



## **Net Inclusion 2023 Policies** **National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)**

February 27-March 2, 2023  
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center  
San Antonio, Texas

### **Code of Conduct**

NDIA and the whole team behind Net Inclusion strive to support an open exchange of ideas within a safe and respectful environment. We value your attendance at Net Inclusion, meetings, and events, and are dedicated to providing a positive event experience for all participants and members. We want Net Inclusion to be welcoming, supportive, and comfortable for all members of the digital inclusion community. Treat staff, event attendees, and speakers with respect. Participation in discussions and activities should be respectful at all times. All are expected to exercise tolerance of the perspectives and opinions of all present and use discretion with photographs, recordings, and sharing. Be aware of your presence, and be thoughtful in sharing, listening, and knowing when to do which. We do not tolerate harassment in any form. If a participant engages in disruptive or harassing behavior, Net Inclusion staff may take any action it deems appropriate, including warning the offender or expulsion from the event. If you are being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact an NDIA team member immediately.

Everything is bigger in Texas...including Net Inclusion. Please review NDIA's protocol to ensure a safe, healthy, accessible, inclusive, and fun experience for everyone. The NDIA team will uphold these policies and has the right to remove anybody, including registered attendees, who violate these policies.

By registering and checking in at Net Inclusion, all attendees signal their understanding and agreement to these policies.

### **Public Health/Personal Health Policies**

- **Communicate Your Comfort Level** - We use a system of colored stickers to indicate your levels of comfort with touch and personal space. In general, never touch anyone without their permission. For Net Inclusion, use the stickers to help communicate your desired level of contact, and pay attention to other attendees' stickers and respect their preferences. Your health, your comfort, your sticker, your choice.
- **NDIA COVID Policy** - NDIA will have some masks and hand sanitizer at registration tables. Currently, mask wearing is optional but that could change. Please come prepared with your own masks. If you have extra COVID tests at home, please bring them with you

(as yourself or another attendee may need one). We strongly encourage those feeling sick to test, and stay home (or isolate in your hotel room) if you test positive for COVID.

- [Texas COVID Policy](#) - There are no mask requirements in the state of Texas. Mask wearing is precautionary. Wearing a mask mitigates the spread of COVID. San Antonio is committed to the safety of community members and visitors. You may track COVID risk levels [here](#).
- [Convention Center COVID Policy](#) - The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center is open at 100% occupancy as of May 17, 2021. Their number one priority is the health and safety of guests, employees, and partners. They work to ensure that their facility is clean and safe.

There are strict limitations on room capacity – one seat, one person. When a room runs out of chairs, the door to that breakout session will be closed with no more attendees allowed entry.

- [CDC COVID Policy](#) - The CDC no longer requires masking. If you have COVID, you can spread it to others. The CDC offers the following guidance around isolation: “Regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others when you have COVID-19. You should also isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. If your results are positive, follow the full isolation recommendations below. If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.”

#### [Full CDC Isolation Protocol](#)

- [Medical Care](#) - If you find yourself in need of medical assistance, please consider these options:

From MHM (NDIA Sponsor) -

**Emergency Room:**

Metropolitan Methodist  
1310 McCullough Avenue  
San Antonio, TX 78212

Phone: (210) 757-2200

[sahealth.com/locations/methodist-hospital-metropolitan/](https://sahealth.com/locations/methodist-hospital-metropolitan/)

From Pride Center Member -

## Gender Affirming Care Providers & Services - [Synchronicity Counseling Affirming Providers](#)

- [Restrooms/Family Rooms](#) - There are gender-neutral family restroom options with well-placed signs. There is also a [nursing room](#) on site for nursing parents.
- [Self Care](#) - There is plenty of access to outdoor areas to get some fresh air. Please step outside to clear your head or to just enjoy San Antonio. The convention center has water fountains and stations to refill reusable water bottles. NDIA is also providing Room 216B as a quiet space (on Tuesday, March 1 and Wednesday, March 2). [Convention Center link for attendees](#).

### Accessibility

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center falls under Title II (State & Local Government) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is maintained and operated with regard to the requirements of the Act.

NDIA asks all registrants about their specific accessibility needs, and we are responsive to all requests that resources and capacity will allow. As we are a nonprofit with limits, we will let you know as early as possible if we cannot fill your request.

- [Early Registration](#) - NDIA will be hosting early registration at the Marriott Riverwalk Lobby on Monday 2/27 from 5 PM to 7 PM. Skip the line on Tuesday and grab your conference badge early!

Registration will begin at 7:30 AM on Tuesday 2/28. During the first 20 minutes of registration, those with accessibility needs will be prioritized. When you reach the convention center, look out for NDIA greeters in red shirts for support with registration. If the registration process doesn't support your needs, then please reach out to Amanda Madden before registration opens.

- [Closed Captioning](#) - Automatic captioning will be enabled on livestream and video recordings on NDIA's YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
- [Collaborative Community Notes](#) - NDIA has prepared community notes through Google Docs for each of the conference sessions. These will be available to attendees before, during, and after the conference. The notes will add visual learning to the auditory experience of listening to panel discussions and other programming.

- **Livestream** - Sessions held in the plenary space on Wednesday, March 1 and Thursday, March 2 will be livestreamed publicly with open, free access. These sessions will also be available post-conference. Please see [NDIA's website](#) or Sched for more information on which sessions will be livestreamed.
- **Maps** - There are Riverwalk [accessibility maps](#) available for those who want to enjoy this highlight of San Antonio.
- **Signage** - As the space is very large, please be on the lookout for NDIA signs pointing you in the right direction. The convention center's way-finding kiosks are also placed throughout the facility ([locations](#)), along with Guest Services staff.

