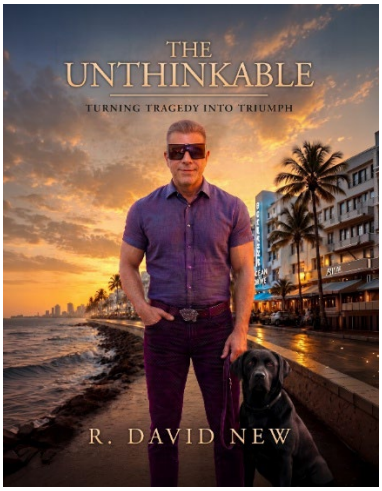

R. David New

Inspirational Speaker
Author
Disability Advocate
Accessibility & Inclusion Leader

Turning Tragedy into Triumph: A Story of Resilience, Reinvention, and the Power of Possibility

Now Accepting Speaking Engagements, Keynote Presentations, Panel Discussions, and Media Interviews.

What happens when everything you know about your life changes in an instant?

How do you find the strength to rebuild when the future you imagined disappears?

R. David New knows firsthand.

After receiving an AIDS diagnosis, David experienced a devastating series of medical complications that left him paralyzed, temporarily deaf, and permanently blind. What followed was an extraordinary journey of rehabilitation, determination, and personal transformation.

Rather than allowing these challenges to define his limitations, David transformed his experiences into a powerful mission of advocacy, accessibility, and inclusion.

Today, he is an author, nonprofit founder, arts leader, podcast host, and passionate advocate for people with disabilities.

Through his compelling personal story, David inspires audiences to reconsider what is possible when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

His message is simple: Our greatest challenges can become the foundation for our greatest achievements.

Speaking Topics

David offers engaging, thought-provoking presentations tailored to the interests and needs of each audience.

1. The Unthinkable: Turning Tragedy into Triumph

Based on his memoir, *The Unthinkable: Turning Tragedy into Triumph,* David shares his remarkable journey from a life-threatening medical crisis to becoming a leader in disability advocacy and the arts.

Audiences discover how resilience, determination, and the willingness to embrace change can transform even the most difficult circumstances into opportunities for growth and purpose.

Ideal for: *Corporate conferences, universities, healthcare organizations, leadership events, and motivational speaking programs*.

2. Access Is Power: Rethinking Disability and Inclusion

Accessibility is not simply about complying with laws. It is about dignity, independence, opportunity, and equal participation.

Drawing on decades of personal and professional experience, David challenges audiences to rethink disability and understand the importance of creating environments where everyone can participate.

Topics include:

• Understanding disability beyond stereotypes.

• The importance of accessible technology and digital inclusion.

• Breaking down physical, social, and attitudinal barriers.

• Creating inclusive workplaces and communities.

• Moving beyond ADA compliance toward meaningful accessibility.

Ideal for: *Corporations, government agencies, universities, technology companies, and organizations committed to diversity and inclusion*.

3. Reinventing Yourself When Life Changes Everything

Sometimes life forces us to abandon the future we had planned.

David explores the emotional and practical challenges of rebuilding one's identity after profound personal loss and unexpected change.

Through humor, honesty, and deeply personal storytelling, he shares how individuals can discover new opportunities, redefine success, and find renewed purpose.

Ideal for: *Leadership conferences, personal development events, professional associations, and community organizations*.

4. The Power of the Arts: Creating a Culture of Inclusion

As Founder and Artistic Director of the South Beach Jazz Festival, David has demonstrated how music and the performing arts can bring communities together while advancing accessibility.

He discusses the importance of making cultural experiences accessible to people with disabilities and how inclusion can inspire creativity, innovation, and stronger communities.

Ideal for: *Arts organizations, museums, performing arts centers, cultural conferences, universities, and nonprofit organizations*.

5. Living With HIV: Breaking Stigma and Finding Purpose

Drawing from his personal experience, David speaks candidly about living with HIV, confronting stigma, surviving life-threatening illness, and building a meaningful life beyond diagnosis.

His story encourages greater compassion, understanding, and awareness while challenging misconceptions about HIV and disability.

Ideal for: *Healthcare conferences, medical schools, HIV/AIDS organizations, LGBTQ+ organizations, and community health programs*.

About R. David New



R. David New
Author, Inspirational Speaker, Disability Advocate
Founder & President, Power Access, Inc.
Founder & Artistic Director, South Beach Jazz Festival
Host, *Access Granted with R. David New*
The Unthinkable: Turning Tragedy into Triumph

R. David New is an author, inspirational speaker, disability rights advocate, and nonprofit executive based in Miami Beach, Florida.

He is the Founder and President of Power Access, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

He is also the Founder and Artistic Director of the South Beach Jazz Festival, an annual cultural event that celebrates exceptional jazz while promoting accessibility in the performing arts.

For over 15 years, David has served on the City of Miami Beach Disability Access Committee, advocating for improvements in accessibility, transportation, public facilities, and community inclusion.

David is the host of *Access Granted with R. David New,* a podcast featuring conversations about accessibility, disability, the arts, and the individuals working to create a more inclusive world.

His memoir, *The Unthinkable: Turning Tragedy into Triumph,* chronicles his extraordinary journey through illness, disability, rehabilitation, and reinvention.

David brings authenticity, humor, passion, and a distinctive perspective to every speaking engagement.

Available for Speaking Engagements

David welcomes invitations for:

- Keynote speeches and motivational presentations.
- Corporate conferences and leadership retreats.
- University lectures and educational programs.

- Disability awareness and accessibility training.
- Healthcare and medical conferences.
- LGBTQ+ community events.
- Arts and cultural conferences.
- Nonprofit fundraising events and galas.
- Panel discussions and moderated conversations.
- Book readings, signings, and author Q&A sessions.
- Podcast, television, and radio interviews.
- Virtual presentations and webinars.

Presentations can be customized to meet the objectives of your organization or event.

Available for in-person engagements nationally and internationally, as well as virtual presentations.

Book R. David New for Your Next Event

Bring a Powerful Story of Resilience, Accessibility, and Human Potential to Your Audience

Whether you are organizing a corporate conference, university program, nonprofit event, or community gathering, R. David New delivers an unforgettable message about overcoming adversity, embracing change, and discovering the power of possibility.

Speaking inquiries, appearance requests, and booking opportunities are welcome.

https://rdavidnew.com/public-speaking-engagements/

Let's Create an Event That Inspires Change!