



When you glance at a smart phone or any digital screen it quickly becomes clear that icons are more powerful than words.

In the midst of this visual change the iconography for people with disabilities has stayed the same. The International Symbol of Access with its square limbs and static pose often stands beside the updated icons that represent other people.

International disability advocate Keith Jones says that “18% of Americans live with disabilities and are thriving in every sector of American life. They cannot be represented by a symbol that if it could speak would say ‘push me.’”

In 2011 Sara Hendren, an activist designer, and Dr. Brian Glenney, a philosophy professor and graffiti practitioner, created an icon that more accurately reflects modern people with disabilities.

The result of their work is the Accessible Icon, a proactive image that is being embraced by many organizations and was recently added to the collection at New York’s Museum of Modern Art. Glenney says that “people with disabilities are astrophysicists, artists, and parents of small children. The Icon is helping the world recognize we are all people with ability.”

BNY Mellon in Everett Partners with Triangle to Enhance

Disability Parking Signs with New Icon

On Friday, April 18 a group of young adults with disabilities from Triangle will partner with BNY Mellon volunteers and the Jones Lang LaSalle facilities team to install new accessible parking signs at BNY Mellon's office complex in Everett, Mass.

The Accessible Icon (pictured above) is an alternative for the International Symbol of Access (ISA) that has identified accessible parking spots and restrooms for over forty years. In contrast to the ISA's rather static symbol, the Accessible Icon features a dynamic image that highlights the active role people with disabilities play in our local communities.

For over a year many local towns, schools, and nonprofits in local communities like Boston, Burlington, and Malden have adopted the Accessible Icon. Triangle worked with BNY Mellon's employee resource group, HEART, and Mike Cook, Senior Vice President for Jones Lang LaSalle who manages BNY Mellon's Everett facility along with David Wood to coordinate installation of the new signs.

"I'm really proud to be a member of the volunteer team on this special project," said Diana Kenneally, vice president and escrow sales specialist at BNY Mellon Wealth Management. "I think the new Accessible Icon parking signs are a great way to show that people with disabilities are not simply tied to a wheelchair, but active and on-the-go contributors in our community."

Michael Rodrigues, Chief Executive Officer of Triangle, notes: "We are excited that BNY Mellon, one of our valued corporate partners in Massachusetts, is partnering with us to help the world recognize we are all people with ability. We are eager to install the new signs, which were designed and provided by BNY Mellon and the Jones Lang LaSalle facilities team.

About BNY Mellon: BNY Mellon, whose local roots date back to 1875 and the Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Company, has about 4,000 employees in five major locations across greater Boston. BNY Mellon is a global investments company dedicated to helping its clients manage and service their financial assets throughout the investment lifecycle. Learn more at bnymellon.com or follow us on Twitter @BNYMellon.

About the Accessible Icon Project: Since 2011, the Accessible Icon Project has grown from a grass roots campaign to become a larger social design effort which is now led by Triangle with invaluable assistance by Gordon College. Over the past year, the Accessible Icon has transformed the symbol of access in corporate offices, colleges and universities, and businesses and hospitals all over the world!

<http://www.accessibleicon.org/>

About Triangle: Since 1971 Triangle has provided the support, challenge, and opportunity people with disabilities need to move forward towards more independent, dignified lives. This year Triangle will provide innovative career, youth, abuse prevention, and leadership development services to over 3,300 people from 110 southern New England communities. The Accessible Icon is one of the ways Triangle is helping the world realize that we are all people with ability. <http://www.PeopleWithAbility.org>