



GUIDC

Global Universal Design Commission

The Birth of an Idea to Change the World through Universal Design

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Historic Progression



- Robert Congel envisioned Destiny USA, the world's largest enclosed and integrated structure combining dining, shopping, entertainment, hospitality and recreation in a fully sustainable built environment.
- In 2006, Congel met Graham Hill, member of the National Council for Disability, on a hunting trip at the same time that Josh Heintz, environmental attorney, and Peter Blanck, Chairman of the Burton Blatt Institute and professor of law and public policy at Syracuse University met in New York City following a lecture by Blanck on accessibility .
- After comparing notes with Heintz, his long-time friend and colleague, Congel decided to explore the feasibility of incorporating universal design for accessibility into his Destiny USA project in Syracuse, New York.

American Dream Forum I



- From May 31 to June 2, 2006, Congel, Heintz and Blanck brought together multidisciplinary experts in architecture, industrial design, law, finance, public policy, technology, and social psychology to dream about the future possibilities of Destiny USA as an inclusive community, specifically with respect to:

Universal Design

Inclusive Workforce

Customer Experience

Living Laboratory – Applied Research

- Organized by Melissa Perry and other Destiny staff and hosted at Savannah Dhu, a 5,000-acre nature preserve retreat minutes from Syracuse, American Dream Forum I determined a need for standards in universal design and the economic feasibility of a fully accessible venue such as Destiny USA with an inclusive workforce. From the meeting at Savannah Dhu, Congel, Heintz and Blanck continued to move forward in their collaboration to accomplish the American Dream.



American Dream Forum II



- Held in December 2007, ADF II assembled 12 experts from the disability design field to discuss a voluntary consensus process to create and implement universal design standards and certification.
- The group expanded upon what they learned in ADF I and began to map out the volunteer consensus standards development process for creating the UD standards in the built environment and forming a not-for-profit organization to carry out that process.
- ADF II resulted in more focused questions about what universal design should include, who has a stake in the standards, and how they should be administered.





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Formation of Not-for-Profit

- Recognizing the need to take Universal Design to the next level by creating voluntary consensus standards to guide designers, developers, lenders, governments and end users to understand and apply UD Standards and certify their efforts in creating fully accessible buildings and products, Josh Heintz and his law partner William Gilberti agreed to fund the formation of a not-for-profit organization, Global Universal Design Commission, Inc. (GUDC), to develop, through a consensus process, and voluntarily implement the universal design standards.