

Video: New York Accessible Travel Conference Recap

Transcript (Captions + Visual Description)

Created: Jan 2026

Note: This combined version integrates spoken dialogue and visual description into a single linear format. It documents key moments, speakers, and themes from the inaugural New York Accessible Travel Conference and is provided to support accessible review, learning, and sharing of the event content.

Total Runtime: 3 minutes 33 seconds

[00:00 - 00:03]

VISUAL: Title card displays "New York Accessible Travel Conference" in bold text over a blue gradient geometric shape, with an image of a New York City bridge and buildings in the background.

AUDIO: [Music plays]

[00:04 - 00:06]

VISUAL: Interior of a bright conference venue with large windows, plants, and a stage area. Tables display pamphlets and refreshments. Conference attendees of various ages, genders, and ethnicities walk through the space, talking and engaging with each other.

AUDIO: Lakshmee: "Welcome to the first New York Accessible Travel Conference."

[00:06 - 00:20]

VISUAL: A podium with microphone stands next to an American flag and New York state emblem, with a QEDC (Queens Economic Development Corporation) banner. A projection screen displays the conference title. Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad, a woman of color wearing glasses and an orange jacket, is on stage. Ben Guttmann, a man wearing glasses and a suit, speaks at the podium.

AUDIO: Lakshmee: "Cheers Woo. All right. Good morning." Ben Guttmann: "Welcome to Queens, everybody. We're excited to welcome you to Borough Hall." Another speaker: "It just feels so warm and lovely to be here, to be a part of this really, really, I think, historic day for New York State."

[00:20 - 00:34]

VISUAL: Lakshmee continues speaking at the podium. The screen shows her name and role. Attendees browse tables with informational brochures. A refreshments table with food and drinks is visible. Lakshmee waves and smiles.

AUDIO: Lakshmee: "My name is Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad, and I'm your co-host today. I launched Accessible Travel NYC, with a mission to

inspire and empower people with disabilities to imagine and plan a trip to New York."

[00:35 - 00:43]

VISUAL: A photo appears on screen showing Lakshmee family of six, including her sister, Annie, who is a wheelchair user. They are vibrantly dressed in beautiful Indian clothing, huddled together and smiling with the New York City skyline in the background. This transitions to another photo Lakshmee and Annie laughing together, seated at an accessible bar with glasses of wine.

AUDIO: Lakshmee: "Our family was going through a really, really difficult period. We hadn't lived a very public life because we were afraid of how people would treat us in public."

[00:44 - 00:58]

VISUAL: A slide titled "Meet Us!" displays photos and information about Lakshmee and Annie, including details about their disabilities. A close-up shows a hand holding a Disability Pride Flag designed by Annie, against SUMMIT One Vanderbilt that's also lit in the same colors for ADA Celebrations. The scene transitions to the joyous family on the skating rink at Bryant Park near a large decorated Christmas tree.

AUDIO: Lakshmee: "My sister Annie was born with cerebral palsy, so traveling long distances was never really an option for us, but I realized that if we couldn't travel the world together, we have much of the world

right here in New York.” Ben Guttman: “So what are we talking about here when we talk about the New York Accessible Travel Conference and the thing that was the headline and everything that we went out with.”

[01:00 - 01:04]

VISUAL: Ben Guttman, a man in a dark suit and eyeglasses stands at the black podium speaking. A close-up shows a blue and white vertical conference sign reading "New York Accessible Travel Conference."

AUDIO: Ben Guttman: "Was the idea of it's a New York for everybody."

[01:04 - 01:20]

VISUAL: The large projection screen displays a slide titled "Voices of Disabled Travelers." Audience members of diverse ages and ethnicities sit listening attentively. Various speakers appear: Xian Horn, a woman in a pink blazer and glasses, seated in the audience smiling. Rachel Elizabeth Morrison, a woman with long curls, braids and glasses, speaks into a microphone on stage. Jen Davis, a woman with short blonde hair wearing a black leather jacket, speaks at the podium. Hector Rivera, a man wearing a black vest and gray shirt, holds a microphone on stage with two other seated panelists. A person using a white cane, wearing a mustard yellow shirt and black jacket, walks near the podium.

AUDIO: Various speakers say "I have cerebral palsy." "I have several neurodiverse, uh, diagnoses, mainly autism." "I have an invisible

disability.” “I also identify as a person with disability, chronic illnesses, blindness”. “I have a disability.”

[01:18 - 01:24]

VISUAL: Wide shot of the large bright, indoor venue showing a glass ceiling and brick walls. A crowd of seated and standing people fills the open space. Lakshmee speaks at the podium with the QEDC banner and American flag behind her.

AUDIO: Lakshmee "So challenges, and I think you know, that's one of the reasons many of you showed up in the room today."

[01:25 - 01:34]

VISUAL: Various seated audience members are shown, including a woman in a gray sweater and glasses who smiles thoughtfully. Other attendees include a man in a black suit with dreadlocks, a man in a brown jacket wearing a black face mask, and a woman in a light coat. People organize brochures and materials at an information table in a hallway with stairs behind them as a woman walks into the space.

