

## Celebrate 21 Years of the Americans with Disability Act, Tuesday, July 26

Starting with San Francisco in 1867 several American cities made it illegal for persons with "unsightly or disgusting" disabilities to appear in public. Their repeals were caused by the ADA: Omaha Nebraska in 1967, Columbus Ohio in 1972, Chicago Illinois in 1974.

"People with disabilities represent a critical talent pool that is underserved and underutilized."

-- Shirley Davis, SHRM

### End Discrimination

21 years ago an Act was formulated to afford similar protections for the disabled as those against discrimination by the Civil Rights Act. Disability was defined as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity." The Act covered all fields: employment, public trans-



President George Bush signs the ADA into law 21 years ago

port, accommodation, telecommunications etc.

### Improved Public spaces

For people with physical disabilities obvious effects are wheelchair access, and operations made to require low Physical Effort. But for mental disabilities the effects are more subtle: design must be easy to understand and tolerant of error and accident to minimize hazard.

### Now it's time to Party !

The Americans with Disabilities Act turns 21 and local artists are throwing a celebration called "A Somewhat Secret Place" on Tuesday July 26 from 7-9 pm at the PRESENTspace gallery, 939 NW Glisan in Portland Pearl district, right across from Albina Bank. This celebration is devoted to the lived-experiences of people with disabilities, so there will be a panel discussion on ADA's impact. It is turning 21, so there will be cake and drinks!

There will be a group drawing and writing activity where guests will be encouraged to have fun leaving their mark in pen or Braille. Tickets at the door are two for \$21, some discounts available

"I want to reassure you right now that my administration and the United States Congress have carefully crafted this Act ... Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down"

-- George Bush, 1990

For all the hot links go online to [www.theskanner.com](http://www.theskanner.com)



Whod' you call ugly?  
[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugly\\_law](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugly_law)

Complete text of ADA  
[www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm)

Good Design  
[www.makoa.org/accessable-design.htm](http://www.makoa.org/accessable-design.htm)

Where's that Party?  
[www.presentspace.org/](http://www.presentspace.org/)

Somewhat Secret Place  
[www.asomewhatsecretplace.wordpress.com](http://www.asomewhatsecretplace.wordpress.com)

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