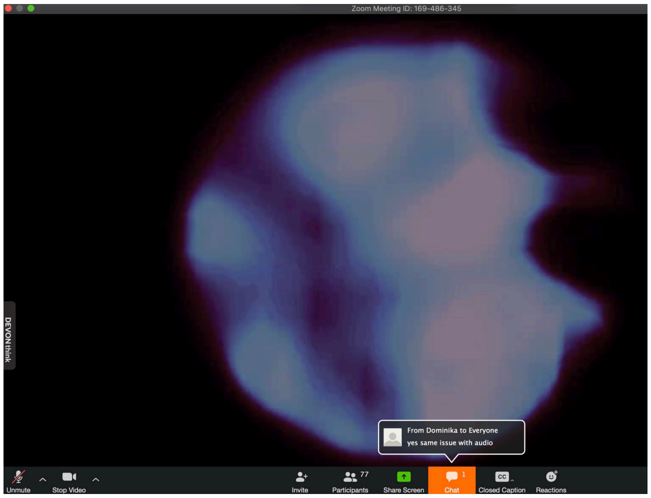

From Dominika to Everyone
yes same issue with audio

# LEAH LAKSHMI PIEPZNA-SAMARASINHA PART TWO

Interview Date: April 14, 2023

Image Description: Text reads “The Remote Access Archive” atop a screenshot of a Zoom shared screen, which shows a work of art by Yo-Yo Lin. The art is a white and grey blob on a black background. The bottom shows a series of grey buttons, along with an orange chat button that is lit up. A speech bubble above it “From Dominika to everyone” says “yes same issue with audio.”

## KEYWORDS

Allied Media Conference, ASL interpretation, Blogs, COVID-19 pandemic era, Captioning, CART, Disability knowledge, Google doc, Higher education, Hybrid access, In person, Isolation, Message boards, Mutual aid, Pandemic preppers guide, Pre-COVID pandemic remote access, Public space, Remote working, Stacey Milburn Park, The Azolla Story, The Other Side of Dreaming, Tumblr, Zoom

## IDENTITIES GIVEN

Burgher and Tamil Sri Lankan, Irish and Galician, Ukrainian

Roma; non-binary
femme who's not
affected by trans
misogyny, disabled
person, autistic
neurodivergent,
chronically ill,
she/they pronoun

**LOCATION**

United States

# Pandemic Remote Access

Aimi Hamraie:
This is Aimi Hamraie on April 14 2023, and I'm back here talking to Leah. Hi, Leah. Hi. Um, so, last time we talked, we left off just as the pandemic was starting. So I'm curious if you want to talk about any of the collaborations and guidance that you created that were related to remote access and last few years.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
Yeah, I mean, the first thing I think of is the half-assed disabled prepper guide for the coronavirus pandemic that I wrote. Which I think that counsels remote access, it's, you know, it's not like a zoom hangout, but to describe what it was. And just to kind of set the scene for it a little bit, it was February 2020. And I and my partner at the time, I mean, they were just on science Twitter, and they were like, this is airborne, and it's community spread, and it is not going to be over quickly.

And so I just went to I remember, like, going to REI, which is this, you know, sporting goods equipment store, and getting water storage, like getting a bunch of seven gallon water containers. And I went to DK Mart, which is this big, like pan immigrant food warehouse in Renton, Washington, which is this like immigrant suburb and just getting like 50 pounds of basmati rice, all these lentils, all this tea, like, you know, all the things. And you know, we just did a lot of things like that. And at the time, a lot of the very minor messaging that was in mainstream media was like, prepare to maybe be home for a while. Two weeks, you know, and there might be disruptions, and there was a lot of fear, and a lot of people just being like, just completely uncertain about what was going to happen.

