“We envision a society where everyone believes the world is better because of disabled people.”
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Director Catherine Kudlick.
A Note from the Director

Boasting is typically not my thing. But 2019 was such an incredible mosaic of conversations, challenges, and accomplishments that I’m ok with being puffy and proud. What follows are highlights as we successfully passed the midway point of our three-year Strategic Plan. Check our website for details.

Superfest Disability Film Festival sold out again in 2018 and continues to disrupt with its positive images of disability, while Superfest showcases and the “Patient No More” traveling exhibit criss-crossed the nation, with proud stories of disability activism. Our Longmore Fellows program is also growing as we bring disability justice and culture to more SF State students. Meanwhile, we continue to work with teachers at all levels to make sure disability is part of future generations’ educational experience.

And what an honor and delight it was to lead the planning phase of the nation’s first city-run disability community cultural center! Through this partnership with the City of San Francisco, we assembled an amazing team of disability thought leaders and then talked extensively with disabled people and allies, many on the margins of the margins. It’s hard to find words to describe the spark in a room when new kindred spirits find one another to explore a better world. From these many conversations, we produced concrete recommendations to guide the creation of a unique center that will place disability culture and identity right there among other forms of our city’s cherished diversity.

At a time when every fight for disability rights is urgent, everyone who shared their dreams with us made it abundantly clear: disability culture is integral to our survival. It’s what brings together our community; the connections that sustain us in the struggle. It transforms challenge into pride, stigma into respect, and limited prospects into endless ones.

In solidarity,

Catherine Kudlick
Professor of History and Director, Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability, San Francisco State University
San Francisco’s Newest Community Cultural Center

This year’s major project was to head up the planning phase for San Francisco’s pathbreaking disability community cultural center. After winning a competitive one-year contract from the city’s Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), we engaged with dozens of organizations, from service providers to the exciting network of existing cultural centers. With guidance from a diverse committee of local disability leaders, we made it a priority to learn from as broad a segment of the disability population as possible. To add depth to a survey that we created and distributed across the city, our focus groups included individuals too often on the margins of disability conversations: people of color, younger adults, homeless people, veterans, and LGBTQIA+ people. Interactions with hundreds of people we’d never met taught us a great deal about our city while placing the Longmore Institute at the center of creating something forward-looking and positive. We shared our findings and concrete recommendations in an extensive report that can be accessed from our website. [https://bit.ly/2kXNLbQ](https://bit.ly/2kXNLbQ)

Having completed this first phase of what will be a multi-year project, the Longmore Institute passes the torch for determining the Center’s location, design, and specific services and activities over to another organization that the City will choose through a competitive bidding process. We are pleased to have played a key role in creating what will shape the lives of San Francisco’s disabled people for generations and that will serve as a model for other cities to emulate.
Patient No More Continues To Criss-Cross the Country

When we first partnered with the nonprofit organization Exhibit Envoy to support the travel of our disability history installation “Patient No More: People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights,” they committed to keeping it on the road until 2018. But interest in the story of how over 150 disabled people and their allies occupied San Francisco’s Federal Building for nearly a month in 1977 remains so strong that the exhibit has been extended through 2021. With diverse host locations such as the State Capital in Arkansas and the Genentech Headquarters in South San Francisco, we are proud to continue to reach new people with this transformational moment when disabled people changed the world. Learn more at: patientnomore.org

“We were so grateful to have the exhibit visit Southwest Tech and create an opportunity for growth, learning, and discussion around the topic of disabilities.”
—Chantel Hampton, Southwest Tech, Fennimore, Wisconsin (host-site of Patient No More traveling exhibit)
Above: Disability studies scholar Karen Nakamura (with support from service dog Momo) moderates a Q&A with 2018 filmmakers Marlene Booth, Fabian Wigren, and Lisa Vipola, who traveled to the festival from Hawaii and Sweden.
Below: Advisory Council member Alex Locust with Gaelynn Lea, NPR 2016 Tiny Desk Concert winner, at San Francisco Public Library Superfest Showcase.
Superfest Disability Film Festival Extends Its Reach

The nation’s longest-running film festival run by and for people with disabilities continues to grow. Along with LightHouse for the Blind, we co-hosted the 32nd Superfest including three screenings over two days. We sold more tickets (525!) than any previous year and sold out every screening. We were joined by filmmakers from Sweden, China, and across the US for our filmmaker Q&A discussions.

In addition, we continued our mission to share the best of disability film far and wide by hosting over thirty Superfest Showcases throughout the US (and as far as Australia), reaching an additional 1,150 people, including many on fixed or no income. Learn more at: superfestfilm.com

A shout-out to our funders!

“Superfest is important because it helps build mutual understanding between the disabled and public!” — Survey feedback following our Superfest Showcase in Half Moon Bay

“Outside of Superfest, it is rare that disabled performers are seen or heard as the institution of filmmaking is discriminatory to those who do not fit Hollywood’s narrative of how people should look, act, or experience life. I want Superfest films to be more accessible to more people with the hope that it changes how disability is represented on screen across the board.” — Survey feedback following a Showcase at the SF Public Library
Bringing Disability Scholar-Activism to SFSU

Longmore Institute staff and students continue to build bridges with programs and departments across campus by speaking in classes, teaching undergraduate and graduate students, offering advice on curriculum, and talking one-on-one with the many members of the campus community.

Of special note this year: thanks to a competitive Extraordinary Ideas Grant from the College of Liberal and Creative Arts that we received with the Global Museum at SF State, students in Museum Studies learned about building in access features for a new exhibit opening in Fall 2019.

Left: Writer and community activist Corbett O’Toole leads a discussion about the design of exhibitions with Paige Bardolph, Global Museum Director, and graduate students of the Museum Studies program at SFSU.

