

**Media Contact:**

Arturo Guillen  
The Arc San Francisco  
Director of Communications  
aguillen@thearcsof.org | 415-919-2078



**The Arc San Francisco Welcomes The Paul K. Longmore Center**

New chapter brings disability history, advocacy, and leadership beyond academia and into the community

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., July 21, 2026:** The Arc San Francisco is now the home of The Paul K. Longmore Center, expanding access to disability history, advocacy, and leadership across the disability community.

The announcement comes during Disability Pride Month and a milestone year for The Arc SF and the disability community. This year marks The Arc San Francisco's 75th anniversary. July 10 would have marked Paul K. Longmore's 80th birthday, and July 26 marks the 36th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Paul K. Longmore was a polio survivor, professor, pioneering disability historian, and disability rights activist. He founded the Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University in 1996. Following his death in August 2010, SF State permanently established the Institute and named it in his honor.

After funding for the Institute at SF State ended in 2025, its work transitioned to The Arc SF through The Paul K. Longmore Center.

The timing underscores why this work remains critical. Too often, people with developmental disabilities are disconnected from disability history and excluded from advocacy movements and decisions that affect their lives.

"We want to make landmark moments like the 504 Sit-In and the ADA accessible to our participants," said Melissa Crisp-Cooper, Associate Director of Advocacy at The Arc SF, who leads The Paul K. Longmore Center.

The Arc SF will carry forward Longmore's legacy by bringing disability history, advocacy, and leadership into the community. Building on The Arc SF's work with adults with developmental disabilities, the Center will reach across the disability community. Its accessible, plain-language programs will create opportunities for people with different disabilities to learn from one another, participate, lead, and make their voices heard.

This spring, the Longmore Center presented its inaugural Lois Curtis Lecture, Let's Flip the Script on Disability. The event explored disability representation in film and the importance of people with disabilities telling their own stories. The Center also unveiled a new logo designed by disability advocate, organizer, and designer Parker Glick.

Future events will feature leaders with developmental disabilities alongside leaders from across the disability community. They will bring together participants, advocates, families, artists, academics, and other community members to learn from one another.

For media inquiries or to request an interview, contact Arturo Guillen at aguillen@thearcsof.org or 415-919-2078.

**About The Arc San Francisco**

For 75 years, The Arc San Francisco has partnered with adults with developmental disabilities as they design their futures and transform communities through lifelong learning and self-determination. The Arc SF serves San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties. Learn more at [thearcsof.org](https://thearcsof.org).