And so I was like, yeah, like, lightweight, I, in a kind of a tongue in cheek way, identify as a prepper. You know, I don't do shit within that very right wing subculture. But like, yeah, like, I have had water purification equipment for a while. I store food, I store meds, like I do all these things. So I just remember sitting down, my partner was living in Olympia at the time, because they were going to Evergreen State and we would go back and forth. And they had gone to class. And I just remember sitting there and just like banging out this google doc, where I was like, okay, so here's some things that I know from years of just kind of studying prep stuff. Where I'm like, you know, it doesn't look like the water is going to be cut off. But honestly, people need water before, like more than they do food even. So like, here's how much you need it. Here's how you can store it. And here's where you can get the containers. Think about food that's comforting. Think about food that's easy. Think about like, if there's like a disruption to utilities, maybe get some camping stuff. And I put it out there. And I think there was also stuff in there.

It's been a while just around like, yeah, like this is sort of like, you know, what we get used to in the Northwest for when wildfire season hits, there's masking and air purifiers and herbs. But there's also kind of the emotional and mental care you need to do because it's really fucking stressful, to not be able to breathe - to have bad air quality and to like, you know, you go outside and the sun's blood red, and you can't really see it at eleven in the morning, day after day, it fucks you up, right? So I talked about that.

And I just put that out there as a Google Doc. And it really spread like wildfire. And people were like, thank you. And I feel like that was side by side by some other guides that friends were doing like I'm thinking about, NoBody is Disposable Coalition in coalition with Fat Rose, which is a radical fat group of you know - that disabled, some elder people in the Bay who are radical, they were like - I mean, we were just kind of like feeling around in the dark, like we didn't know. But like Fat Rose, for example, was like, okay, so a lot of people are worried that if we go to the hospital, we have COVID If there's a shortage of supplies, the doctors and the staff are gonna look at us and be like, you're some fat disabled fuck, you don't get to get the ventilator. So they just were like, were they I mean, they had like things that some people get upset about where they were like, write a fucking little like one pager and hanging around your neck saying, “Hi, my name is Marty, I have a partner, I have a job my life's worth saving”. Which I remember some people getting really upset about. And I was like, no, we shouldn't have to do this. But I really respect the creativity. Or they were like, hey, this might be transmitted through touch. And we have bigger body sizes. So like, maybe you want to take your clothes up before you go into the house. Like maybe you want to bring a piece of cardboard to sit on at the bus stop.

And then with NoBody is Disposable I remember stuff that they had, in particular Stacy and the Disability Justice Culture Club were doing. They just were making such hot infographics at the time, and I remember their things where they were like, yeah, there's so much we don't know about how this pandemic is going to shake down. But we do know that we're vulnerable as multiple marginalized disabled people. What we can do is we can take care of our health now we can make sure to keep eating well and like taking our meds and doing the things that support our disabilities, right. We can take care of each other. We can send one person out to do a huge grocery run. Who is maybe less immune compromised and bring that food back to everybody else.

And I just feel like all of those were instances of remote access, where we were putting out online guides, infographics, toolkits, things like that. And people like the disabled web and the Allied web to spread them. I'm also thinking about Rebel Sydney Black did a variation of Mia Mingus’ pod mapping, where they were like, this is pod mapping for mutual aid. And they were like, think about who? And they're like,okay, so with me with the original pod map, it came out of the Bay Area transformative justice collective, and it's like, okay, like, this is focused around, like dealing with abuse and being like, maybe think about who you could call on to support you, if you're being abused. And maybe it's not people that other people would assume it is like, maybe it's not your best friends, because they're also friends with your partner, or whoever's abusing you. Maybe it's your weird cousin, you don't talk to all the time, or the crisis line that's on the other side of the country. And Rebel also was like, yeah, and like when it comes to COVID, they were like, think about mapping, who your supports are like spiritually, emotionally, physically, all of that, like online, in person.

So I feel like that's one example of like, early COVID, like toolkits and remote access. And I really want to emphasize that it felt like we were all working together to spread the word that we really use disabled Twitter, Instagram, other forms of social media to get that stuff out there.

## The Limits of Remote Access

Aimi Hamraie:
Yeah, yeah, those are great examples. And I have all of those documents that are really helpful and great. There is a recent guide that you and Tina Zavitsanos made together about meeting outside in winter, how to do that safely. And it's striking, that part of that is also a reflection on the limits of being remote all the time. I wonder if you want to talk more about that project?

