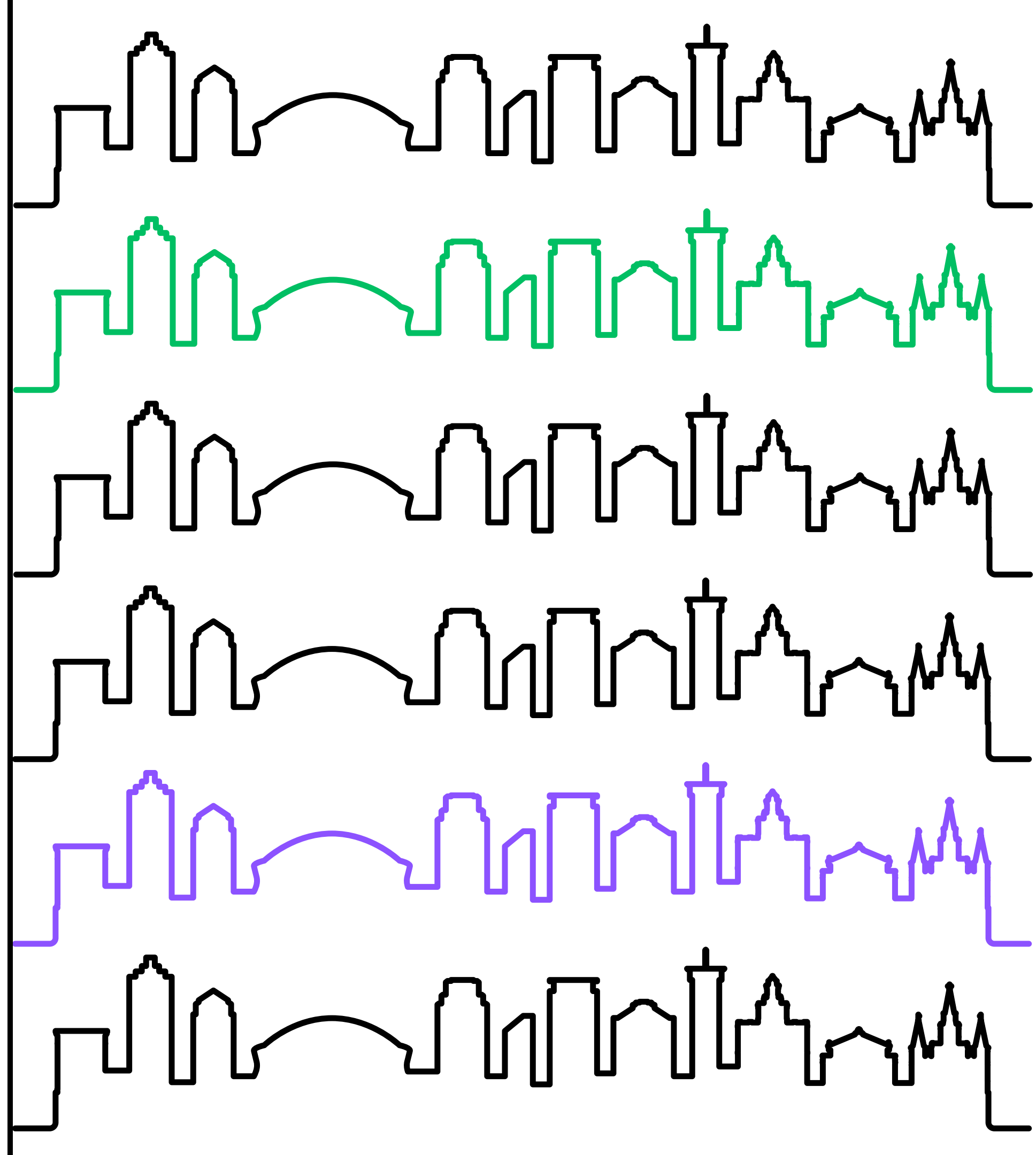
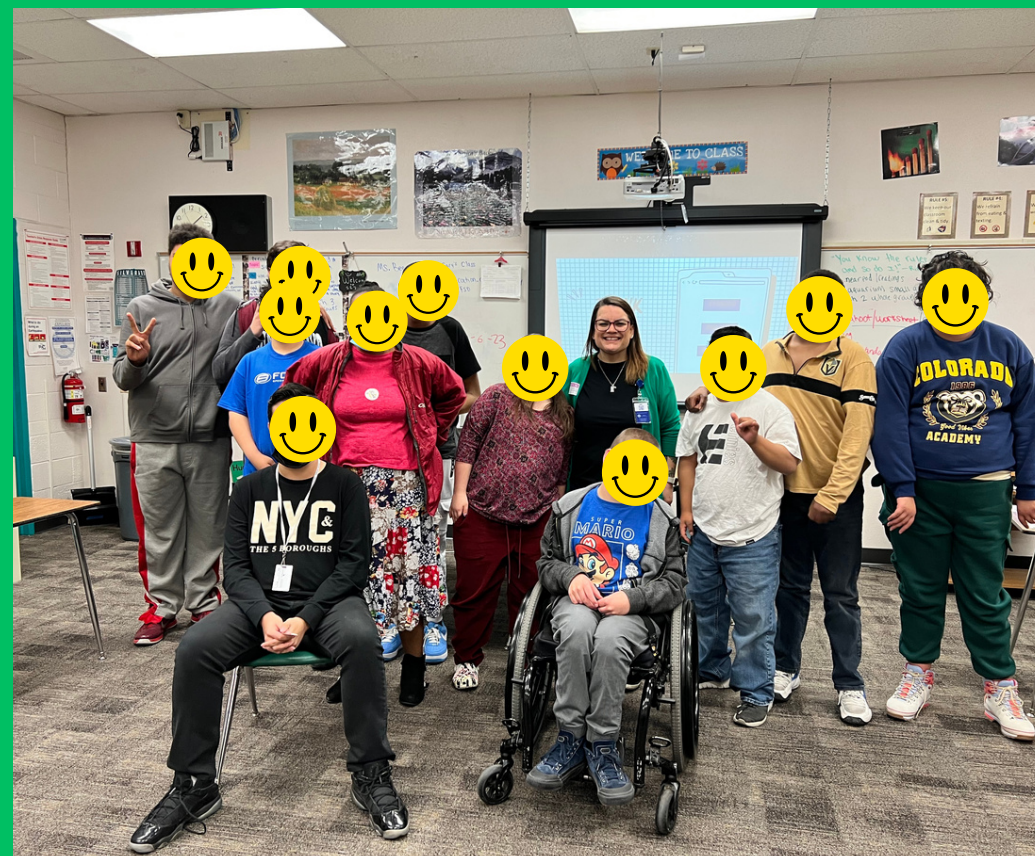


