EQUALITY

What is Universal Design?

Universal Design is a term used to describe the process of building products and environments accessible to people experiencing disabilities. This includes adapted spaces that support people with mobility, communication, and function.

The Seven Corners Collaborative goes above and beyond the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Our features enable people experiencing a variety of disabilities greater access to services.

Universal design features include:

- Accessible building entrances with automatic doors
- Motion sensor lights
- Kick-plate elevator buttons near the floor for people using wheelchairs or without use of their arms or hands
- Extra-large elevator for maneuverability when entering and exiting
- Reachable light switches placed at a height lower than standard for easier access
- Power outlets placed at a height higher than standard for easier access
- Doors and cabinets with lever knobs and pulls for easier access
- Adjustable-height workplace desk surfaces
- Automatic sinks, soap dispensers, and hand dryers
- An accessible kitchen, including top-load dishwasher, slide-out range, and hydraulic sink and cabinets

Even Nossa Familia Coffee, located on our ground floor, has gotten on board with accessibility. They offer adjustable tables and chairs, icons on their menus, silicone flexible straws, and are committed to learning new ways of meeting the diverse needs of their guests!

Project History

Community Vision’s track record of providing excellent social services and home ownership opportunities led to the Multnomah County Tax Department contacting us to renovate donated foreclosed properties. With these properties, we created 15 affordable homeownership and rental opportunities for individuals and families experiencing disability. After CV successfully completed these projects, Multnomah County reached out in 2014 with a new opportunity – a triangular lot at the corner of SE Division St and Ladd Ave, which had stood empty for almost 20 years. We saw its potential and knew it would be the site of our new home.

We also knew our office needed to be more accessible, and knew we were not the only organization with this challenge. We dreamt bigger and saw The Seven Corners Collaborative take shape. We created a place where like-minded nonprofits could co-locate to better serve our community... a welcoming, one-stop-shop where individuals could come explore an array of services for people with disabilities and their families. It is a centralized hub where collaboration and outreach will flourish. The building was developed using the principles of Universal Design and as a model for accessibility, where everyone can come see what is possible.
Located in historic Ladd’s Addition, the Seven Corners Collaborative co-locates multiple, like-minded nonprofits serving people with disabilities. The building was constructed around the principles of Universal Design to serve as a model for accessibility. Come by for a visit, and see what we are all about!

For more information, check out our website www.sevencornerscollaborative.org or follow us on Facebook!