ANNUAL REPORT
July 2020 — June 2021

“We envision a society where everyone believes the world is better because of disabled people.”
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Image on page two: Stills from films featured at Superfest 2020.
Image: Longmore director Cathy Kudlick, a white woman with short grey hair, smiles at the camera. She is outside and is wearing a blue shirt and scarf.

Image: Longmore associate director Emily Beitiks, a white woman with brown hair pulled back, smiles at the camera. She wears a flower patterned shirt.

A Note from the Director

"I feel like I spent a significant part of my quarantine in various Longmore Institute Zoom rooms," a colleague gushed in an email. "In fact, I was just in one this afternoon! :)

My blind colleague—who lives in a remote area nearly 3,000 miles from San Francisco State—was but one of thousands of little squares on my Zoom screen, squares that defined our existence in 2020-2021. Thanks to our pixel-bending work, record numbers of people with disabilities who were locked down in our bedrooms, make-shift offices, kitchens, and garages came together as little squares on a screen.

Indeed, our dynamic, nimble organization introduced new ways for disabled people to connect, be informed, and simply have fun. Online community and disability savvy were on full display as folks raised thought-provoking questions, danced (it's silly at first, but try it!), and dressed to the nines for our red carpet Oscar celebration. In chat boxes and surveys we learned of people gathered for watch parties at 2:00 AM in far-away time zones, eager to be part of vibrant cultural exchanges about climate collapse, disabled joy, and accessible comics. Buoyed by community, we launched a new Cafe Crip series that brings people together to chat informally and make new friends around a discussion topic. All this was in addition to our flagship film festival and student programs.

In these tough times, it's truly sublime to be at these events as they take on lives of their own. The more we amplify the voices of disabled people who are both at the margins and at the intersections, the more we learn. Every person who reached out, attended, interacted, experimented, and pushed made us better and eager to do more.

Little Squares, in 2020-2021 we were there for each other!

In solidarity and appreciation,

Catherine Kudlick, PhD (she, her)
Professor of History and Director,
Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability
San Francisco State University
Above: A collage of images from our "Crippling the Red Carpet" fashion show.
Below: Promo image for "Disability Justice Transformations" with Sins Invalid, featuring a drawing of Earth burning, pill bottles, and other items.
Thriving Together in Tough Times

Building on our lessons from the early days of COVID, this year's Longmore events offered online spaces for disabled people to regroup through opportunities to learn and to connect. At each one, participants discovered innovative forms of access and hard-hitting content that come from foregrounding disability expertise. We grew existing partnerships and built new ones as we expanded our range regionally, nationally, and internationally. Here's a sampling of our wide-ranging events that drew over 7000 total registered participants:

- With the **Disability Visibility Project**, we hosted four online programs tied to the release of Alice Wong’s new book, Disability Visibility.
- With **Sins Invalid**, we hosted two events at the intersection of disability and climate change: “Disability Justice Transformations” and a performance/artist talk, “We Love Like Barnacles.” These were our first events offered with Spanish translation and captioning.
- With the **Black Unity Center** and the **Disability Programs and Resource Center**, we hosted journalist and viral hashtag #DisabledAndCute creator **Keah Brown** for a conversation, featuring **SFSU students** asking Keah questions.
- Following requests from our community that wanted more places to talk with one another about disability culture, we launched a new series, "**Café Crip.**"
- We reunited with our friends at **Crip Camp** to host an Oscar Red Carpet Party that included a fashion show and dance party.

“Being able to participate in Superfest and all of the presentations the Longmore Institute has offered during our time of COVID has been a lifeline.”
Praise for Superfest #34:

“As an individual with a disability coming from a small town on the East Coast, and even now living in a small city, the idea of a disability community is almost unimaginable. Superfest showed and brought to me the possibility, power, and beauty of a disabled community. It was touching. I felt seen, I empathized, and I wanted to get involved in more profound ways than I ever had before.”

“Not only was it wonderful to get to see films about and by people like me, it was really great to attend a festival that cared about accessibility and inclusivity, a festival where my experience mattered.”

