

JSA Design earns award for web-based accessibility guide

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JSA-Access Navigators Todd Hanson, left, with Ahoi! app founder Jake Haendel

Portsmouth, NH JSA Design, an architectural design organization specializing in senior living, has been selected by Mather Institute as a 2023 recipient of the Promising Practices Award. Now in its 13th year, this awards program recognizes organizations that are moving away from conventional practices by developing and implementing new and innovative approaches for older adults. JSA Design was chosen based on its potential for serving the logistics planning needs of people with mobility issues, helping to keep them connected to their communities.

“The Promising Practices Award honors JSA Design for its Access Navigators web-based guide to accessibility data for restaurants, attractions, and parks across New England,” said Cate O’Brien, PhD, VP and director, Mather Institute. “The awards honor true leaders in innovation and implementation. We hope these award-winning projects will serve as a catalyst for organizations across the country and around the world to spark new ideas for enhancing the lives of older adults.”

AccessNavigators provides web-based maps to help people plan outings and choose easy destinations based on accessibility criteria. Information includes entryways, interior, restrooms, parking, and much more. The tool lets people with mobility issues plan ahead and travel confidently.

Todd Hanson, a principal at JSA Design and Access Navigators founder said, “Being able to plan ahead and visit towns across New England confidently is a game-changer for people with disabilities. I can say from experience that knowing which destinations are welcoming and free of barriers, relieves anxiety and the social isolation that comes with it.”

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