### **Safety**

We understand that discriminatory policies and laws in Texas make some community members more vulnerable in the state. In particular, women and LGBTQ people – especially transgender people – have been targets of recent discrimination. NDIA is hosting Net Inclusion in Texas to support and highlight the local digital inclusion community. We do not condone discriminatory policies and laws, rather we are here to support equity!

We encourage community and fellowship with community members so that they feel comfortable and better protected.

- **Getting Around** - The reception is a short walk from the Marriott and the convention center. NDIA team members will meet with attendees on Tuesday 2/28 at 5 PM who would like to walk in a group at the Marriott Riverwalk and Rivercenter lobbies. We encourage attendees to make connections (new and old). Please use the Sched app to meet new people, organize hangouts, and find walking buddies. Also, take advantage of the NDIA bulletin board to connect to other conference attendees.
- **Weapons** - Please be aware that Texas is an open carry state. NDIA does not endorse such policies. Signs are posted at all entrances of the ballroom – it is not permitted to enter the space with a concealed weapon OR with a firearm that is carried openly. If you see any Net Inclusion attendee with a weapon, let an NDIA team member or convention center staff know or call 911 in case of emergency.

### **Inclusivity**

NDIA encourages you to come as you are and welcomes all members to the community! Here are some ways new (or returning) attendees can find friends and networking opportunities:

- [Affinity Tables](#) - Affinity groups are about finding your squad and providing a safe space for connections and discourse with people who share similar identity traits, interests, and hobbies. Find your fit and have fun connecting with others during the Affinity Table lunch on conference day one - February 28.

Please only join affinity groups that correspond with your own identity and be aware of power dynamics and how much space you take up in any group.

- [Dine-Arounds](#) - Thanks to the support of the local planning team for organizing dine-arounds. This is an opportunity to get the best local eats as recommended by San Antonio residents and dine with fellow Net Inclusion attendees.

There will be a sign-up for dine-arounds on the NDIA Bulletin Board at Net Inclusion and information here: [Dine Around Options](#).

### **Sched**

Download the Sched app to get the most of your Net Inclusion experience and use these features:

- Chat feature (through Channels)
- See who's who in the Directory
- Organize ride shares
- Connect with your digital equity squad
- Meet up with (new and old) friends

### **Publicity**

Please direct any news media or publicity to Yvette Scorse, NDIA Communications Director.

### **Event Photography and Videography Acknowledgement & Release**

*Note: This policy will be clearly posted and attendees will be asked to consent to it when checking in for the event and receiving their badges.*

"You are entering an area where photography, audio and video livestreaming and recording are occurring. Your entry and presence at Net Inclusion constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and to the release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any and all recorded media of your appearance, voice, and name for any purpose whatsoever in perpetuity in connection with NDIA and its initiatives, including, by way of example only, use on websites, in social media, news, and advertising.

"By entering the event premises, you waive and release any claims you may have related to the use of recorded media of you at the event, including, without limitation, any right to inspect or

approve the photo, video or audio recording of you, any claims for invasion of privacy, violation of the right of publicity, defamation, and copyright infringement or for any fees for use of such record media.

“You understand that all photography, filming, and/or recording will be done in reliance on this consent. If you do not agree to the foregoing, please do not enter the event premises.”

## **Other Helpful Bits**

### **Check in Early**

Early check-in: Monday, February 27, 5-7 p.m. at the Marriott Riverwalk. The hotel is located at: 889 E Market St. San Antonio, directly across from the convention center.

We highly encourage anyone with disabilities or mobility concerns to join us for early check-in. If you can't make it Monday, we are opening registration at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the Hemisphere Ballroom, 3rd Floor, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Our welcome teams will be more than happy to assist you there.

### **“But What Should I Wear?!”**

We recommend smart casual attire – we usually see a variety of outfits, from smart jeans and cool digital inclusion T-shirts to suits. You can leave your work-from-home wardrobe at home though :) Also, the conference center is very large, so we recommend attendees bring comfortable shoes! San Antonio weather is usually lovely this time of year – please check the forecast and remember that convention centers can be chilly, but also prepare for mid-80s during the day (who else is excited to feel the warm Texas sun!?). We also recommend that folks bring reusable water bottles to stay hydrated.

### **Transportation Options**

San Antonio has multiple rideshare options available, including Lyft, Uber, and Wingz. For those who may want to use traditional cab services, cab fare is approximately \$25 from the Airport to the Downtown area.

For those that may want to utilize public transport, there is a bus system in San Antonio. Route 5 to downtown departs from the Lower Roadway (Arrivals/Baggage Level in Terminal A and B). Fares are \$1.30, which you can pay with cash or the via app.

**Parking:** There is a convention center parking garage that has a \$10 daily rate and overnight parking available 41 Bowie Street. This is likely the most affordable option for attendees that need to park during the conference. Note - there are no in and out privileges for this garage. Please reference the map on the following page for more parking options.



# Public Parking Near Convention Center

Parking Garage	Address	Max Daily Rate	Capacity	ADA
1. Grand Hyatt San Antonio Hotel	600 E Market St.	\$40	682	15
2. Convention Center Garage	41 Bowie St.	\$10	364	16
3. Shops at Rivercenter Garage	849 E. Commerce St.	\$30	730	20
4. Riverbend Garage	400 E. Commerce St.	\$25	500	8
5. Market Street Garage	421 W. Market St.	\$25	597	5
6. Conv. Sports Fac. Lot 1 & 2 (No Overnight Parking)	637 S. Tower of the Americas Way	\$30	298	11

