

**The Nebraska Initiative:**  
*Expanding Accessibility in Museums and Science Centers*  
[www.tactileimages.com/nebraska](http://www.tactileimages.com/nebraska)



## Presenters

**Bradley LaMere**, Senior Creative Officer and VP of Marketing, Tactile Images

**John Olson**, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Tactile Images

**Carlos R. Serván**, Executive Director, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Dr. Janet LaBreck**, Former Commissioner, RSA (under President Barack Obama)



## Tactile Images and Traveling Exhibitions

- Tactile Images transform visual content like art and maps into raised, touchable surfaces for people who are blind and visually impaired.
- Combines touch, sound, smell, and braille for an enhanced kinesthetic experience.
- Promotes greater freedom and inclusion for individuals with disabilities through accessible, multisensory content.
- In partnership with Getty Images, we offer ten tactile exhibitions across the U.S. covering diverse topics.



## What Tactile Images Provides

- Relationships with museums and science centers on behalf of your commission/agency.
- Management of design, booking, installation, and de-installation, ensuring seamless integration of accessibility.
- Creation of media, including TV, radio, and digital social media campaigns, designed to increase public awareness, with an emphasis on the blind community.
- The groundwork for long-term, multi-year relationships between state commissions and agencies, museums, science centers, and the public. It is designed to enhance the goals of all parties.

## The Nebraska Initiative

- Collaboration between NCBVI and Tactile Images to enhance accessibility and inclusivity for individuals who are blind and visually impaired across Nebraska.
- Utilizes tactile images with embedded audio and sensory elements to make visual content accessible by providing an enhanced kinesthetic experience.
- Focuses on fostering independence and skill acquisition for blind and visually impaired individuals, aligning with Pre-Employment Transition Services.
- Features accessible exhibitions at five major institutions throughout Nebraska.
- Supports a broader mission of accessibility, enriching communities, and promoting inclusion statewide.



## PRE-ETS and WIOA

- Builds critical skills like problem-solving and independent exploration through tactile exhibitions.
- Introduces participants to diverse career paths, supporting WIOA's workforce readiness goals.
- Provides tactile, multisensory experiences that align with Pre-ETS' work-based learning focus.
- Encourages self-advocacy by enabling individuals to engage with accessible educational materials.
- Fosters continuous learning in an inclusive environment while enhancing community involvement and support systems.

## Benefits of Implementing This Initiative in Your State

- Tactile images ensure that blind and visually impaired citizens and students have equal access to educational materials, fostering a more inclusive learning environment.
- Students with visual impairments are better able to understand complex concepts, improving academic performance and engagement.
- By incorporating tactile images in Pre-ETS programs, students are better prepared for the workforce and independent living.
- Aligns with WIOA's accessibility goals, ensuring that states comply with federal mandates.
- Strengthens partnerships between education sectors, local agencies, and the blind and visually impaired community, creating a more supportive network.



## Summary of Three-Year Program

- Ongoing development of partnerships.
- Permanent exhibition spaces at partner institutions for tactile exhibitions.
- Ongoing custom programs that align with the Pre-ETS curricula.
- Acceptance and inclusion of blind and visually impaired people by museums, science centers, and their sighted public patrons.
- Interest and desire by blind people to attend partner museums and science centers.



## Contact

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