

# CERTIFIED ACCESS SPECIALIST INSTITUTE 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION



**CERTIFIED ACCESS SPECIALIST INSTITUTE**

## CANDIDATE GUIDE

This guide is intended for use by the CASI membership in voting during the 2021-2022 Board of Directors election. Enclosed are this year's candidate's statements – designed to provide all members with the background necessary to make an informed decision when voting for CASI's new Board of Directors. Your vote will help to shape the future of the organization – as CASI strives to improve and continually better serve its members and the public.

*Please note that only received candidate's statements are included.*

Tel: (866) 888-9188 | Fax: (559) 227-1463  
E-mail: [info@casinstitute.org](mailto:info@casinstitute.org) | Web: [www.casinstitute.org](http://www.casinstitute.org)

## PRESIDENT

### Kaylan Dunlap



Kaylan Dunlap is a Principal and Director of Technical Services with Evan Terry Associates (ETA) and has been with ETA since 2003. Kaylan currently serves as the firm's primary technical access specialist for the US Capitol Complex, the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department, a number of US Department of Justice projects, and others. Kaylan is a subject matter expert for the California Division of State Architect, has served on the Board of Directors of the Certified Access Specialists Institute for many years, and is a charter member of the California State Architect's Access Code Collaborative, representing the interests of people with disabilities.

Kaylan became a Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) in the State of California in 2011 and completed the Great Plains ADA Center ADA Coordinator Training Certificate Program in 2017. She served on the U.S. Access Board's Advisory Committee on Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment. She has been coordinating and co-teaching the ADA Compliance program for the Harvard Graduate School of Design's Executive Education Program annually since 2017 and teaching accessibility seminars for over a decade nationwide.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

### Elizabeth Sorgman



It has been quite the year for all of us as we navigate both our personal and our professional lives during these unprecedented times. Yet, despite these uncertain challenges there have been many opportunities to reorganize, regroup and to take a look at things in a fresh way - this includes CASI and our activities. We hope that you have followed and participated in the List-Serve questions; that you have been able to participate in one of our webinars and are setting time aside to attend next year's CASI symposium. Working for the City of Santa Barbara's Building Department and being one of the

city's CAsp presents many opportunities to understand accessibility challenges and to also see common misapplication of the codes during the permitting and construction process. As Vice President I hope to continue to expand our outreach to our members and to share practical approaches one can employ when dealing with jurisdictions. Continued dialog helps to raise awareness and provides opportunities for better understanding of accessibility regulations and obligations.

# DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC OUTREACH

## Sandra Miles



### Professional Background

Ms. Miles has 30+ years of experience in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry, specializing in accessibility compliance projects over the last 20+ years. Ms. Miles is a Certified Access Specialist (CASP) in the state of California, Accessibility Plans Examiner and Inspector (ICC), Texas Access Specialist (TAS), certified ADA Coordinator (ADAC) and most recently has been certified by the Accessibility Professional Association with the designation of "ADA Specialist". Ms. Miles is proficient with 2010 ADA Standards, and the California Code of Regulations/Title 24 Accessibility Compliance for Title II and Title III projects. Her project management with civil design background along with training of public works departments has required her to be proficient in the Public Rights of Way Guidelines (PROWAG) from the Federal Access Board, the Federal Highway Administration's California Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Her experience includes a full range of accessibility compliance including; accessibility site inspections, CASp reports, accessibility plan review, training presentations, training classes, Title II, Title III, and Fair Housing design review for privately and publicly funded housing.

### Qualifications for Office

Accessibility is a topic of deep personal concern to Ms. Miles. Her compassion is personal and she is dedicated to ongoing continuing education to see the entire scope of accessibility issues.

Ms. Miles previously served as Secretary on the 2015-20216 CASI board and as a member of the City of San Diego Accessibility Advisory Board 2016- 2018.

### Goals to Achieve if Elected

Ms. Miles personal goals if elected are to become more involved with the Institute and help others become aware of the benefits it offers and to have CASp to be more aligned in understanding of accessibility compliance.

