

BLACK & DISABLED VOICES



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CITY COLLEGE • MESA COLLEGE • MIRAMAR COLLEGE • COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

About This Series...

Join us this Black History Month as we dive into a celebration of art, education, culture, community, and resilience. From the pens of insightful writers to the songs of visionary musicians, we're spotlighting the invaluable contributions of Black and Disabled individuals in shaping American history. Categories include:

- **Books & Authors**
- **Interviews & Articles**
- **Podcast Episodes**
- **Songs**
- **Advocates**

While February serves as a focal point for this exploration, let's remember that learning and support are ongoing endeavors. We must honor and uplift these vital voices at every turn!



BLACK & DISABLED VOICES

Book & Author Recommendations



Delve into the perspectives of Black and Disabled writers as we explore five thought-provoking works. From critical examinations of race and disability to personal reflections on identity, each piece offers a unique lens into important narratives.



Black Madness: Mad Blackness book jacket

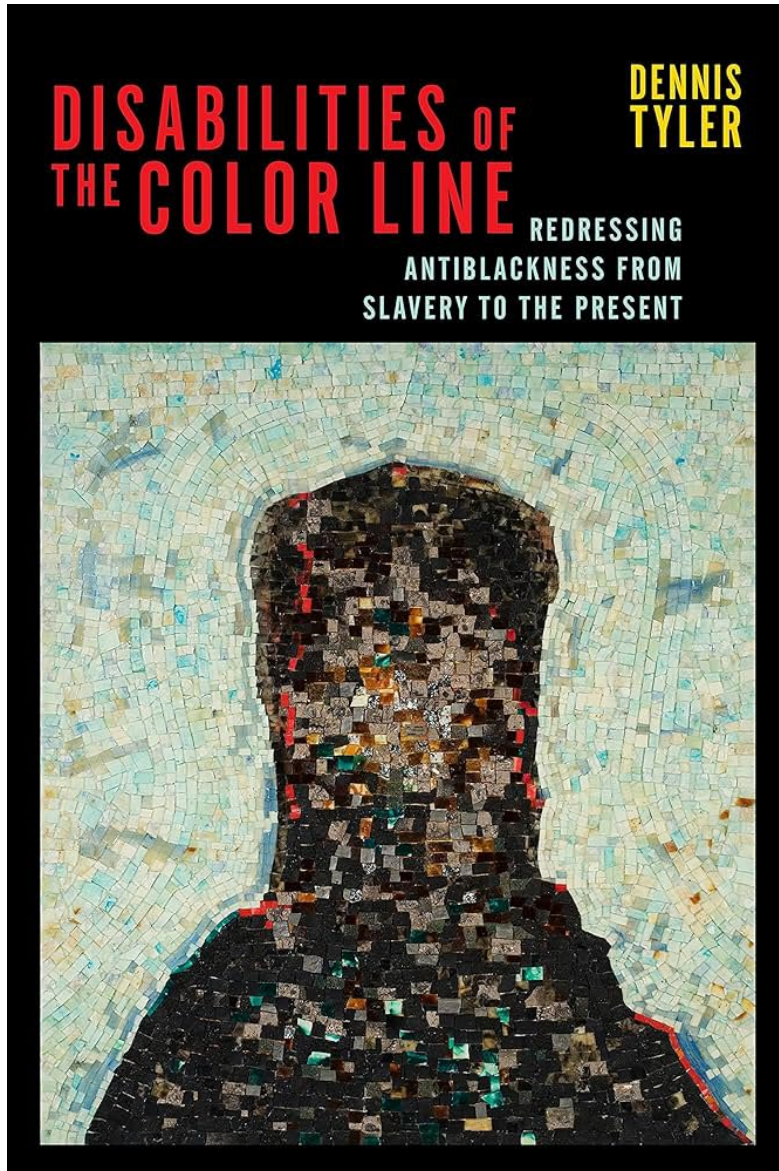
Black Madness :: Mad Blackness

by Therí Alyce Pickens

“Pickens rethinks the relationship between Blackness and disability, unsettling the common theorization that they are mutually constitutive. Pickens shows how Black speculative and science fiction authors such as Octavia Butler, Nalo Hopkinson, and Tananarive Due craft new worlds that reimagine the intersection of Blackness and madness.”

