

The Dot Experience Cast

The Dot Experience will share compelling first-person stories of blindness and the human experience that offers a view into the world of accessibility and inclusion. APH has recruited an eclectic group of blind and low vision people who are artists, adventurers, businesspeople, advocates, parents, students, teachers, and innovators to serve as its “cast”. Their voices, along with historical figures like Helen Keller and Louis Braille, will join those of everyday APH customers, community, and staff to provide well-rounded perspectives on their successes, struggles, realities, hopes and hurdles. The “cast” offers a range of representation in age, background, identity, vision acuity, and context of vision loss. Their authentic, personal narratives will be reflected in The Dot Experience media, signage, programming, promotion, and social media outlets. Their stories will grow and rotate over time as a key element of The Dot Experience.

- **Anthony Ferraro** - An Olympic athlete and one of the hosts of Four Bad Eyes, a podcast which demystifies blindness through candid conversations, special guests, and humor. Anthony also starred in a film called “A Shot in the Dark” chronicling his high school years as a wrestler.
- **Bhavya Shah** - Having grown up in India with limited resources as a blind student, Bhavya left his family at the height of the pandemic, in pursuit of academic opportunities in the US.
- **Bradford and Bryan Manning** - Brothers, Bradford and Bryan, founded their company Two Blind Brothers to create “the softest clothing ever made” and raise funds for research geared towards finding cures for retinal diseases.
- **Chris Downey** - After unexpectedly losing his vision in 2008 during an operation to remove a brain tumor, Chris used his experiences as an architect and new perspective to begin a new chapter as an accessibility consultant for architectural firms.
- **Christine Ha** - After winning Season 3 of MasterChef in 2012, Christine wrote a New York Times bestselling cookbook and has opened 3 award winning restaurants in Houston.
- **Dan Mancina** - When Dan’s vision deteriorated in his 20s, he thought his skateboarding days were over. After a few years break, he has rediscovered his love of skating and is building an adaptive skate park. He is one of the hosts of Four Bad Eyes, a podcast which demystifies blindness through candid conversations and humor.



- **Denna Lambert** - In her 20 years working at NASA, Denna has been instrumental in transforming the Goddard Space Flight Center into an inclusive and accessible place, ultimately increasing the representation of employees with disabilities in all skill groups.
- **George Stern** - A writer, educator, performance artist, and human rights mobilizer who is DeafBlind and currently resides in Lubbock, Texas. His passion revolves around the civic power of art to heal, nurture, and transform society.
- **Joe Strechay** - An entertainment accessibility and inclusion expert who has worked on acclaimed sets such as All the Light We Cannot See, Daredevil, See, and the OA
- **John Furniss** - An artistic woodworker known as "The Blind Woodsman". John and his wife use their social media platforms to spread awareness of blindness, mental health, and art.
- **Judith Dixon** - Retired Consumer Relations Officer at the National Library Service, Judith is an authority on Braille and access, and an accessible tech expert.
- **Kathy Martinez** - An international thought leader in employee engagement and workplace accessibility, Kathy has a distinguished career spanning corporate, government, and non-profit worlds. She champions the idea that all youth should grow up with the assumption of work.
- **Khadija Bari** - When Khadija moved to the US at the age of 22, she learned she was legally blind and officially diagnosed with Stargardt's disease. Now she helps others find suitable job placements through her work as Director of Placement Services at VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- **Larry Skutchan** - A tech guru, Larry has been a leader in developing innovative products for the blind and visually impaired and was a 35-year veteran APH employee as the Director of Technology Product Research.
- **Marcus Engel** - After Marcus was blinded during a drunk driving accident in college, he dedicated his career to teaching ER and hospital staff the human side of medical care.

- **Mike May** - A pioneer in wayfinding technology, Mike founded the Sendero Group and served for many years as Chief Evangelist for the indoor navigation group GoodMaps. In 2000, he underwent a rare stem cell transplant which restored some of his vision.
- **Patrick Henry Hughes** - Louisville native, Patrick, entered the national spotlight in 2006 when he played for the U of L Marching Band while his father pushed him through the marching routines in his wheelchair.
- **Paul Frazier** - From VIPS kid to VIPS parent, Paul serves on the board of Vision Intervention and Parental Support serving Kentucky and Indiana. He put a real face and real experience to his work as an advocate, understanding the real impact of seeing possibilities.
- **Pete Eckert** - Unbound by "the assumptions of the sighted or their assumed limits" Pete describes himself as a "tourist in the sighted world" and uses this unique perspective to create striking photographs which he hopes gets sighted people thinking.
- **Precious Perez** - Precious Perez is a singer, songwriter, educator, children's author, and disability activist. She was a first-generation college student. As a blind Puerto Rican woman, low-income with anxiety and depression, she speaks from many different intersections.
- **Sugandha Gupta** - A textile artist working to bridge the gaps between "able-bodied and disabled communities" by creating multi-sensory, immersive pieces which "exist between the realms of art and design and carries a message of inclusion in society."
- **Tim Hornik** - A medically retired Army officer who was shot in the head by a sniper in Iraq and as a result lost most of his vision. Tim now runs his own business, Blind Not Alone, in which he consults with social workers and companies.
- **Zülal Tannur** - The visionary entrepreneur behind NeuroVision AI Tech and FROM YOUR EYES, Zülal is dedicated to transforming the realm of artificial vision, enabling both humans and machines to perceive the world with unprecedented clarity and understanding. She became world champion at the prestigious Microsoft Imagine Cup 2024.