

## **Transcription: Art installations podcast**

Welcome to the Immune Deficiency Foundation podcast. On this episode, Tammy Black and Elizabeth Ferguson, the organization's chief communications officer and director of events, discuss the interactive art installations that will be featured at this year's national conference. To see and help create these one of a kind pieces in person, you can join us June twenty fifth through twenty seventh in San Antonio. Visit [primaryimmune.org/conference](http://primaryimmune.org/conference) to register now.

**Tammy Black:** Hi. I'm Tammy Black, and I'm the chief communications officer at the Immune Deficiency Foundation.

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** Hi, everyone. I'm Elizabeth Ferguson, and I'm the Director of Events here at The Immune Deficiency Foundation.

**Tammy Black:** Thank you, Elizabeth. We are today going to talk about the twenty twenty six National Conference, and I'm so glad you're here with me to do it, Elizabeth.

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** Yeah. I'm really excited to be here as well. I want to talk about all the different and exciting things we're going to be offering at the twenty twenty six National Conference this year and all of the different art aspects that we've incorporated this year that might be interesting to everyone out there.

**Tammy Black:** Cool. I think one of the first things that people probably really wanna know is this year has a really special theme. Do you wanna talk a little bit about that?

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** Absolutely. So this year, our theme is Mosaic. Every piece adds strength. And we just wanna reiterate to everyone out there that, you know, every piece matters, every story adds strength and, you know, together our community, we create something unbreakable. You know, every challenge milestone and all those connections adds, you know, depth to our shared foundation.

**Tammy Black:** That's amazing. I know that when we were planning this, you know, we have lots and lots of people on the committee who help plan this and members of the community who give us feedback. And I know that everybody who has reached out is really excited about the theme this year. Why don't we tell everybody a little bit about what we plan on offering at the conference this year? I know that particularly the dinner on Friday night is gonna be very different than our activities that we had in twenty twenty four. I'll start that a little bit. In twenty twenty four, we have the world premiere of our documentary film *Compromised*. Which was kind of the highlight and the theme of the entire conference in twenty twenty four. And this year, we're working on a new documentary film and it's called *Vessels*. And it's going to explore the way in which people use art to get

through their hardest and their worst and their darkest days and will profile members of our community.

But what we wanted to do is make it more than just profiles of certain individuals and really have shared collective art experience at the conference. And that's what inspired the mosaic theme, but we also wanted to really have it be an experiential experience at the conference itself. So do you wanna talk a little bit about how we've put together those interactive installations?

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** Absolutely. So during the Friday evening dinner. It is a little bit different because we're gonna have some interactive stations that everyone can have some fun. You know, we're gonna have mosaic tile making. That's just for the Friday evening dinner.

During the entire conference, we're also going to be offering five different interactive art stations, I guess, you could call them. Tammy, do you wanna talk about this?

**Tammy Black:** Sure. This is the thing I'm most excited about for the conference. The first one we have is we have a giant community mural where it is really essentially just like the biggest paint by number you can imagine. And people throughout the conference, if you need a few minutes or just a break between sessions, you can pick up a paintbrush and a little tiny tube of paint for a particular color, and we will collectively all thousand plus of us will be painting this giant mural together. So that one's gonna be really fun.

We also are going to have a sonic installation And what that essentially means is that people can hear what PI sounds like through headsets. We have been collecting feedback from the community for the entire year so far, and we can share a link to that form now because it's still live. And we've asked people to tell us a word that they use when the first word they think of when they try to explain their experience with primary immunodeficiency. And we are turning that into an audio word cloud that people can actually listen to through headsets. I think it's gonna be a really moving experience.

We also are gonna have a missed moments display and people can add a colored tiles, and they will represent the days of school, work, or time in the hospital that they've spent so that those individual losses can come together into a powerful collective statement. We'll have a treatment collage, which really will look like a giant lit watercolor to really show all the different ways and experiences that we have all had in our PI journey. And then there is a gallery display for the three artists who will be appearing in the documentary. Miles, a young man with SCID, Susanna, a woman with CGD, And also, Ironmouse, who is a beloved member of our community with CVID, will all have artwork on display at the gallery display. And then, also, we will have five very large canvases that have that traveled the country in twenty twenty five at our various events.

And our community drew pictures, wrote messages of encouragement. One of them is a bit

of a graffiti wall, and so there will be that art display as well. And I'm really excited about it. We

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** that sounds like a lot of exciting and very colorful things going on.

**Tammy Black:** It's a lot going on. And the thing that's amazing to me is that we wanted to get the the kind of feedback and the displays themselves started, so we didn't start at ground zero at the beginning of the conference. So we have a survey that people can fill out, and it's still live for a couple more weeks. For people to tell us how many days of school or work they've missed or how much time they've spent in the hospital since twenty twenty. So just in the last five plus years, And thus far, we've had a hundred and ninety people take it.

And I can't believe that this is this is insane to me, but those hundred and ninety people in just five years have missed sixty nine thousand seven hundred and eighty five days of work. Wow. They've missed almost six thousand days of school, and they've spent more than five thousand days in the hospital. And I think the the impact of being able to see that in front of our eyes is gonna be really, really powerful.

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** Absolutely. And you know what, they're not gonna miss? Being on-site and helping add to these numbers and see this interactive collage come to life.

**Tammy Black:** Absolutely. We're really, really excited about it. And there's there's so much more happening at the conference too. Like, this is just one small piece. Right? On top of the almost forty sessions we have. We also have some shorter sessions. We're calling spotlight sessions in the exhibit hall. So I think we're really leaning in on the interactive and the participation and that theme of mosaic where everybody is a piece of what's coming together at this event. And I can't wait.

**Elizabeth Ferguson:** Yeah. I love that. We can't wait to see everyone there.