### Certifications

- Certified Access Specialist (CASP), Division of State Architect, (346), 2023
- Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner, International Code Council (ICC), (8110698) 2024
- Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (1438) 2022
- ADA Coordinator (ADAC) University of Missouri (26092456-4623) 2022
- PA-ADA Specialist Accessibility Professionals Association

## DIRECTOR OF MEMBER OUTREACH

### Val Garcia

Val Garcia has worked in the California Central Valley over the last 30 years. He started in construction as a Designer and Project Manager for a large construction firm. Val has spent the last 20 years working in the Public Sector as a Plans Examiner with the City of Tulare, and currently as the Senior Plans Examiner for the City of Visalia. Val is a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) by the California Division of State Architect (DSA) and is certified by the International Code Council (ICC) as a Residential, Commercial and Fire Plans Examiner, Residential, Commercial, Fire and Plumbing Building Inspector. Val is a code junkie and is passionate about enforcement of the code and ensuring that it is applied correctly.

## DIRECTOR OF MEMBER OUTREACH

### Malvin Whang



My name is Malvin Whang and I am seeking the position of Director of Member Outreach at CASI. I studied architecture at UC Berkeley and have practiced on a wide variety of projects in my career including commercial, institutional, higher ed and K-12 projects. While I was a program manager at UCSF, I earned my CASp certification and also managed the ADA Transitions Plan Update project. Accessible design is one of the fundamental responsibilities we have as design professionals and socializing that both technically and culturally is one of the goals for CASI

that I'd like to focus on.

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

### Don Risdall



For the past 18 years Don has been with the Pacific ADA Center promoting compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to all stakeholders (public accommodations and their customers, public entities and program users, building professionals and architects, employers and their employees, etc.). Previously, Don had completed a master's degree in education while providing direct services to individuals with psychological and developmental disabilities.

The intent of the ADA is to ensure people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in society. The requirements found in the ADA Standard are intended to ensure this opportunity is provided in the built environment. While compliance with the state accessibility building code is intended to ensure compliance with the ADA Standard, the CASI mission is to be a voice of access professionals and promote compliance with these requirements. To that end I appreciate the opportunity to contribute.

## DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

### Lorena Soules



Lorena Soules, CASp is the Building & Safety Services Manager for the 4LEAF, Inc. Lorena has also served in the City of Garden Grove, Visalia, Manhattan Beach, and Tulare in various capacities associated with permit processing that included intake, issuance, and plan checking. Lorena has over 20 years of experience in the Building & Safety industry.

This experience with Building & Safety has evolved over time which has ultimately sparked an interest in the area of Accessibility. This passion has led to the successful study and examination to become a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) #833 for the State of California. Lorena has carried this certification since 2018 performing consultations, plan checks, and inspections for commercial and residential properties.

Lorena continues to assist other individuals who have the same passion as she does with studying for their CASp exams. She would also like to see more municipal staff obtain their CASp certification and incorporate the knowledge into everyday practice increasing accessibility. Lorena truly believes that access shouldn't be an afterthought in design.

## DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

### BJ Dietz Epstein



BJ Dietz Epstein, M. Arch, CASp, is a Senior Designer at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco. There, she reviews signs for compliance with the ADA and California Building Codes and teaches others about accessible signage. She also designs and creates tactile graphics and maps for people who have visual disabilities.

Ms. Epstein has a wide range of experience providing training to others, from training small local signage manufacturing companies, to giving talks at national and international conferences on tactile reading. She also offers accessibility training webinars for Vector Solutions, a company that gives Continuing Education Units for architects, designers, building inspectors, and more.

Ms. Epstein got her start in accessibility during her graduate studies for architecture, and she has been interested in access in the built environment for over 15 years. She would love to share her experiences working with people from different disability communities and help others to become interested and trained in accessibility issues, as the next Education Chair for CASI. Though she has her CASp, Ms. Epstein knows that there is still so much to learn about accessibility, and she wants to continue to learn with the members of CASI.