**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** July 11, 2025

**CONTACT:** Matt Axel, maxel@projectaccessforall.org, 718-928-5775

**PROJECT ACCESS FOR ALL & NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ANNOUNCE SIXTH ANNUAL HYBRID DISABILITY UNITE FESTIVAL CELEBRATING DISABILITY PRIDE**

*Commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act,*

*the Disability Unite Festival will promote pride and advocacy,*

*embracing inclusion on every level.*

**New York, NY** — Project Access for All with the NYC Commission on Human Rights present the sixth annual Disability Unite Festival, celebrating disability pride and marking the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and virtually at the DisabilityUnite.org Live Stream Center.

The Disability Unite Festival is about community and inclusion of all people around the world. With a simultaneous in-person and virtual festival, this year’s performances can be enjoyed by everyone around the world. The in-person festival will feature 44 tables of community groups while the virtual festival will consist of live streaming performances from the festival by world renowned recording artists giving virtual attendees the same experience as those in-person.

With this year’s theme “Love Unites”, we celebrate the power of love to transcend barriers and bring us together in profound ways. It challenges perceptions, fosters understanding, and proves that connection isn’t defined by limitations, but by our willingness to embrace and uplift one another. Love unites by celebrating individuality, recognizing the value of every person, and showing that true connection is built on acceptance and our shared humanity.

The festival is a disability community-driven event, for the community by the community, bringing together advocates and experts from around the country teaching best practices on disability access and inclusion. Organizations such as Art Beyond Sight, 504 Democratic Club, Center for Independence of the Disabled NY (CIDNY), Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), Kessler Foundation and others will come together at the festival to learn innovative solutions from each other on disability rights and access inclusion.

**Matthew Axel, Founder of Project Access for All’s Disability Unite Festival** said “Love Unites reminds us that progress is never a solo act. When more than one million New Yorkers identify as disabled, our city’s strength lies in how we show up for one another—on stage, online, and in everyday life. This year’s festival is a rallying point: advocates, families, and allies coming together to prove that accessibility is community infrastructure. By sharing our culture and best-practice know-how, we’re building a city where love translates into curb cuts, captions, and career doors that stay open long after the music ends.”

“The New York City Commission on Human Rights is proud to continue our partnership with Project Access for All to support the Disability Unite Festival – an important celebration of disability culture, creativity, and community,” said **NYC Commission on Human Rights Deputy Commissioner of the Community Relations Bureau Kajori Chaudhuri.** “At the Commission, our work is grounded in the belief that accessibility and equity are human rights, and it is through education and advocacy that we achieve a more inclusive New York City for all. The Disability Unite Festival not only uplifts the voices of New Yorkers with disabilities but also connects people to essential resources to foster a stronger, more unified city.”

For more information on transportation, run of show, and performers, please see our FAQ document available [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Ftinyurl.com%2FDUFestivalFAQ&data=05%7C02%7Clabrantley%40cchr.nyc.gov%7C29807462801c4fc8064308ddb404e783%7C32f56fc75f814e22a95b15da66513bef%7C0%7C0%7C638864656250138764%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1B0IV%2Fa0PPXDNzCv6YutfAA9AWgBpKLkUwuEMZUACgM%3D&reserved=0).

###

About Project Access for All

Project Access for All was launched nationally in 2010 with a Working Group of the Obama Administration. Project Access for All is an "umbrella" community consortium for disability rights organizations in NYC and across the nation.