Along with the Poetry Center, the Longmore Institute co-sponsored an evening with community activists Leroy Moore and Tiny Grey Garcia.
The Longmore Lecture in Disability Studies

This year’s celebration of a scholar-activist who keeps Paul Longmore’s legacy alive featured renowned legal provocateur Talila “TL” Lewis on racism, ableism, and the prison industrial complex. Once again, we offered accessible livestream presented with ASL and captions so that the presentation was accessible to people unable to attend in person.

“Reinvigorated the rage and fire I have to strive for more impactful, meaningful, and revolutionary work.”
—TL Lewis Lecture anonymous survey feedback

The Longmore Student Fellows Program

We continue to offer a mix of disability studies scholarship and professional development mentoring in a supportive space where students new to the disability scene can learn from peers. This year, our Longmore Student Fellows took on a wide array of projects, from hitting the streets of San Francisco collecting survey responses for the Disability Community Cultural Center to pre-screening submissions for Superfest. Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to take on more student fellows than ever before. In 2018-2019 we supported five undergraduates and four grad students from Communication Studies, Health Education, Special Education, and Women and Gender Studies.

Recent Longmore Fellow Martha Jimenez, who got a job straight out of college as an Intervention Specialist for a Bay Area non-profit: “As I continue to learn and grow, I always carry great love, appreciation and awareness that the disability community is part of me. I hope to continue sharing and advocating for the community in my personal and work life. Starting at the Longmore Institute was the big push and support I needed.”
Community Engagement and Scholarship

As a research service organization, our work grounded in disability studies scholarship also goes beyond the university as we seek to bring a celebration of disability far and wide.

Beyond Compliance

The innovative lessons we learned from creating our “Patient No More” exhibit live on in beneficial partnerships with grassroots community groups like “The Blind Posse,” and classes in Museum Studies, as well as with leading Bay Area cultural institutions. This past year, we worked extensively with renowned San Francisco museums to promote access and more disabled visitors. For example, through training sessions that brought together museum staff and patrons with disabilities, we helped the Asian Art Museum learn about access needs, all while demonstrating that not every cultural shift requires a multi-million dollar renovation. The prominent San Francisco institution now offers an impressive array of access features and inclusive programming that will bring the creativity of disabled people more to center stage. Similarly, we have partnered with local film festivals CAAMFest and SFFilm to introduce them to disability programming and support their efforts to attract more disabled people.

Scholarly Outreach

In addition to invited keynotes, panels, and podcasts that reached well beyond San Francisco State, here are two publishing highlights: Catherine Kudlick, “Access as Activism: Bringing the Museum to the People” (co-authored with SFSU Professor and Director of Museum Studies Edward Luby) for Robert Janes and Richard Sandel eds., Museums and Activism, Routledge (2019), 58-68, Emily Beitiks, “Documenting Disability” in the Doc Film Institute’s inaugural online journal Pluralities as well as “Arts Access: Messy, Hard, Oh-So-Worthwhile Work,” in GIA Reader – A Journal on Arts Philanthropy, Vol 29 No 2, Fall 2018.
Looking Forward to 2019–20

While continuing our core projects (Superfest, Patient No More, and Longmore Fellows), we will be working to weave disability history into mainstream teaching.

In 2011 California passed the FAIR Education Act SB 48 to include Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful references to contributions by people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQIA+ community in history and social studies courses. Yet despite significant advances in scholarship and greater awareness of disability as a category of human experience, teachers need not just basic resources but also encouragement and advice. We will be expanding work we began this year with the California UC Davis History Project, a pioneer in introducing the LGBTQIA+ portion of FAIR.

In coming months, with help from our student fellows, the Longmore Institute will lead the creation of curriculum, conduct workshops, and build bridges between scholarship and teaching that will weave this rich, important history into more familiar topics such as the Civil War, industrialization, and protest movements of the 1960s and 70s. Spreading disability history offers new opportunities to share information and build lasting partnerships to promote deeper, more nuanced ideas about people with disabilities.

A new chapter for Superfest
Another big change for next year is that the Superfest 2019 festival will conclude a long and successful partnership between the Longmore Institute and the LightHouse for the Blind. Stay tuned for Superfest’s next exciting chapter when Longmore takes over the helm. And if you want to support us during this time of transition whether with connections, ideas, or donations, please reach out.
Fiscal Year 2018–19

Income 2018–19

- Individual Donations 13%
- Grants 15%
- Earned Income/Disability Community Cultural Center 72%

Expenditure 2018–19

- Student Assistants/Consultants 17%
- Superfest 14%
- Disability Community Cultural Center 57%
- Longmore Lecture 5%
- Office Supplies/Printing 5%
- Miscellaneous 2%

Getting ready for Superfest Showcase in Baltimore. Mark Ricobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind, Cathy Kudlick and Jennifer Fink, Department of English, Georgetown University.
Thank you for the generous and heartfelt donations we received between July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019!

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If you or your organization is interested in donating or collaborating, please contact us:
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Our Advisors in 2018-19

Eugene Chelberg, Chair of the Advisory Council and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, SFSU
Anne Finger, Vice-chair of the Advisory Council, Disability Studies Scholar and Writer
Trevor Getz, Professor of History, SFSU
Steve Harris, Lecturer, SFSU
Alex Locust, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Glamputee Trainer
Sara Kenkare-Mitra, Senior Vice President of Development Sciences, Genentech
Milton Reynolds, Educator-Activist
Anita Silvers, Professor of Philosophy, SFSU
Eric Talbert, Regional Director, Medshare

Front cover photograph: Stacey Milbern moderates a filmmaker panel at Superfest 2018
Design by Fran Osborne