- [Duke University Press](#)





Disabilities of the Color Line book jacket

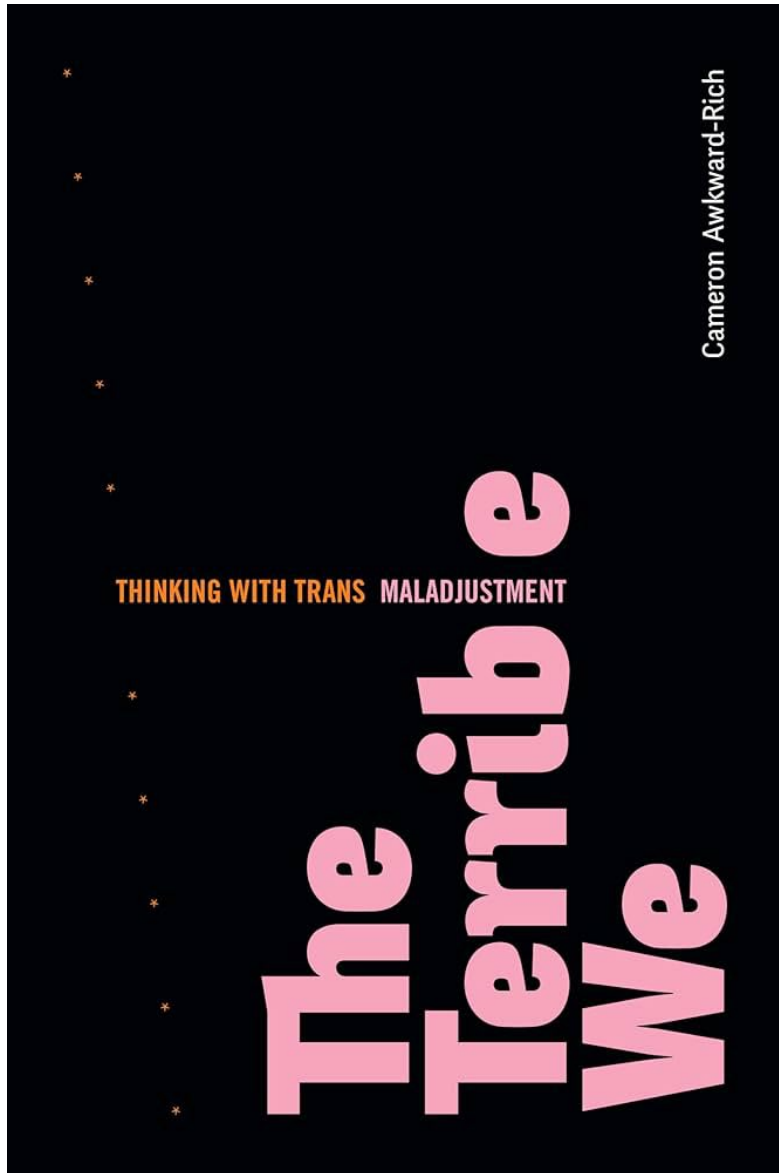
Disabilities of the Color Line: Redressing Antiblackness from Slavery to the Present

by Dennis Tyler

“Tyler reveals how Black writers and activists such as David Walker, Henry Box Brown, William and Ellen Craft, Charles Chesnutt, James Weldon Johnson, and Mamie Till-Mobley have engaged in a politics and aesthetics of redress: modes of resistance that, in the pursuit of racial and disability justice, acknowledged the disabling violence perpetrated by anti-Black regimes in order to conceive or engender dynamic new worlds that account for people of all abilities.”

- [NYU Press](#)





The Terrible We book jacket

The Terrible We: Thinking with Trans Maladjustment

by Cameron Awkward-Rich

“Observing that trans studies was founded on a split from and disavowal of madness, illness, and disability, Awkward-Rich argues for and models a trans criticism that works against this disavowal. By tracing the coproduction of the categories of disabled and transgender in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century and analyzing transmasculine literature and theory by Eli Clare, Elliott DeLine, Dylan Scholinski, and others, Awkward-Rich suggests that thinking with maladjustment might provide new perspectives on the impasses arising from the conflicted relationships among trans, feminist, and queer.”