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
Yeah, totally. So I mean, just to jump back and kind of bridge the two a little bit, something I didn't get to, which is more that was happening in early COVID as a form of remote access… A lot of what I think about is actually not, it's not the toolkits, and you know, the prepper guide, and all the stuff though, I think those were really helpful. It was a lot of informal, disabled online network building, because in Washington, for example, we were on a pretty intense stay at home order. I think more than some areas for a while because we were that first kind of patient zero, epicenter of community spread.

And it was scary. And I think it brought up a lot for a lot of folks who were already isolated as disabled people about fuck, like, am I going to be able to get my meds, my food, my companionship, like I really need people. I mean, one of at least one of my roommates at the time, who's neurodivergent, it was just like, look, I'm still gonna go and go practice with my like queer karate club outside with masks on, because I know that I'm gonna go into mental health crisis if I don't do that. And this is happening at the same time as so many abled neurotypical people were like, oh, my god, like isolation. We've never experienced this before. But as disabled people, like a lot of us had already been doing like, you know, like crappy disabled Skype, you know, but like, better than most normal people knew how to do it for years.

So I remember things like, you know, ironically, like Crip Camp, the movie came out in April 2020. And I remember just texting people like mostly in Seattle, but some long distance being like, hey, like, let's have an online watch party. And let's not do that weird plugin that's glitchy. Let's just be on a text thread. And like, all like comment, as we're, you know, like watching this film. And I remember us just being like, yeah, we're in this together. And all this just like chiming in. And you know, when some people like my friend, like, I had 100 notifications, I got overwhelmed. I can't do this neuro type. I love you. And I was like, it's okay. But there were a lot of things like that. There's a lot of like, let's watch movies together. It was the sense of the abled were like, oh my gosh, what is zoom? But we were like, actually, we know how to do zoom, and we know how to do captioning.

And there was really, really pushing for. You know, I mean, like a lot of people who do like one off college gigs, April's my really busy month. And I think I mentioned before, like, all my gigs were able to switch to virtual right away. So I didn't lose income. And when I was like, you need to actually have access, they were like, oh, this is actually easier to get ASL and CART than it would be if it was in person, because we can get people from all over. And I was like, yes.

So then jumping ahead to what you're talking about. So I want to say there's, I mean, like my life, which has been really supported by two years of both social and professional, work related, like I'm very privileged. And it's not just privileged. I work in disabled community. So everything's been able to go to virtual. And I didn't lose income, and I didn't lose social contact.

And I mean, I was writing I was working on this piece that I've been working on about isolation in my mom's life and in my life and sexuality and like longing and desire in my femme disabled isolation and pining and my mom's life. And I was just like, writing down this phrase, I'm like, I want to like reframe where I'm at now from I'm single, to I have a lot of people, I have a lot of love in my life, I have a lot of different kinds of love. In my life I have a lot of love and sexual relationships. And some of them are in person, but most of them are long distance, but because they're disabled, they feel good. So that's all real.

But to get back to what you were asking about me and Tina, so I moved to Massachusetts. It's a year this month, iit actually might be a year today. It was like April 2022. And the end like it came after seven years of being in Seattle where yes, it gets cold and rainy during the winter, but you can totally hang out outside if you have a parka. Like it'll suck but you will not freeze to death you'll just get wet.

And then like I moved here and like spring summer fall is okay. And then the winter is coming and I was like oh fuck there's no there's no patio dining with a little heater, there's no ability to hang out with other people. Like, I was really looking at it in November being like I'm about to go into like really not seeing people in person for months at a time. And then my mother died in December and I had already been in like a solid month of like, I see a friend maybe once a week in person and I am certainly really feeling weird in my head and not great. And you know, she died right before Christmas. So like, I had local friends who like the night it happened were like, come over and people were checking in. But you know, it's like all these fucking Christians. They're like, we are with our family for the holidays. And I was like, great. And after around like, yeah, like ten days of that I just was like, I'm gonna really lose it if I don't see people in person.

So like, I got in the car and I went to New York, and I hung out. And Tina, to contextualize who Tina is, like Tina is like a super fat, white Greek like, you know, child of immigrant raised poor, disabled and immunosuppressed person. And Tina had already been someone who's like, yo, I have not had anyone in my house in two years.

