, Dan served on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities under President Barack Obama.



Samuel Habib, Co-Director, is an aspiring filmmaker and community college student. In 2016, he made a film about disability rights leader Judith Heumann that was featured in the Breaking Down Barriers Film Festival in Moscow, Russia. Samuel was also a story consultant on Dan's nationally broadcast film *Mr. Connolly Has ALS*. Samuel is also a Multi-Media Production Assistant and Public Speaker at WIHD.



Sara Bolder, Executive Producer, produced the 2021 Oscar nominated documentary, *Crip Camp*, which won the 2020 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award and a 2021 Peabody Award. Sara is a veteran sound editor, working on *Star Wars Episode One* and *The English Patient*, and winning Golden Reel Awards from the Motion Picture Sound Editors for Best Sound Editing for *Jurassic Park* and *Saving Private Ryan*.



James LeBrecht, Executive Producer, co-directed and co-produced the 2021 Oscar nominated documentary, *Crip Camp*. LeBrecht has over 40 years of experience as a sound designer and mixer, with 180 film credits. He co-founded FWD-Doc, an organization that supports documentary filmmakers with disabilities, and he is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.



Andraea LaVant, Consulting Producer, is a nationally and internationally respected disability inclusion expert, widely recognized for spearheading a global disability justice movement as impact producer for Netflix's Oscar-nominated film, *Crip Camp*. She is founder and president of LaVant Consulting, Inc. (LCI), a social impact communications firm dedicated to shaping the way the world reaches, views and values people with disabilities.



James Rutenbeck, Film Editor, has 30 years of filmmaking and editing experience, including Dan Habib's 2019 film *Intelligent Lives*. His nonfiction films have screened at Cinema du Reel, Museum of Modern Art, and the National Gallery, and on Independent Lens and American Experience. James is a two-time recipient of the Alfred I. du Pont Columbia Journalism Award.

« advisory board »



Elijah Armstrong, 24, received his bachelor's from Penn State and his Master of Education Policy and Management from Harvard, where he was president of the Black Student Union. Elijah received the 2021 AAPD Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Award and used the funds to start the [Heumann-Armstrong Award for Education Activism](#). Elijah is an epileptic who was denied accommodations in high school.



Tia Holmes, 24, is a Charlotte, NC based Software Engineer at Microsoft and a founding member of "[I am Norm](#)," a social impact campaign for *Including Samuel*. A 2019 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she co-chaired UNC's disability rights advocacy student group and is now a core member of the Charlotte Disability Employee Resource Group at Microsoft.



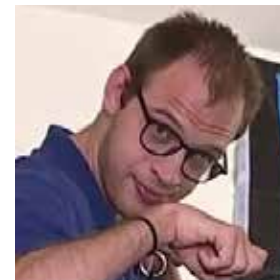
Alexander Freeman, 34, is a Boston-based filmmaker, artist and entrepreneur and founder of social justice advocacy production company, Outcast Productions. He directed [The Last Taboo](#), a documentary about the sexual lives of people with disabilities, while at Emerson College. Freeman's documentary, [Indomitable](#), follows Freeman and his partner and caregiver, Orina as they raise their daughter Maya.



Anna Landre, 22, is a graduate of Georgetown University where she studied Latin American and African Studies, disability justice, and international development. Anna is a 2020 Truman Scholar and a 2021 Marshall Scholar, and she is currently studying Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics. In 2020, Landre was named one of [Teen Vogue's 21 Under 21](#) for her advocacy and legislative work on disability rights.



Taylor Freeman, 18, is a freshman at Clemson University as part of the college's ClemsonLIFE Program. Taylor recently co-starred in the 2021 short film [Artistic](#) alongside former NFL running back Marshawn Lynch. She was awarded the 2021 Self-Advocate Award (under 21) by the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta and the 2021 Self-Advocate Everyday Hero by the National Down Syndrome Congress.



Galen Spiegler, 29, is the Keene, NH based author of "[The Ability Almanac: 365 Tidbits of Crip Wisdom In Bite-Sized Pieces](#)" who earned his degree at Wright State University in Dayton, OH area. He is currently pursuing a master's in mental health counseling, and he plans to pursue a doctorate in clinical and organizational psychology, aiming to "revolutionize how we hire people to work with people with disabilities."

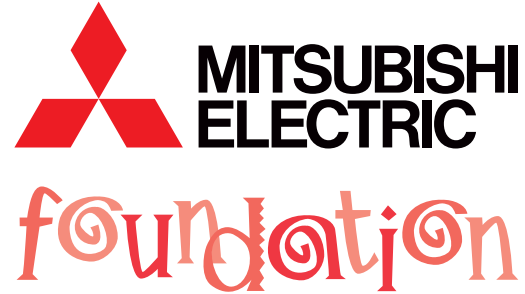
Advisory board members are providing input on early cuts of the film, our educational materials, and our outreach/impact campaign.

« THE DISABILITY ROAD MAP »

(working title)

is supported by many individuals, foundations and organizations, including:

Lead Support
from:



Additional Supporters:



LEF Moving Image Fund



CONSTANCE & JAY MAZELSKY



Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at the



To make a tax-deductible contribution, go to the [WIHD Donation page](#) and select the designation “**Disability Road Map Project.**”

For donation questions or other ways to give to this project, contact Cindy Lopane: clopane@wihd.org