- [Duke University Press](#)





Bodyminds Reimagined book jacket

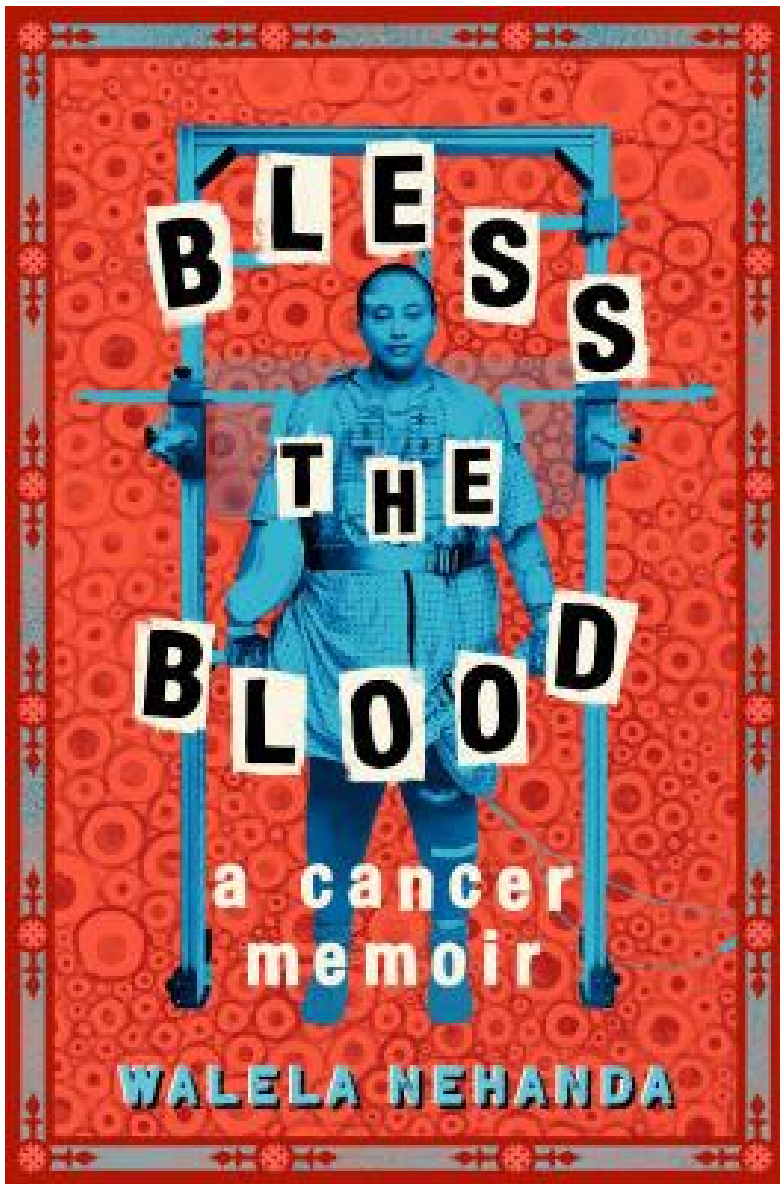
Bodyminds Reimagined: (Dis)ability, Race, and Gender in Black Women's Speculative Fiction

by Sami Schalk

“Schalk traces how black women's speculative fiction complicates the understanding of bodyminds—the intertwinement of the mental and the physical—in the context of race, gender, and (dis)ability. Bridging black feminist theory with disability studies, Schalk demonstrates that this genre's political potential lies in the authors' creation of bodyminds that transcend reality's limitations.”

- [Duke University Press](#)





Bless the Blood book jacket

Bless the Blood: A Cancer Memoir

by Walela Nehanda

“When Walela is diagnosed at twenty-three with advanced stage blood cancer, they’re suddenly thrust into the unsympathetic world of tubes and pills, doctors who don’t use their correct pronouns, and hordes of “well-meaning” but patronizing people offering unsolicited advice as they navigate rocky personal relationships and share their story online. But this experience also deepens their relationship to their ancestors, providing added support from another realm. Walela’s diagnosis becomes a catalyst for their self-realization. As they fill out forms in the insurance office in downtown Los Angeles or travel to therapy in wealthier neighborhoods, they begin to understand that cancer is where all forms of their oppression intersect: Disabled. Fat. Black. Queer. Nonbinary.”

- [Penguin Random House](#)



BLACK & DISABLED VOICES

Interview & Article Recommendations



Broaden your understanding of Black and Disabled intersections with these perspectives offered by educators, advocates, and researchers who shed light on topics like art, ableism, and activism.

“Ableism Enables All Forms of Inequity and Hampers All Liberation Efforts”

Interview with Talila A. Lewis by George Yancy for Truthout

“In this engaging interview, Lewis argues that ableism has deep implications for every other marginalized identity. In short, ableism, according to Lewis, is at the root of other powerful hegemonic sites — from race and class to colonialism and nationality.”

