

Please check which category you are nominating this person for:

	Advocacy	An individual or organization that has exhibited outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of people with disabilities in the City of Portland
X	Community Inclusiveness	An individual, organization, or program that has made a significant effort to include people with disabilities in the community in the City of Portland
	Lifetime Achievement	An individual that has spent a significant portion of their life working to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of people with disabilities in the City of Portland
	Transportation	An individual or organization that has worked to improve the accessibility of the City of Portland in regard to transportation issues
	Youth Achievement	An individual under the age of 25 either with a disability or who has contributed to the disability community in a way that promotes inclusivity and awareness in the City of Portland

Name of Nominee: Helen Daltoso **Phone:** 503.823.5111

Address: Regional Arts & Culture Council
108 NW Ninth Avenue, Suite 300 - **Portland**, Oregon 97209-3318

Email: hdaltoso@racc.org

Name of Nominator: Carole Zoom **Phone:** 541.954.8373

Email of Nominator: carolezoom@gmail.com

In one page or less, please tell us why this individual, organization or program should be honored with the 2009 "Making a Difference" in disability award in the category for which you are nominating them.

Some ideas of things to share could include:

- How has the nominee worked to advocate for the disability community?
- What impact or observable change has occurred due to their efforts?
- An example or story that highlights why the nominee should be honored.

In one page or less, please tell us why this individual, organization or program should be honored with the 2009 "Making a Difference" in disability award in the category for which you are nominating them.

I meet with Eloise Damrosch, Cynthia Knapp, and Helen Daltoso of RACC last year because I had tried to go to several community art events which were funded by city funds were not wheelchair accessible or offering interpretation or other accommodations. After that meeting, Helen Daltoso started a process of assessing which grantees were in violation of 504 and ADA, which venues were ADA accessible and dramatically changed RACC's grants process to assure that grantees were both aware of their obligations to be accessible to the full community and actively taking steps to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Now grantees have to actively affirm their understanding and compliance with ADA access or they are not granted funds. Helen included a large section in the grantee training this year around access and how grantees can achieve access requirements. She also has participated in an Oregon Arts Commission process to look into increasing access to the arts at a State level.

Whereas many arts administrators do not take this issue seriously, Helen has taken this on issue head on, with enthusiasm and clarity and her approach and efforts are significantly changing the arts landscape to make the arts more accessible to all citizens. I can count at least 6 events and projects in the last several months that are now accessible (and will remain so) that would not have been accessible without her leadership. This area, arts access, is often overlooked as not being a "basic need" (which I wholeheartedly disagree with). Her advocacy has brought the issue to attention and resolved issues that have been longstanding and problematic for people with disabilities in Portland. Helen is making a huge difference and deserves recognition.