

# COMMISSION for UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Highland Park, NJ



Helping to Bring  
all Residents  
into  
Full Civic Partnership

Contact us at:  
Highland Park Borough Hall  
732-572-3400  
<http://www.hpboro.com>  
[cua@hpboro.com](mailto:cua@hpboro.com)

## Mission of CFUA

- Advise Borough government of programs, grants, legislation, policies and practices in the best interest of **fostering full civic engagement** by individuals with disabilities
- Promote **programs and opportunities** for individuals with disabilities
- Partner with Borough government and Schools to facilitate **physical and social inclusion** of individuals with disabilities
- Assist ADA Coordinator in resolving complaints brought to his/her attention (**ADA Compliance Resolution**)
- Investigate, seek and apply for appropriate **grants/awards**

## Current CFUA Activities

- Monitor current use of Borough **Accessible Parking Ordinance** and **Snow Removal Ordinance**.
- Support efforts to make Highland Park more accessible for all (e.g., **sidewalk improvements**)
- Promote and offer **Programs** for people with disabilities: adults and youth
- Promote awareness of **ADA standards and guidelines**, especially the newest ones. Work with Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning Boards, Redevelopment Agency, and Main Street
- Apply for **grants** as appropriate
- Support **SEPAC** (Special Education Parents Advisory Council), working with the Director of Educational Services (in the Schools)
- Increase **awareness of social accessibility issues** for those with invisible/hidden disabilities

A Sampling of Past CFUA Accomplishments/Projects

- Worked with the Borough and Schools to improve **access into and through the buildings and grounds** (e.g., ramp to Main Street building, ramp and Council chambers at Borough Hall, ramp at High School, doorbells/buzzers as appropriate, signage throughout the buildings)
- With Police and Borough government, created **Accessible Parking Ordinance**, providing improved accessible parking and generating additional funds for the Borough
- Updated Accessible Parking Ordinance to allow residents to request an **On-Street Accessible Parking Space** when off street parking is not available where they live
- Received **HP Park Partners** grant to purchase emergency radios for senior citizens and people with disabilities in town
- National finalist for NOD (National Organization on Disability) **Accessible America Award**

- Promoted recreation programs for those with disabilities
  - Worked with the Recreation Department to make our **Summer Camp** program accessible to and inclusive of all Borough children
  - Provided initial endorsement of **Buddy Ball** program
  - Offered a **Drama Program** for adults (with VSA New Jersey) and sponsored a **Summer Theater Camp** for youth
- Purchased appropriate **materials for the Public Library** to facilitate awareness and understanding of individuals with disabilities, and worked with Borough to purchase **accessible picnic tables** for Town Tables locations
- Reviewed **voting accessibility** issues with County Clerk
- Met with Highland Park and County Offices of Emergency Management to discuss issues of **emergency preparedness** for people with disabilities

Remaining Meeting Dates in 2024  
(usu. the 2nd Monday at 7 pm) (on Zoom)

April 8	No August	Sept 9
May 13		Oct 21? (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
June 10		Nov 18? (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
July 8		Dec 9

Commission Membership

**Chair**

Jan Verstraete

**Members**

Diane Feldman  
Debbie Hehir  
Kim Kershaw  
Marlene Tarshish

**Alternate Members**

Connell Hutkin  
Pat McKenna

Borough Government

**Mayor**

Elsie Foster

**Council President**

Matthew Hersh

**Council Members**

Tara Canavera (CFUA liaison)  
Philip George  
Matthew Hale  
Stephany Kim Chohan  
Jason Postelnik

**Borough ADA Coordinator**

Scott Brescher

**HP Police Liaison to CFUA**

David Soden

(March 20, 2024)