- [Truthout](#)



Truthout Logo



“The Dynamics of Photography & Disability”

Interview with Jaklin Romine by Megan Bent for LenScratch

“The definition of dynamics is ‘forces or properties which stimulate growth, development, or change within a system or process.’ [Romine] is approaching [her] work in ways that embrace this meaning, enacting change and raising important questions about societal systems through the ideas, craft, and processes they use.

- [LenScratch](#)



LenScratch Logo



“Black Women and Girls With Disabilities Series”

Curated by Center for American Progress

“This series examines the impacts of structural racism, sexism, and ableism on the education, health outcomes, and economic security of Black women and girls with disabilities in the United States.”

- [Center for American Progress](#)



Center for American Progress Logo



“Black Disability Politics’ argues that not all disability activism looks — or functions — the same”

Interview with Sami Schalk by Sara Luterman for The 19th

“Schalk spoke with The 19th about “Black Disability Politics,” why she pushed to make her work available for free, and the future of Black disabled advocacy and activism.”

- [The 19th](#)



The 19th Logo



“Disabled And Here: Interview with Andre Gray”

by Elea Chang for Affect the Verb

“Disabled And Here is a disability-led stock image and interview series celebrating disabled Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC).” In this interview, Elea Chang interview Black and Deaf artist Andre Gray about our artistic and advocacy endeavors, including [Beyond Tone](#), a one-stop central hub for video content delivered in sign language .

- [Affect the Verb](#)

affect

Affect the Verb logo



BLACK & DISABLED VOICES

Podcast Episode Recommendations



From redefining beauty norms to challenging ableism in education, each podcast episode offers a unique perspective on living with disability.

***Crippled Is Beautiful* “The One Where You Meet Brittanie Wilson”**

“In this episode y’all get to hear the lovely Brittanie Wilson talk about her disability pride & her LGBTQ pride as well as other amazing topics.”

- [Crippled is Beautiful](#)



Crippled is Beautiful Podcast Logo



Out of the Shadows “Breaking Barriers in Fashion with Stephanie Thomas”

“This series is dedicated to shining a light on individuals who've stepped out of the shadows to make significant impacts in their respective fields. [In this episode], Stephanie Thomas, Founder of Cur8able, a trailblazer in disability-inclusive fashion, [sheds light on using] her challenges as a springboard to transform the fashion industry's approach to inclusivity and accessibility.”

- [Out of the Shadows](#)



[Youtube](#) thumbnail for *Out of the Shadows* podcast
(Click through to YouTube to access captions & transcript).



Beyond Awareness: Disability Awareness That Matters **“Ableism in Education with Keith Jones”**

“In this episode, Keith Jones takes us on a journey through past and present experiences of ableism in education, as well as the intersection of being Black as well as disabled. Keith simultaneously honors educators while also speaking frankly with us and challenging us. What do we want to be? A brick wall? Or a launching pad? Finally, in this episode, you'll hear a clip from Krip Hop Nation's Emmy Award-Winning song, Rising Phoenix.”

- [Beyond Awareness](#)



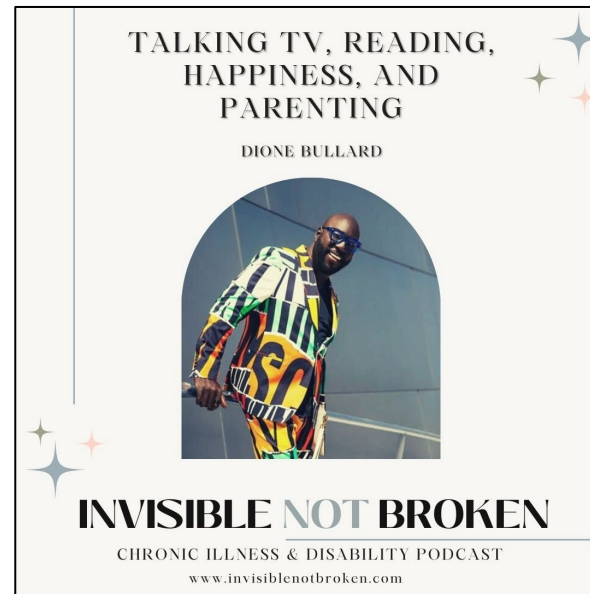
Beyond Awareness Logo



***Invisible Not Broken* “Resilience and Self-Advocacy in Health, Music, and Culinary Arts with Dione Bullard”**

Host Monica Michelle is joined Dione Bullard, a musician, chef, and activist who lives with End Stage Renal Disease.