I want to drop in there that like checking in, without being carceral ....where I feel like I was doing a lot of texting just being like, hey, just let me know you're okay, is a form of remote access. Because I did have friends who, you know, we would do everything from like, I want to make sure like you're on the okay side of your mental health crisis but also, like friends who are immune suppressed where it was like, Did you just get exposed? Are you okay? I don't want you to die. Like I had one friend who lives alone who was like, text me and I'll just let you know that I'm not dead in my apartment or like passed out. And like if I don't text back, call the ambulance for me. Right? Um, so that was like a form of preventative care.

So they're like, I can't let anyone in my apartment and I live in New York City. Right? So I mean, their partner lives with them, and they're just in a really intense pod. But so I was just like, hey, can I come see you? They're in this apartment building in Chinatown with no backyard, you know, but they were like, hey, come through, I can't have you in my apartment. I don't even feel comfortable with you with an N95 in the apartment, my risk is so high. But we figured out all these hacks to be together in the park outside of my building.

And it was the first time that I experienced in person what they talked about. Which is they're like, yeah, I got a propane heater that's portable. We got furs from IKEA. I have like hot hands, you can put them in your pants, you know we can order pho, we have hot beverages. And it was like so life giving to not only have in person contact with other disabled people who I love. But like to be in public space, because then like, you know, our friend, Jo like just was rolling by in their chair. And we were like, Jo, what's up? And then somebody else who's a friend of Tina’s, Billy, was coming through was visiting New York, but like, had like a carton of fucking like Camel crushes, because they're cheaper in Philly, and Tina smokes. And we got to have that spontaneity of public space.

Which I think is one thing about virtual… I think there was a thing we started to feel about this has been life giving. And also I'm like, I'm really starting to feel siloed. Like, I think by 2022, like a lot of us, I was starting to feel like, oh, other people, like, even some disabled people were like, oh, yeah, like, I'll go, I'll go to the club. Like, I have my, you know, my vaccines. And I'm like, yeah, I was getting invites to go to like, indoor parties from other disabled people in Massachusetts in the summer. And I was and they were, like, “masks encouraged.” And I was like, yeah, I don't know. And then I wouldn't go and I would feel like, this sucks. Like, I really feel like cut out of social life. But then two days later it would be like, oh, yeah, three people tested positive. And I'm like, yeah, what did you think was gonna happen? You know, and I'm just like, I'm still I still have never gotten COVID. And as an MECFS [Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome] survivor, I don't want that reactivated. I don’t. I will, I may not be able to make a living. I like my quality of life will go to hell. And my survivability will go to hell.

Um, yeah. So yeah, basically, I think that, that, so out of that, hanging out with Tina, and everybody, I was like, I was like, we should write this, we should make a toolkit, you know. Because like, I have that earth sign, like we should make, we should do some work around it. And they were just like, okay, you know, I'm a fucking like, you know, multimedia artists that like, yeah. And we just had a lot of tips. But we also like, as I think you were starting to talk about, like, we also just had stuff about, like, one part mapping, like, where are we in year three, four of the pandemic as disabled people, right.

And I think something that Tina said that was really important was they were like, I love virtual, like, all virtual all the time, but they're like, we are at this moment where it's really clear that the powers that be or - there's always, like, one of the major disabled fights has always been the fight for public space, and not to be pushed out in public space. Whether that means being an institution, being in an institution, or whether it’s… You know, the argument that I heard for years when, you know, just in like, MCS [Multiple Chemical Sensitivity] community where people would be like, can you please not use fragrances? And they'd be like, well, you can not use fragrances in your house, but like, why should we insist that they not be in public. And then people would be like, because I get to live in the world, like

I get to be part of human society. Like this is another way that disabled people are pushed out of mainstream society, of general society, of being able to commune about being able to have the right of public space.

And Tina was like, I mean, they just know, they were like, I refuse to cede any more public space that we've already had to cede. They're like, we have a right to be in public period because of like, you know, just like, oh, no mask, no nothing, whatever. And then that was also happening. I think, right around the same time as mayor Eric Adams, right? The mayor of New York said his famous line about like, oh, you know, we're gonna put these seriously mentally ill, you know, forcibly in institutions because the public doesn't want to see that.