“I suffered a brain injury around 13 1/2 years ago. So, it was very exciting for me to see people with brain injuries doing things that I used to love doing. Act, make films, costumes, EVERYTHING. I LOVED it!”
Exploring New Horizons at Superfest Disability Film Festival

Superfest—the world’s longest running film festival of, by, and for people with disabilities—marked its 34th year by taking the show online. SFSU students and community members who proudly identify as people with disabilities sorted through nearly 200 entries for the fifteen finalists. People from far and wide came together to laugh, to cry, to learn through cutting-edge, audacious disability story-telling: being set up on a blind date, discovering the joys a pet snail brings to chronic illness, finding a grito without relying on your voice, to name but a few.

Meanwhile, our "Superfest Showcases" brought the festival to new audiences, from school assemblies to large corporate screenings. Thanks to a contract with Alaska Airlines we even screened Showcases at 30,000 feet to over 10,000 travelers.

The festival was made possible thanks to the following sponsorships:
• Telecare Corporation - Superfest Lead Sponsor
• Wells Fargo - Superstar Sponsor
• A gift in memory of Brian Miller - Bronze Sponsor
• Julie Chronister - Bronze Sponsor

And foundation support from:
• Neda Nobari Foundation
• Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation

Learn more at: superfestfilm.com
Bringing Disability Justice to SFSU

Longmore Student Fellows Program

Thanks to support from our donors, our Longmore Student Fellows program continued going strong even during a year of lockdown. We hosted four undergraduate and three graduate fellows. These students learned the ropes for choreographing online programs and participated in our social media outreach. As initial screeners for Superfest #35, they had front-row seats for watching disability story-telling in action as they debated what makes a film stand out from the rest. Three of our fellows launched a campus-wide student group, an SFSU chapter of DREAM (Disability Rights, Education, Activism, & Mentorship). We were especially proud of this year’s dynamic, engaged cohort who not only ran with every lesson we taught them, but shared these lessons by reaching others.

Image: members of the DREAM at SFSU leadership team in a Zoom call. Clockwise from top left: Andrea Northrup, Nathan Burns, John Grayson, Kat Simpson, and Azaleah Goose.
Building Bridges at SFSU

- Director Kudlick & Associate Director Beitiks discussed access with students and faculty from across campus, including those within the Special Ed, Museum Studies, and Nursing departments.
- Kudlick collaborated with the Center for Equity and Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and served as faculty advisor for MedLife; Beitiks served on the All-University Committee on Disability.
- An Extraordinary Ideas Grant from the College of Liberal and Creative Arts brought together Professors Nick Sousanis (Comic Studies) and Yue-Ting Siu (Program on Vision Impairments) with Longmore to host “Adapting Comics for the Blind and Vision Impaired.” The event drew 845 registered participants from as far away as Spain, Japan, Ireland, Portugal, Brazil, and Mexico.
- This year’s Longmore Lecture in Disability Studies brought together distinguished scholar-activists for a conversation about disability justice moderated by Longmore Advisory Council Vice Chair Milton Reynolds. Aimi Hamraie (Vanderbilt University), Liat Ben-Moshe (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle), and Jen White-Johnson (Bowie State University).

The Longmore Lecture in Disability Studies

SCHOLAR ACTIVISM IN 2021

Thursday
MARCH 4, 2021
5:00–8:30 PM PT / 8:00–9:30 PM ET

Each year, the Longmore Lecture in Disability Studies honors Paul Longmore by promoting the work of disability scholar-activists. Join us for a panel discussion with Aimi Hamraie, Liat Ben-Moshe, and Jen White-Johnson, moderated by Milton Reynolds as they explore together what disability justice and scholar-activism look like in 2021.

Image: Flyer for the 2021 Longmore Lecture in Disability Studies.
Sharing Longmore Expertise

Our reputation for planning and executing accessible events continues to grow. This year we did consulting for multiple organizations, film festivals, museums, and more, including:

Looking Forward to 2021-2022

After a freeze due to COVID and badly needed touch-up paint job, our traveling exhibition about the occupation of San Francisco’s Federal building by disability rights activists in April 1977 will begin touring again in January 2022. (To learn more or book, visit patientnomore.org)

Thanks to a generous unsolicited gift from the Ford Foundation, we will continue our existing core programs (Superfest, Longmore Student Fellows, the annual Longmore Lecture, and Disability Justice panel series) that stretch the influence of edgy disability thinking, particularly as it relates to those who are multiply marginalized. Be on the lookout for news about an exciting collaboration with a community activist-artist around disability justice, as well as experimental Café Crip conversations and opportunities for integrating disability history into California K-12 teaching.

