

Philip Dallmann: Ho, ho, ho. (laughs) And welcome to the Access Champions Podcast, Holiday Edition. Uh, I'm your host, Phil Dallmann, for this week's journey into the galaxies of accessibility, diversity, and inclusion. We got a, a, a short episode for you guys this week. Um, not sure if we'll be, uh, on air next week. Um, holidays are, are wild, travel and, and work and everything and, uh, getting, you know, coordinating guests and getting things recorded and getting produced and all that. Um, it's just a little messy in this, like, two-week span. Not sure. We might have something. We might not, um, but we will have this episode this week.

Philip Dallmann: Um, I wanna start off the episode by, uh, giving a quick shout-out to our Champion intern, Miss Kelsey Rose Brown, who just finished her first semester at Emerson out in Boston, uh, in the speech language pathology program. Uh, congratulations on getting through that first semester of grad school. Um, it's not easy, and we are appreciative for the, the work that she does for, for the show all across social media, hunting down, uh, press agent information, um, uh, a million things. She, she, she fills in, uh, so many gaps, so, um, we are incredibly grateful for her.

Philip Dallmann: This is our first episode from our sort of almost new studio. (laughs) Uh, its not quite set up, and the part that's not quite set up is the soundproofing, so I apologize if there's background noise, uh, from the streets of New York, um, but now we're, we're in the office in Chelsea, and, um, you know, very excited, uh, to be here, um, and hoping that with some of the soundproofing stuff that we can set, um, that we may be able to do some video recording here, um, where in areas around here, um, (laughs), you know, and as I say this, sirens go off behind me. Um, so we will, we will see, but we will, um, we are excited about this location. We're, uh, excited to bring you guys more and more content.

Philip Dallmann: As always, uh, wanna plug social media. Please give us a follow, @AccessChampion on Instagram and Twitter. Lots of great content coming through there, and on Facebook, we are The Access Champions Podcast. Give us a like there, um, and wherever you listen to us, please subscribe. Give us a follow, whatever it is, whether it's SoundCloud or iTunes or, uh, Stitcher or Google Play.

Philip Dallmann: Um, my Christmas wish this year is to get on Spotify. (laughs) It's been a, an ongoing process, um, but, uh, hopefully, hopefully, we'll be there sooner rather than later, um, but we, we keep on keeping on, and, uh, I think that's all I have business-wise for everyone.

Philip Dallmann: Um, what I do wanna, uh, address or, or, or put out there, um, you know, uh, now is a, a time of giving, and, uh, a lot of us give, uh, to the same places, um, or place that maybe our parents gave to or our grandparents gave to, and I, I'm not gonna run down a list of, of organizations. Uh, I don't wanna appear biased. I think there are hundreds and thousands of organizations out there doing incredible work, um, so I will not presume to tell you where you should spend

your money, um, but what I will encourage is, uh, you to do a little bit of research, even very surface level.

Philip Dallmann: Hit up that Google machine, um, about these organizations that you're giving to, um, and make sure that they reflect your values. Um, there are organizations out there that do good, but they do it in an exclusive way. Um, maybe they, uh, refuse to provide for, um, the LGBTQ community or folks of color. Um, you know, uh, just a, a quick Google search will often reveal those things, um, and, and make sure that the organizations that you're giving to line up with your values, um, and, I, you know, I don't presume anything, but I don't, I think it's a okay assumption to assume (laughs) that since you're listening to this podcast, uh, you do believe in accessibility, diversity, and inclusion, um, so that, that's my, my spiel about holiday giving. Um, if you would like a personal recommendation, um, I have a few, uh, charities that I love and organizations that I love, um, and if you wanna email, um, accesschampion@gmail.com, I'd be happy to send you a list with links, etc., and why I love them, um, and that's that.

Philip Dallmann: Uh, so we're gonna, uh, end this episode, uh, this, this quick, quick, quick episode, uh, with a poem.

Philip Dallmann: Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house, not a creature was racist, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care with correct gender pronouns, including they, them, their. The children were nestled all snug in their beds while visions of diversity moved in contemporary Indian dance by Brinda Guha in their heads, and Miss Kelsey Rose Brown in her kerchief and I in my cap had just settled down for a long winter's nap, in separate rooms because she's our intern and #timesup, when from my phone arose such a clatter, I threw on my T-shirt that says, "Black Lives Matter."

Philip Dallmann: Away to my phone, I flew like a flash, only to see I was alerted by the Be My Eyes app. It's a joy to help someone you don't know, and when they asked me if the milk was expired, I said, "No." I texted a few friends to check on their mental health before I put away my phone and sent them the Darkness Rising album and tickets to You are not Alone. When what to my wondering eyes should appear but an accessible sleigh with a wheelchair lift and a crowd of advocates smiling ear to ear. I knew in a moment it must be a dream. This many wonderful humans in one place could never be, and then from afar, I heard the Kennedy Center's Betty Siegel shout. These Access Champions began to stand out.

Philip Dallmann: Christina Trivigno and Sofiya Cheyenne, Aliza Greenberg, Alison Mahoney, and the ladies of [CoLab 00:06:31], [Michelle 00:06:31] Bishop, [Courtney 00:06:32] Overton, and [Carol Krueger 00:06:33], the two Dans, Matthews, and [Ellison 00:06:36] looked incredibly eager. Marc Molinaro was thinking differently with a pint of Ben & Jerry's. The design team from Xbox looked quite merry. Marie [Klapot 00:06:47] and [Eliza 00:06:47] Douglas sprayed a scent. "This is what inclusion smells like," said Bob Carr, as he took the pint of Pecan Resist.



Philip Dallmann: As the sleigh shifted out, they began to file, and setting up the ramp was Brittany Pyle. Out from the sky flew Karmzah with Farida Bedwei with Megan Carranza and Elena SV Flvs. Autism Advocacy pamphlets they handed out with care as [Eileen Bagnall 00:07:12] discussed equality with [Jaehne Claire 00:07:15]. James [Bagley 00:07:16] gave legal advice and made snowballs from the fluff, only to be outdone by the one and only Andrew Duff.

Philip Dallmann: I watched these heroes of whom I couldn't be fonder, when from out of the sleigh popped [Lew 00:07:30] Michaels with a point to ponder. "Humans are humans and we should treat them as such, to show compassion and empathy really doesn't take much. Our world could be a better place if we focused on common humanity instead of things like greed, hate, and vanity. It's not something that will happen overnight, but if we stick together, we can win this fight."

Philip Dallmann: I took his words to heart as I got back to bed, my heart replenished and my soul fed. It's been a wonderful year building this community. I've got to share so many stories of overcoming futility. Accessibility, diversity, and inclusion, that's our fight, and the Access Champions Podcast will fight it with all of our might. Music by Eric Walton and produced by the one and only Matt Kerstetter. We promise to keep trying and working to make this world better. Whether we stumble, whether we fall, we will keep running through that brick wall.

Philip Dallmann: Happy holidays from everyone here at the Access Champions Podcast, and we can't wait to share so many more stories next year. Good night.