And Tina was like, yeah, and Tina was like, I know, it's like, so four months ago, it's hard to keep up, right. But Tina, I mean, since then they've made some posters that have first for like a public school in Queens, but they're like, I want to wheat pasties that say, like, crazy people are the public, disabled people are the public. Like, we want to see each other.

And I think that's the core of it is like, I want to continue to push for virtual.

## The Challenges of Hybrid Talks

And actually, I had a recent experience that I can maybe talk about a little bit, and then we can segue into talking about safety. But, um, I did my first in person of that last week at Hampshire College, and it was like, through a friend who has worked there for a long time, who's like a trans white, you know, disabled identified person. And I said yes to it, partly because they were like, you know, the disabled students on campus are so hungry, for you know, to speak with you or to be together. And they were like, unlike some other campuses, we can actually mandate that masks are required. So I was like, okay, and that part felt good. But then like, the workshop felt great. Like, everyone was wearing like a fucking N95. And we the air purifiers, and it did feel good to be together.

But then simultaneously, I was like, fuck, like, I mean, there are a couple things that happened. But when we got into like, the evening conversation and reading with me, and Cyrée, which is supposed to be in person in live streams, like a couple of things happen, but one thing was, I mean, there's a whole meltdown with on the technical side with the live stream. Where I was freaking out, because I was like, fuck, like, we promised CART and ASL. And I take that really seriously. Like, I'm not somebody who does events where we say that and then it's bullshit. And then I was like, getting reports that people that were like, we can't see the ASL, the access is crap. And I was just like, Oh my God, and then people like you being like, I didn't even get a fucking link. And I was like, Jesus fucking Christ it's, it's a shit show.

And it's also like this one trans disabled person who's overwhelmed who's like working halftime and doesn't have support at the institution. So it's a whole mess. But I'm also just like, damn, like, this is a) not like, virtual events I've done which for the most part, I'm there on the screen. If the ASL is not visible, if like, I need to slow down, if CART is not visible, we stop it right away, and I'm in there. And I'm just like, fuck, I can't even tell what's happening. Because like, I don't have my computer in front of me, I'm talking.

And then the other thing was that I was just really feeling how, even like, it wasn't the hugest in person event in the whole world. But like just being there with like, 100 people, and everyone wants to come up to you afterwards. And like, share really intense stuff and cry, and like, you know, do all that stuff. I was like, I was like, this has never been accessible for me as like a panic ridden autistic person. And I've always just drank coffee and masked through it.

And I was just like, shit, it's so much more accessible for me to do shit online. And I've been really feeling like, as someone who makes their living partially through college gigs, I have started to - I don't know about you, but I've started to get these people being like, oh, are you sure you can't do in person like, and just like, like, you know, it's 2023. And I'm like, Yeah, I'm sure. I was like, I wasn't sure because I was like, Well, maybe if we could do it outside it's in Santa Barbara. But now I'm like, this actually isn't accessible for me, or for a lot of people because there's no captions next to me on the stage. Right? I mean, you could put up a screen and have CART, but it's so much more accessible for people to be at home on their heating pad, listening to me talk or read poetry than to go sit in an uncomfortable-ass chair. And not be like, it'd be like, even if I say yeah, go ahead and stim, people were like, I don't feel comfortable, I feel like vulnerable, or whatever.

And at first, it was a real wake up call. Because I was like, oh, at first, like, there was a miscommunication. And because I thought it was just going to be in person. And they were like, we're small campus. We don't have any Deaf students, we only have 300 students. And I was like, Okay, if you're, this is coming from a disabled person, I'm like, if you're sure about that, and if you're saying you cannot get a local ASL interpreter, okay.

But then at the last minute, they're like, Oh, we're gonna livestream it. Like, we were like, no, if you're gonna do that, you need to get ASL and CART. And they were trying to find local ASL interpreters on a week's notice. And I was like, that's not going to be possible, let alone finding ASL interpreters who really get the material and who are like Black or Brown and like, not just some agency terps that are doing the worst job possible.

