



# GUIDC

Global Universal Design Commission

## Formation of the Corporation

Created by:

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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.

# Collaboration with BBI



- Peter Blanck, Ph. D., J.D., chairman of The Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University, was instrumental in bringing key disability advocates together to form the GUDC board.
- The Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), the premier organization to advance civic, economic and social participation of persons with disabilities in a global society, focuses on research, education, training, policy, technical assistance, outreach and fundraising.
- BBI's mission is to create a collaborative environment - with entrepreneurial innovation and best business practices - to foster public-private dialogue. And to create the capacity to transform policy, systems, and people through inclusive education, the workforce, and communities.

# GUDC Purpose & Goals

- To develop and promote the understanding and use of Universal Design in the design and development of buildings, products, and environments to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation, retrofitting, or specialized design.
- GUDC is a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of New York State. The organization's application for 501(c)3 tax status is currently pending with the IRS.

**GUDC**

# Role & Responsibilities

- A** Facilitate through public education the awareness, understanding, and application of UD principles to products and the built environment;
- B** Lead a voluntary consensus standards development process to provide an objective system of measurement to evaluate level of adoption of UD standards in the built environment;
- C** Promote the adoption and use of newly developed UD standards across environments;
- D** Educate designers, developers, lenders, governments, and end users of the benefits of application of UD standards to the built environment and products;
- E** Measure, through the application of a rating system, the level of adoption of UD standards;



# Role & Responsibilities

- F** Certify buildings, commercial and residential development, and products that meet UD standards;
- G** Conduct training and offer technical assistance to designers, developers, lenders, governments and end users to understand and apply UD standards to improve product and built environment design;
- H** Certify professionals to be qualified in UD and in UD building and product certification;
- I** Conduct research to improve current and create new knowledge about the adoption and use of UD in the US and worldwide that quantifies and qualifies cost and benefits; and,
- J** Conduct any other activities to fulfill and communicate the mission of the Global Universal Design Commission.

# Preparation for Inaugural GUDC Meeting

In addition to the founders and the board members, a number of other people were instrumental in launching GUDC:

**Michael Morris, J. D.** – coordinated organizational meeting with key players, initiated website project, drafted proposed documents for public review, prepared agenda for inaugural meeting, prepared talking points, assisted in arrangements for initial GUDC board meeting

**James Schmeling, J. D.** – coordinated BBI activities supporting GUDC, facilitated website development, and coordinated with GUDC stakeholders

**Deborah S. O'Malley, Esq.** – facilitated corporate formation, prepared 501 c 3 application, assisted in coordination of inaugural meeting and initial board meeting

**Jessica Leifer** – made all travel arrangements, coordinated services at meeting location, hired caterers, kept track of RSVP's, coordinated webcast of inaugural meeting

**Christine Reeves** – produced invitations and other print materials, coordinated website launch, assisted at meeting registration



Destiny USA, site of the Inaugural Meeting



GUDC Board of Directors at the Inaugural Meeting

# Inaugural Meeting of GUDC

**Date:** May 30, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

Joshua H. Heintz and William J. Gilberti, Jr.  
Gilberti Stinziano Heintz & Smith, P.C.

**Hosted by:**

Destiny USA at Carousel Center  
Syracuse, New York

**Supported by:**

- The Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University
- Center on Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA Center), University at Buffalo, State University of New York
- The National Council on Independent Living





Andrew Houghton, Josh Heintz and Graham Hill at the GUDC Inaugural Meeting

## GUDC Inaugural Meeting

- Provided a public forum to discuss structure and procedure for universal design standards
- Comprehensive discussion, providing substantive feedback on the proposed structure of the standards
- A web cast of the meeting was accessible via the GUDC website: [www.globaluniversaldesign.org](http://www.globaluniversaldesign.org)
- Draft documents provided for review and comment on the GUDC website were reviewed and discussed
  1. Purpose Statement of GUDC
  2. Conceptual Framework of Universal Design
  3. Example of Universal Design Standards
  4. Proposed Accreditation Process

# Inaugural Meeting Outcomes

- Graham Hill, Chair of the Standards Sub-Committee is being assisted by Ed Steinfeld and Michael Italiano to lead the standards sub-committee
- Ambassador Gallegos, while at the inaugural meeting, expressed keen interest in Ecuador becoming an early adopter of the universal design standards and implementation in the their new \$400 million Quito airport
- Ambassador Gallegos invited Josh Heintz and Chairman Peter Blanck of GUDC to meet with Ecuadorian Vice President Lenin Moreno, Mayor of Quito Paco Moncayo, Coordinator of the National Federations of and for Disabled People Xavier Torres and President of the Federations Maria Teresa Donoso, Minister of the Environment Marcela Aguinaga.

**GUDC**