AUDIO: Lakshmee "Why isn't there more accessible information? Why isn't there better representation for people with disabilities?"

[01:34 - 01:45]

VISUAL: Ebony Young, a woman with glasses, speaks at the podium. Commissioner Christina Curry, a woman with glasses wearing black and yellow clothing, reads at the podium. Two people sit conversing in the audience, one gesturing. A view from behind shows a teleprompter screen displaying speech text in large white letters on a black background.

AUDIO: "Prioritizing and platforming, belonging is imperative. Accessibility is not just the right, it's the law."

[01:46 - 01:56]

VISUAL: Close-up of a table displaying informational brochures, white and black fidget spinners, ear plugs, and boxes of KN95 masks arranged neatly on a wooden surface. Two women warmly embrace in a hallway near the information table, smiling and holding papers.

AUDIO: Xian Horn: "Welcoming people is making them feel acknowledged in that room. It's just being a human being. So be a human being with us." Lakshmee: "Accessibility transforms how we travel, how we live, and how we grow business. But businesses don't always know where to start, and so we hope by bringing so many stakeholders into the room that we all get to learn from each other and share knowledge."

[02:00 - 02:15]

VISUAL: The podium with microphone and seal stands center stage, with American and blue flags on poles nearby. The projection screen displays presentation slides about accessibility and NYC tourism. Quick scenes of four separate speakers are on stage.

AUDIO: Sara Emmert: "Accessible New York was launched to welcome travelers to learn more about accessible destinations in the state and basically streamline that whole travel planning experience for them."

[02:16 - 02:33]

VISUAL: A panel of four seated individuals is visible, including a woman in a print dress, a woman in a black and white dress, a man in a dark jacket, and a woman in black pants and top. Handheld microphones are used by speakers. The man in the dark vest and gray shirt speaks, followed by the man with dreadlocks in a dark suit and tie.

AUDIO: Various speakers: "We work on not only just hiring people with disabilities, um, but also educating our staff and our team. We created and launched a free membership for people with disabilities. Accessibility is everybody's job. It expands our audience and then it op. It also brings us new opportunities to collaborate."

[02:34 - 02:44]

VISUAL: A man with short hair and glasses wearing a black sweater sits on stage holding a microphone, next to a woman in a light green jacket

with notes on her lap. A woman in a tan jacket stands and hugs another woman in a black and white outfit. A man with an orange cap and a woman in a brown jacket talk and hug. A large TV screen on a stand shows closed captions near stage right.

AUDIO: James Vickers: "Feedback was very powerful. One parent shared that it was the first time their child truly felt welcome in a public space." Nefertiti Matos Olivares: "And actually going out there and finding kindness, compassion, acknowledgement, that made such a difference in me being able to."

[02:44 - 02:59]

VISUAL: Two women on stage: one speaking and holding a microphone while wearing a patterned shawl, another seated holding a white cane and wearing a red dress. Audience members of various ages and ethnicities watch, clapping and smiling. Lakshmee stands and smiles.

AUDIO: Nefertiti Matos Olivares: "Accept myself and now even like, I like myself, you know? Um, yeah, it's, uh, like yourselves. People love yourselves" Claps

[03:00 - 03:11]

VISUAL: Lakshmee greets and hugs other attendees. A woman with light brown hair wearing a black outfit and shawl holds a microphone and receives a hug. Several attendees stand near tables or mingle in the conference space. The projection screen displays various logos. A

woman wearing a yellow top and black cardigan stands behind the podium delivering a speech.

AUDIO: Commissioner Christina Curry: "On behalf of Mayor Adams and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, thank you for reimagining what travel looks like when inclusion leads the way." Ben Guttman: "Thank you to everybody here who joined us and made this an incredible event. This was beyond even our, you know, highest expectations of how successful this was."

[03:12 - 03:23]

VISUAL: Multiple banners and posters showcase sponsor logos including AirBnB, Hard Rock, NYC Ferry, and others on tables and walls. A table covered with an orange cloth displays the QEDC logo with pamphlets. Another table draped in white shows the Queens Theatre logo with promotional items. Informational flyers and brochures about the New York Accessible Travel Conference are spread on tables. A vertical conference signboard with blue and white design reading "New York Accessible Travel Conference" stands near an entrance.

AUDIO: Lakshmee "I wanna give it up to all of the speakers who made today possible. This is how you build a business of accessibility."

[03:24 - 03:33]

VISUAL: On stage, Lakshmee embraces Ben while other staff join in the celebratory moment. The video fades to an end screen showing the

New York Accessible Travel Conference branding with an image of the Queensboro Bridge. Two blue slides display the "Accessible Travel NYC, Inspire, Empower and Enrich" and "Accessible Travel Disability Pride, Disability Joy, Exists" logos with the website www.accessibletravelnyc.com.

AUDIO: [Music plays]

END