And I was like, right, so if we're doing this online, it's still would have been harder but like, we could have gotten terps at the last minute virtually because we can like get people who are like in fucking Pittsburgh, you know, like, who want a last minute assignment and can prep. So I guess I'm just this is all to say, I'm really feeling even in movement spaces, the push back to in persons better. And I'm like, what is it though, like, and it's the push pull with like, yeah, we miss being together, and we want to be in public. But I think for so many of us, yeah, there's Zoom burnout and Zoom fatigue, but like there's so many access features of online presentations that are much harder in public, especially when you're in a college or other setting that's hostile and underfunded for access.

Aimi Hamraie:
Yeah, totally. Yeah. Yeah, that I have had some experiences like that as well. It's a it's a weird in between space between, like, people really having these things figured out and having been practiced and then…the falling apart of it being like ‘allowable’ somehow, because we're supposed to be like getting back to normal quote unquote.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
Yeah, getting back to inaccessible. Yeah. Yeah.

## Stacey Park Milburn

Aimi Hamraie:
Yeah, exactly getting back to inaccessible. So this might be a good time to transition to talking about Stacey Park Milburn, who you knew, and were very close with, and collaborated with quite a bit. And since she is no longer alive, I'm trying to figure out how to include her in this archive. And that is primarily by talking to other people about their memories of her and their collaborations. And in a few of the other conversations that I've had, including with Moya Bailey, for this archive, I should have been trying to track down a few things like where is Crip Chick archived? Where are Stacy-

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
Moya told you that we all archived all of her shit right after she died right?

Aimi Hamraie:
So Moya told me to look at that stuff, but didn't know where it was.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:

So I know where it is. One way I used my autism is that right after my friend died, we went and collectively saved and archived so much of her stuff, I have that I have a lot of shit that I've saved from archive.org, I downloaded our entire chat history, which goes back years, I have our entire Gchat history, which has a lot of snarky, behind the scenes disabled moments in history. And also like, I have a lot of her poetry and I have videos of her performing that she sent to me.

Aimi Hamraie:
Okay, great.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
I want to talk about that.

Aimi Hamraie:
Yeah, I'm going to talk about all of those things. And so I'll email you, I think, maybe to see if there's any of that stuff that feels like it would be appropriate for this archive, in addressing remote access. So thinking about like her Tumblr, or her blog tweets, stuff like that. That would be really great. What time do you need to go?

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
Probably in 20 minutes because I probably should lock on fifteen minutes before because they were a little with ASL and CART. I just want to make sure I'm there a little early so they can figure it out. Stacy and me, we met through remote access. We met through The Azolla Story, which I don't know. Yeah. So you know, online message board for disabled queer people of color. And we actually which I learned about through Mia who I met in person, we were the two out disabled, queer Asian. But, Jesus Christ. We met at a fucking Generation Five training and she was like, and she talked about intersections of disability and CSA [childhood sexual abuse]. And I came up and I was very baby crip and I was like, hi, I know, you might not be able to tell but I'm also disabled. And you know, and like 15 years of Disability Justice later here we are. And she's like, oh, you should get on the Azolla Story. And I did and then so I knew of Stacy because she was

present on the Azolla story and then, like she was involved with Speak, Women of Color Media Arts Collective, which was like Alexis Pauline Gumbs. Elena Rose Vera. Who you should talk to I don't know if you know her, but she's really important.

Aimi Hamraie:
I don't.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:
She has had different roles. She's a trans Filipina priest, disabled artist, writer, performance artist. She ran Trans Lifeline. But she's, yeah, I mean, she was like a baby, not yet crip, in that collective and you know, there's a lot of disability in that collective like BrownFemiPower, who's super fucking important was in that collective. Nadia Abou-Karr, like all of these, like women of color bloggers, you know, and none of them were in the same physical space, like Adele Nieves, but like they all communicated.

