



The Smith-Kettlewell
Eye Research Institute



CALIFORNIA
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VISIONWALK



FOUNDATION
FIGHTING
BLINDNESS

Blindness and Low Vision Support Group May 20th Recap

Recap

We opened the meeting with peer support discussion which centered around task lighting and strategies to view sheet music more easily. We took a deep dive into some of the most exciting assistive technology showcased at this year's CSUN conference. We wrapped up with a preview of the Bay Area VisionWalk from the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

What we covered:

- Lighting and low vision tools for everyday use
- Apps and software — Seeing AI, Dancing Dots, and more
- Wearable technology from CSUN 2025
- Websites and digital resources worth bookmarking
- VisionWalk preview and what to expect

Scroll down to read more about each topic!

LIGHTING AND EVERYDAY TOOLS

During the peer discussion opening the Larry light and the Vision Edge were both mentioned as small light sources folks could use with them in the community and with specific near detail tasks.

The Larry Light is a small, pen-sized flashlight that's strong enough to illuminate sheet music or a book without being bulky. The Vision Edge clip-on is a light that attaches directly to your glasses and shines on whatever you're facing — useful for reading hands-free. There are a few versions available at different price points.

For sheet music specifically, the group also discussed options like enlarged print and projecting music onto a wall. Dancing Dots came up as a software option worth exploring for musicians. Annemarie will be bringing LS & S catalogues next meeting. We can look at more devices together and you can take a catalogue home to explore with your loved ones.

After the meeting, one group member shared a YouTube channel called The Blind Life, which has videos specifically around low vision and music — including "How To Read Sheet Music With Low Vision" and other relevant topics. It's a great resource to explore on your own time: One app highlighted in their videos is forScore, a digital sheet music reader designed with accessibility in mind.

Larry Light

YouTube Video

forScore App

APPS AND SOFTWARE

Seeing AI came up again — it's a Microsoft app that reads text aloud, identifies currency, and can describe your surroundings. If you haven't tried it yet, it's worth a look.

Dancing Dots was also mentioned as a resource specifically for making sheet music more accessible. We'll explore this more in a future meeting.

WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY FROM CSUN

The CSUN Assistive Technology Conference — held this year March 9–13 in Anaheim — is the largest of its kind in the world. A big part of our meeting was dedicated to sharing highlights from this year's show, particularly around wearable devices.

A few that stood out:

- TAMI — smart glasses focused on detecting upper-body obstacles, filling a gap that the white cane can't always cover.
- ViXion — glasses with automatic focus adjustment for near and far distances, plus image stabilization.
- ATARO by BOVLIFE — designed to help with night blindness and narrowing of the visual field; allows zoom control and provides color vision in low light.
- eSight Go — captures live video and displays it on two HD OLED screens, with zoom, contrast, and color filter controls.
- ALEye + HapWare — a watch-like wearable that pairs with Meta Ray-Ban glasses and translates visual cues (like someone waving) into haptic feedback.

- Cadence braille tablet — a high-refresh-rate braille display that can be combined with others for a larger surface. Around \$3,500. By Touchable / Tactile Engineering.
- LumiVision — uses your existing smartphone camera as a wearable magnifier, with image stabilization built in.
- Meta Ray-Bans — these have deep integration with Be My Eyes for hands-free connection to sighted volunteers, Meta AI for describing your surroundings, and a conversation focus feature that filters background noise.

Worth noting: some of these aren't widely available yet, and prices vary. But the trend is clear — as more companies enter this space, costs come down and designs improve!

WEBSITES AND DIGITAL RESOURCES

Two websites from CSUN were worth mentioning:

The Learn and Try tool is a searchable database of accessibility tools. You can filter by category — free tools, reading aids, and more — and each result includes a website and a demo video. It's a great way to explore what's out there on your own time.

Audiom is a web-based map platform that works through visual, audio, tactile, and text-based interaction. It's designed to be embedded into websites and apps so that maps are accessible to everyone.

[Learn And Try Tool](#)

[Audiom](#)

VISIONWALK

Vivian from the Foundation Fighting Blindness joined us to share an overview of the Bay Area VisionWalk. The walk took place June 6 at the Golden Gate Park Music Concourse Bandshell — and it was an awesome event.

If you didn't make it this year, we hope to see you at the next one!

Upcoming Meeting:

Topic: What is Orientation and Mobility (O&M), and How Can it Help Me?

Guest speaker: Gina di Grazia, OTR/L

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Format: In-Person with virtual component (Zoom)

[Support Group Website](#)

Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Insti | Smith-Kettlewell Institute 2318 Fillmore Street | San Francisco, CA 94115 US

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