- [Invisible But Not Broken](#)



Invisible But Not Broken podcast flyer



No End In Sight: “Episode 73 - Teona Studemire”

Brianne Benness interviews Teona Studemire, who talks about Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS), Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.) and public benefit programs.

- [No End in Sight](#)



No End in Sight podcast logo



BLACK & DISABLED VOICES

Song Recommendations



Enhance your playlists with songs from Black & Disabled artists who each offer meaningful perspectives and eclectic musical styles for every taste.

“Mad” by Solange ft. Lil’ Wayne

By crafting an aesthetic of ebb and flow, push and pull, Solange insists on being angry (“I’ve got a lot to be mad about,” as she puts it on “Mad”), melancholic, and empowered....By insisting on doubleness and ambivalence, she makes space for the complex interiority that Black women are often denied and refuses the role of racial healer they are often expected to play.

- [Slate](#)



[YouTube](#) // [Lyrics](#)

“Mad” music video thumbnail features headshot of Solange.



“Get Get Down” by Paul Johnson

“Johnson was one of the most visible disabled DJs on the world stage, a wheelchair user from the age of 16 after a stray bullet left him paralyzed from the waist down...By 2010 he was a double-amputee...yet Johnson remained undeterred in his mission to bring authentic, heartfelt house music to anyone willing to accept it. As it transpired, there were millions of eager listeners in all four corners of the globe.”

- [DJ Mag](#)



[YouTube](#) // [Lyrics](#)

“Get Get Down” music video thumbnail features text on cardboard box texture.



“Lift Me Up” by Lachi and James Ian ft Gaelynn Lea

“Recording artist and award-winning advocate Lachi and acclaimed songwriter James Ian have released a new single and video, “Lift Me Up” featuring Broadway musician Gaelynn Lea, to honor the [late] renowned disability rights activist Judy Heumann. The track celebrates Disability Pride Month and marks the 50th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

- [Broadway World](#)



[YouTube](#)

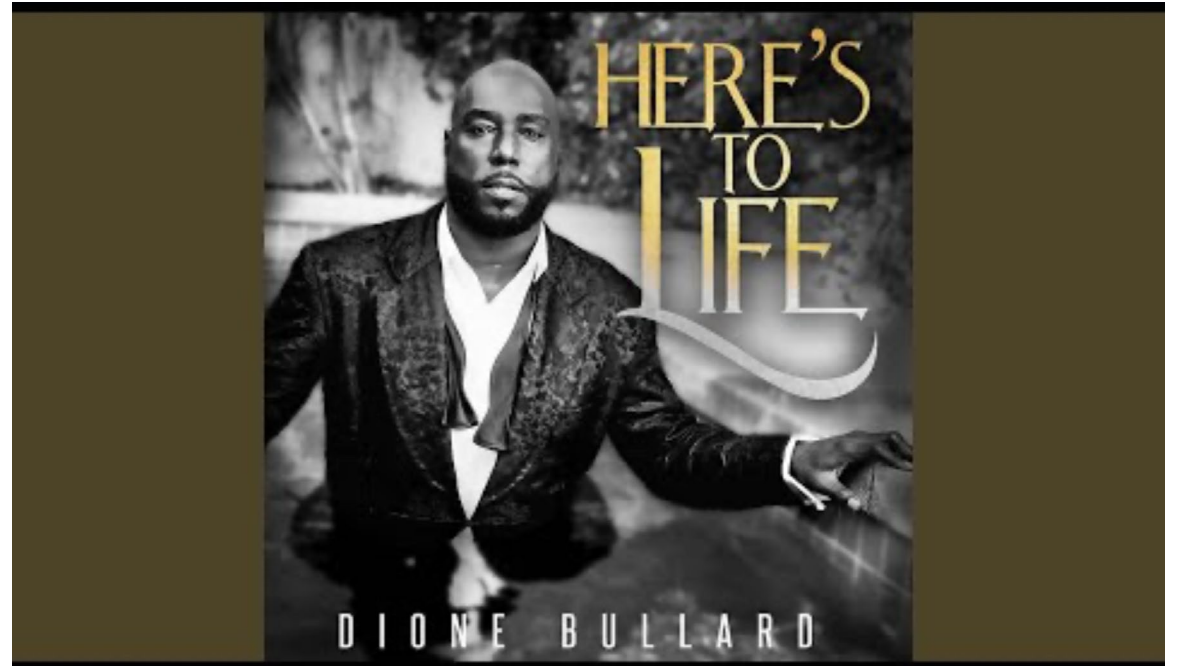
“Lift Me Up” music video thumbnail features artists in a recording studio. Click through to YouTube to access captions.