Like it was like 2005 to 2008 era like blogging activism, right, like, very, like web 1.5. And that was when Stacy was still, you know, semi-closeted in her parents basement in fucking Fort Bragg. And that was her secret alter ego and her place to be queer and Asian and disabled and radical. Right. And I mean, not to speak too much of her story, but like, so yeah, we met that way. And then when we met in person, it was when we were, you know, some of the people who started the first ever Disability Justice track at the Allied Media Conference in 2010, which was a really big deal because like DJ was only five years old, so like, it was wide open. And it's that thing that I was talking about, where it really felt like there were 25 of us in the whole country, but we were so like, we're gonna tell everybody about this. And yeah, and 2010 the 2010, AMC [Allied Media Conference] was happening right before the 2010 the US Social Forum, which is bringing like 20,000 people to Detroit, who are radical.

So we're there, we co-ran, we were some of the coordinators of the DJ track. And we had never met in person and then Stacey drove up in her wheelchair accessible van from - God, I think she was living in Fayetteville at the time, I’m not sure. She was in North Carolina for sure. And we met in person for the first time in like the, you know, all accessible we we commandeer these four accessible suites in the dorms at Wayne State. And it was just like crip commune like we were all hanging out we you know. We crowdsourced what - like, I want there to be a Crip Camp movie about this. Because, I mean, that was life changing. And it was something about people who had been remotely connected from all over being in person, for a brief moment in time. And like, we did workshops and shit, we also just hung out. Like Mia flirted her way, like we broke into this communal kitchen in the dorms we weren't supposed to be in. And like Tookie went and took like Mia’s spare wheelchair and got us all shwarma because we couldn't walk up to the shwarma place. And there was just this night that I've written about where we were like, let’s just tell our stories to each other.

And that happened, then we had like a regional gathering where Grace Lee Boggs was there. And there were all these like, you know, kind of Great Lakes crips, and then we went up from there to this from this space of love. And, you know, I always talk about like, like - her van was only for like five people. And there's so many photos, which I can share with you, like 13 of us packed in and we just call it the Crip Clown Car. And we were just, you know, driving around Detroit and Ryan - they have this [unclear] where they're like, yeah, I was wandering around trying to find the Sins Invalid workshop and the Clown Car - we just pulled up because we were like, that’s a crip! And we just pulled up and we're like, do you need an accessible van? And they were like, I'm looking for Sins Invalid and we were like, we are Sins Invalid! And it was totally like in The Craft, like we are the weirdos. And we like pulled them in the van and they were like, I literally got abducted into Disability Justice into Stacy's van.

And, um, yeah, so we met virtually and then out of virtual space that then became concrete, came to The Other Side of Dreaming, which was me and Stacy's, at the time, like very internet famous thing where Mia was in Atlanta, Stacy was in North Carolina. And Stacey, I think after that, she has that instance that she's written about where she was like, I realized that - I think it happened after where she was like, yeah, that was so amazing that I went back home and I hadn't really seen her talk to anybody, but my parents for like three months. And I was totally hiding like gay books in the wall and like using code words. And she had this one where she was like, it's like what Oprah said, like no one was going to come and save me, I had to save myself. So her and Mia got together and they're like we're gonna move to Oakland together and be family and it's going to be perfect.

And started this tumbler To The Other Side of Dreaming and out of that community, because AMC [Allied Media Conference] at the time was the space where like all year you would organize. It was people who were like in different spaces all over it and then we did get her for these four days of bliss. And so then we would go back and then be like, and make really different life choices based on the communion that we would have that went from virtual to in person then back again. And so and then we and so, you know, with To The Other Side of Dreaming a lot of the fundraising because we're like, I think they were like we need to raise at least 10 grand to like move Stacy across the country and get her access support and find us a wheelchair accessible apartment to share. There were so many people who'd met Stacey and Mia, you know, through that connection. I mean, 2009 AMC was where I met Moya, we just ran into each other in the middle of AMC, and I was like “You”! And she was like, “oh my god, it's you”. And we'd never met in person. And we just had this blissful exchange. And we've been connected ever since. So out of connections, like that came a lot of the fundraising and a lot of the community building and it helped bridge, the isolation that Stacey was in because of ableism. You know, and isolation. And it funded her Get Out of Jail Free Card to get to the Bay.