

Report on Autism Awareness Event Planning

March is Disability Awareness Month, and in this event we have chosen to **focus on raising awareness about Autism**.

Event date: Tuesday, March 28

Time: 7pm

Location: TBD

Our ad hoc subcommittee is still in the early stages of our planning for this event. Here's what we have determined so far...

Our goal with this event is to help people understand challenges faced by people on the Autism spectrum, how these challenges impact human relations and create inequities, and how we can be helpful...

We would like to explore these themes particularly in terms of how they play out in our **educational institutions and the workplace**.

In addition, we are also very interested in **exploring how the arts provide a positive and empowering venue** for people with Autism to express themselves and contribute positively to society.

One way we hope to be able to do this is by **featuring performances and/or a display at the event of artwork** created by people who are on the Autism spectrum.

Our ad hoc subcommittee members have connections with a number of organizations and individuals that work to help people with Autism in various capacities. We are reaching out to these connections to confirm **4-5 panelists** for the event and also get feedback that will help us to further solidify the focus of our event and etc.

At least **one or two of our panelists will be people who are on the autism spectrum**.

Some of the organizations and people we are reaching out to include:

- * Asperger's Syndrome Parent Group
- * The Westside Regional Center
- * Spectrum Laboratories
- * Jazz Hands for Autism
- * LA Goal
- * Auticon
- * Autism Speaks

- * Susan Osborn (works though Culver City High School)
- * Alex Plank (an actor who is on the Autism spectrum and willing to speak about it)