“Here’s to Life” performed by Dione Bullard

“Here’s To Life’, stands out not only musically, but also because of the personal journey behind it. Dione’s resilience in the face of end-stage renal failure is awe-inspiring. He has found solace and strength in music, and through this single, he imparts a message of authentic living and inspires others facing similar challenges.”

- [Izilion](#)



[YouTube](#) // [Lyrics](#)

“Here’s to Life” music video thumbnail features black and white promo pic of Dione Bullard standing in a pool wearing a tuxedo.



“I Am Beautiful” by Marsha Elle

"Marsha's Latest single “ I Am Beautiful” has crossed borders, sending a message of self acceptance and body positivity to the world.”

- [Marsha Elle Music](#)



[YouTube](#)

“I Am Beautiful” music video thumbnail. Click through to YouTube to access captions.



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Advocate Recommendations



Each of these change-makers bring a unique perspective to their communities, weaving essential threads into the fabric of US and Black history. These are just a few of many advocates with whom to connect and engage!

Mondo Millions

“Mondo Millions is a DeafBlackTrans disabled Drag King who creates culturally compelling performances in sign language to music, providing DeafBlackQueer representation online and in his local community.

Mondo creates virtual content and spoken word/poetry to speak on current issues. He speaks verbally and has a conversational understanding and usage of ASL, as a direct result of systemic ableism and audism. He hopes to create visibility for the BlackQueerDisabled communities and their unique experiences.”

- [Mondo Connections Website](#) // [Instagram](#)



*Mondo Millions signing “I Love You” in ASL.
(from his website)*



Kayla Smith

Kayla Smith is a young Black Autistic disability rights advocate and creator of #AutisticBlackPride whose work focuses on intersectionality within autism.

- [Instagram](#) // [TikTok](#) // [YouTube](#)



Video thumbnail features Kayla Smith on her [YouTube channel](#) discussing how she finds community.

Click through to YouTube to access captions.



Eman Rimawi-Doster

“Eman Rimawi-Doster is a Black, Native American and Palestinian woman who lives in NYC...Her natural creativity steered her towards becoming a spoken-word artist, educator, and youth organizer for dozens of non-profit organizations in New York City....She went on to teach creative writing, community organizing, history, and political science workshops to youth in New York. She’s been focused on organizing around disability rights and staying true to her passion for community connectedness and proven strength.”

- [NYLPI.org](https://www.nylpi.org) // [Instagram](#)



Headshot of a smiling Eman Rimawi-Doster.

From NYLPI.org



Wesley Hamilton

“Wesley Hamilton, founded ‘Disabled But Not Really’ (DBNR) to reshape perceptions. As a global speaker and consultant, he champions inclusive training models, empowering individuals to embrace independence. Through DBNR, Wesley’s vision goes beyond adapting—it’s about inspiring change and redefining potential in every community.”

- [Instagram](#) // [TikTok](#) // [YouTube](#)



Video thumbnail for [Wesley Hamilton's 2024 Speaker Reel](#).

Click through to YouTube to access captions.



Aisha Na'Sha

Aisha Na'Sha produces YouTube and social media content with the aim of challenging the stereotypes surrounding disability, particularly in the realm of beauty and lifestyle.

- [YouTube](#) // [Instagram](#) // [TikTok](#)



Video thumbnail for ["Blind at 16 – My Story"](#) from [Aisha Na'Sha](#) Click through to YouTube to access captions.



Additional Resources

Campus Disability Services

[SDCCD DSPS](#)

[SD City College DSPS](#)

[SD Mesa College DSPS](#)

[SD Miramar College DSPS](#)

[SD College of Continuing Education DSPS](#)

Black Student Success Services

[SDCCD Black Student Success Workgroup](#)

[SD City College Black Excellence Resources](#)

[SD City College Umoja Community](#)

[SD Mesa College Diversity Resources](#)

[SD Miramar College Black Student Union](#)

Online

[Black Disabled & Proud](#)

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