

## **iBUG Today**

Empowering the Blind Through Accessible Technology Training

### **Who We Are**

iBUG Today, Inc. is a non-profit organization providing free training services of the accessibility features of Apple and other devices to the blind and visually impaired community. This training has cleared new pathways for the visually impaired to be more productive, consume online content, stay connected through social media and have fun.

iBUG (iBlind Users Group) endeavors to transform the blind community through accessible technology so they can live extraordinary lives full of independence, productivity, communication and social integration in a world where everything is within the realm of possibility.

### **Our Mission**

Promote the individual independence, social integration, and educational development of the blind and visually impaired community through accessible technology.

### **How We Got Started**

iBUG was founded in May 2011 by Michael McCulloch after conducting an iPhone workshop at the Houston Area Visually Impaired Network sponsored "Insight Expo" held in March 2011. During the workshop, attendees expressed an interest in forming a users' group to continue developing their iDevice accessibility skills and proficiency.

### **Our Technology Training**

1. iBUG/Apple Workshop – In-person workshop held monthly on the fourth Saturday (2:00-4:00 PM) at the Apple Store Highland Village. This is a formal presentation about current Apple-related news, accessible technology features of built-in iPhone apps and third-party apps useful to the blind and visually impaired community.
2. iBUG Buzz – Informal Q&A help session by conference call every Monday night (7:30-9:30 PM). The goal is to provide an open forum to help the blind community learn accessible technology skills for using their iPhones, iPads, Apple TVs, Apple Watches, and other Apple devices.
3. iBUG Café – In-person meeting held monthly on the second Sunday (4:00-6:00 PM) at a local restaurant. The meeting is a formal "deep-dive" presentation of iPhone apps that will enable and enhance the blind person's ability to be successful in their everyday living environment.  
JumpStart Mentoring Program – Twelve week program that provides iPhone accessible technology training to the blind community. An advanced iBUG member is matched with a new user to help get them up and running as quickly as possible in using the iPhone.
4. Android Insider – Training session by conference call that meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday (7:30-9:00 PM). This training is designed to help blind users learn accessible technology skills for Android devices.

## **Our Social Integration Programs**

1. VILA is the iBUG Book Club which meets the second Thursday of each month (6:30-7:30 PM). The group discusses an assigned book. This group meets in person at a local restaurant. This provides a setting for the group to learn appropriate socialization skills.
2. Trekkie Talk meets via conference call the first and third Thursdays of each month (8:00-9:00 PM) to discuss an assigned episode of Star Trek. This allows the blind community to interact with one another on social topics.
3. iBUG Best: Exploring Paths to Personal Growth and Social Development is a quarterly workshop that helps the blind community gain personal insight and provides independent living skills necessary to live productively in society.

## **iBUG Annual Events**

1. iBUG Go Texan BBQ Fundraiser – BBQ luncheon held during the Houston Rodeo season. Features of the event include live country entertainment, Mr. & Ms. Best Western Wear contest, children’s activities, auctions and line-dancing.
2. iBUG Technology Day – Expo held in May to highlight new accessible technology, vendors, workshops and discussion panels. iBUG partners and sponsors are also recognized.
3. iBUG Summer Concert – Fundraiser held in August featuring local blind and visually impaired musical talent.
4. iBUG Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – End-of-year dinner recognizing the volunteers who have provided their time and talents in helping iBUG operate effectively.

## **iBUG Social Activities**

1. Art Museum Tours
2. Science Museum Touch Tours
3. Plays and Musicals Touch Tours
4. Rodeo Touch Tours
5. ReelAbilities Arts and Film Festival
6. Santa’s Wonderland and other holiday venues
7. Sports and recreational activities

**For additional information or to get on the iBUG mailing list, please visit our website:**

[www.ibugtoday.com](http://www.ibugtoday.com)

### **Social Media:**

facebook.com/ibugtoday

facebook.com/groups/ibugtoday

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