And stay tuned for an exciting day-long “Accessible Comics” event!
Fiscal Year 2020-2021

The charts below depict our programmatic revenue and expenses this past year. Staff salaries, benefits, and space expenses are accounted for separately in our SFSU budget.
Appreciating Our Supporters

We couldn't do it without you!

$1,000+
Sumi Colligan
Luise Melanie Custer
Saraswati Kenkare-Mitra
Catherine Kudlick
Alex Locust
Sally Vitello
Genentech
Matching Gifts
Telecare Corporation

$500-$999
Carol Anderson
Joan Cadden
Anthony Candela
Marianne Constable
Steven Mark Harris
Maria Kerrigan
Ellen Longmore
& David Brown
Lynn Mahoney
Susan Mann
Elizabeth Reis
Richard & Nikki Rothman
Kate Rousmaniere
Liz Ruhland
Emily Stieren
Stanley Yarnell
Eric Zigman

$1-$249
Anonymous (4)
Deena Al-Mohamed
Janine Allen
Ron Amundson
Deirdre Araujo
Douglas Baynton
Marjorie Beale
Maggie Beers
Kathleen Beitiks
Tammy Berberi
Judith Blanchard
Arthur Blaser
Wendy Bloom
Beverly Bossler
Madeline Anne Brodt
Jim Brooks
Letitia Brown
Susan Brown
Gale Brownell
Susan Burch
Angela Lynn Chan
Avinash Ajit
Chandiramani
Clifford Chase
Julie Chronister
Deborah Clearwaters
John Cleary
Sarah Coppola
Sarah Crabtree
Marcy Darnovsky
Randi Dean
Michael Ehrenzweig
Omnia El Shakry
Lisa Erwin-Davidson
Philip Ferguson
Allyson Nicole Ferrari
Ned Fielden
Maureen Ruth Fitzgerald
Richard Gallo
Nadia Galvan Hernandez
Rosemarie
Garland-Thomson
Laura Kathleen Garrett
David Gerber
Katie Hasson
Gabrielle Hecht
Allison Heinemann
Scott Leland Hengesbach
Eric Hunt
Jeff Jackanicz
Darlene Ann Jenson
Janice Johnson
Nicholas Johnson
Ellie Kaplan
Gary Karp

$250-$499
Anonymous (1)
Dana Bolles
Anne Finger
Lawrence Glickman
Our Advisory Council for 2020-2021

- **Dana Bolles**, Spaceflight Engineer & Disability in STEM Advocate
- **Eugene Chelberg**, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, SFSU
- **Anne Finger**, Chair of the Advisory Council & Disability Studies Scholar and Writer
- **Trevor Getz**, Professor of History, SFSU
- **Sara Kenkare-Mitra**, Senior Vice President of Development Sciences, Genentech
- **Alex Locust**, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Glamputee Trainer
- **Milton Reynolds**, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council & Educator-Activist
- **Eric Talbert**, US Executive Director, Nepal Youth Foundation
- **Danny Thomas Vang**, MA Student in Public Administration, Concentration in Management, SFSU
Support the Longmore Institute!

We encourage anyone interested in donating or collaborating to contact Director Catherine Kudlick at kudlick@sfsu.edu or Associate Director Emily Beitiks at beitiks@sfsu.edu.

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San Francisco, CA 94132
Website: longmoreinstitute.sfsu.edu
Twitter: @LongmoreInst
Facebook: facebook.com/SFSUDisability

Former Longmore Fellow Maxfield Hunt expresses his commitment to the Longmore Institute on Giving Tuesday.

Cover: Collage of Zoom screenshots from our events from the past year, featuring various academics, activists, and more, including Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Andraéa LaVant, Keah Brown, Bianca Laureano, Jen Deerinwater, Alex Locust, Sara Acevedo, Jen White-Johnson, Patty Berne, Yomi Wrong, and Antoine Hunter.

SF State COLLEGE OF LIBERAL & CREATIVE ARTS