

Case Study

client: bnia.org

the baltimore neighborhood indicators alliance (bnia) is an alliance of partner organizations working citywide to build an accessible neighborhood information system that enhances community improvement efforts by recording and telling the complete story about our neighborhoods.

we developed an accessible end-to-end full life cycle solution for the re-structure, development, creative design, quality assurance and hosting of the web site.

non-accessible bnia.org



accessible bnia.org



powered by nete

2325 dulles corner boulevarde, suite 500 herndon, virginia 20171, usa
phone: 703.788.6606; facsimile: 703.995.4721; mailto:info@accessibility.com

cascading style sheet (css):

for the current web site, cascading style sheets (css) was not being used. css is a great technology for separating content and its structure from presentation. css has now been provided to control the layout and presentation of the web site. w3c has validated this css.

structural navigation:

maintained a consistent organization throughout the site to facilitate navigation by all users.

non-frame web site:

restructured into a non-framed web site. the current site had frames, which required the use of mouse very often for vertical scrolling.

home page link:

the current site's home page could not be directly reached from any of the internal pages. added the home page link on top of all the internal pages and also the logo at the bottom of the internal pages, when clicked now goes to the home page so that users can get the home page from any page.

site map link:

on the current site, the site map link was only provided from the "about bnia" section. added the site map link on the bottom of all the pages so that users can get the site map from any page.

map images:

on the current site, the map images were being used with incorrect size attributes i.e. very big images and smaller size attributes. the map images were reworked upon and correct size attributes provided.

text images:

replaced text images with text, wherever necessary so that screen readers are able to read the text.

header images:

to maintain consistency of the web site, have provided header images to all the pages.

mouse-over effect:

the current site had displayed images of the main menus of the home page and the internal pages with mouse-over effect, which can be distracting to some users and thus making it impossible to focus on content. moreover, blind users will not know about the existence of the mouse-over effect. so, the use of mouse-over effect for images throughout the site has been removed.

keyboard tabs:

created a logical tab order through links, form controls, and objects.

images with valid alternative text:

provided alternative meaningful text for all images so that screen readers or non-graphical browsers can read the text provided. computers cannot interpret images and present them in a meaningful alternate format; alternative text gives the computer something to present to the user. this is important for users who have turned off image loading in their web browsers, those using text-based browsers like linux, and people who have visual or cognitive disabilities and require the use of a screen reader to read the contents of the screen. similarly, provided alternative text for all hyperlinks.

language of text:

identified the language of the text on the pages. this helps the computer or assistive device to present information in a way that is appropriate to the language and also helps automatic translation software that translates text from one language into another.

layout/graphics:

made sure that the text and graphics stand out against their backgrounds. used colors in proper foreground/background combinations. the current site's home page contained only images. this is now changed using a background color.

document type declaration:

added a doctype declaration on all the html documents, which is a requirement of w3c.

easy accessible links:

for all lengthy pages, provided "back to top" links and also provided "back" link on the top of all pages, so that users can go back to the previous page from any page.

new windows:

the current site had 70 pct of the internal pages opening up in new browser windows. most of the internal links of the site are now made to open in the same browser window. for the pages opening up in new browser windows, provided text in the title attribute of the links to make users aware that these pages will open in a new browser window so that they know before hand.

acrobat reader link:

as pdf documents are provided on the site, provided link to acrobat site for downloading acrobat reader for users who do not have acrobat reader.

title of pages:

provided relevant titles for all the pages.

document with meta tags:

many internet search engines compare words entered in search forms with words found in the meta tags of html pages. if a match is found, the html page is included in the search results. have created meta tags using relevant description and keywords and added on all the html pages.

browser/resolution compatibility:

the web site is compatible to internet explorer 5.5/6.0 and netscape 4.7/6.0 and in all the resolutions.

bobby:

the site is validated by bobby for accessibility.