RECAP:

# THE ARC'S 2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE





# ABOUT A+J PATIENT ADVOCACY

- Founded in 2021 as 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- All services provided at no cost
- Based in Las Vegas, serving all of Nevada
- Children (birth-17), young adults (18-26), families
- Over 50% of clients have intellectual or developmental disabilities
- Core services include:
  - navigating the health system
  - health education and resources
  - advocacy at appointments and school
  - public policy advocacy
  - community collaboration

# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

- The Power of Acceptance and Positivity
- Youth-Led Supported Decision Making
- Managed Care Home & Community Based Services for I/DD
- Locative Technology Pros and Cons
- Navigating Transgender Experience in the Disability Community
- Disability and Domestic Abuse
- Inclusive Postsecondary Education
- Navigating the Terrain of Change

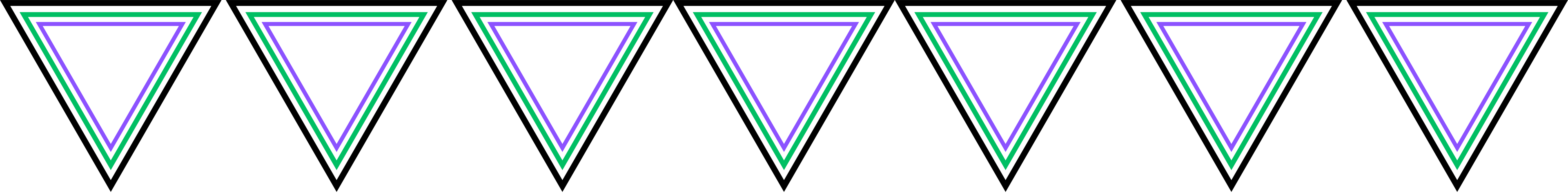


# MY TAKEAWAYS

- Invigorating experience - sharing space and energy with incredible self-advocates and other professionals
- How an organization represents itself in the disability community is an example for others; lead the way
- Person-first services are critical
- All services and resources should be vetted **first** by the affected individual
- More advocacy is needed in criminal justice arenas to prosecute those committing crimes against individuals with I/DD
- Individuals with I/DD are constantly being forced to adapt to the community; however when the community adapts everyone wins

# SHARING KNOWLEDGE

- Individual client and family interactions
- Sharing resources with health advocates across the country
- Workshops for high school students with I/DD (Silverado High School)
- Workshops for parents of children with I/DD (Touro University Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities)
- Support for students and families at IEP meetings, in collaboration with education advocates
- A+J Teen Council will focus on mental health and I/DD
- Life After High School transition event for special education students with I/DD (Jan 2024)
- New partnership with Gigi's Playhouse Las Vegas; workshops for individuals with I/DD and families
- Sharing info with NV Minority Health & Equity Coalition
- Collaboration with UNLV Pediatric Residency Program on advocacy training - individual, I/DD, legislative



# THANK YOU

Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Consumer Leadership Development Fund

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