

## Radical Partners- Looking at the Intersection of Disability and Civic Engagement

By: Deborah Dietz

Radical Partners is a social impact accelerator that identifies issues that matter most to the future of our city. They work to 1) accelerate the work of leaders tackling those issues head-on and 2) mobilize innovators, investors, and leaders with the community at large to collectively learn about issues and generate solutions together.

I first heard about Radical Partners two years ago. I was at a Children's Trust event and everyone was talking about the "10 days of connection" event that was going to happen in Miami. I was intrigued and excited. I wanted to know more and become involved. I found out the Radical Partners was working to coordinate this event so I reached out directly to them. When I called them, they were excited, energetic and eager to learn as much as they could about our organization, what we did, and did we want to participate in the event. So, I asked them the questions that I ask every organization, "so will the events be accessible? And how are you including people with disabilities?"

They had the best answers, they told me that they wanted to include everyone and what did they need to do to make this happen. This was the beginning of our friendship and partnership. I told them, we can help, let me share with you what we know. They absorbed everything without hesitation. They never pushed back, they only wanted to learn and share their information with everyone. I was so impressed and excited. So we started. They added people with disabilities on their materials, they made sure that their materials were accessible, and they worked to make the events accessible. They didn't do this half way, but all the way and beyond. They even made a section on the 10 days of connection website for accessibility information and help for their participants. They gave suggestions of what an event should look like, even including a list of the ingredients in the food that was being served.

Today, I went to the CIC for their Give Miami Day event and it was awesome. The event was accessible, the tables had tablecloths that were secure and not hanging on the floor, they had tables of different heights throughout the room, and all of the food had the ingredients listed on the serving table. I was so happy and smiling. They did not just talk the talk but they walk the walk.

They are doing what DIG loves, a social impact organization is being inclusive for everyone and modeling an event that works for anyone. They have embodied the spirit and meaning of the intersection of civic engagement and disability.

Congratulation Radical Partners, Joan, Sarah, Rebecca, and your entire team! I am proud to call your organization a friend of DIG's and I look forward to working with you in the future on exciting new projects.