Speaker 1:

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum presents Lydia X. Z. Brown, Center for Democracy and Technology.

Lydia X. Z. Brown:

I always begin in the same place when I'm asked for recommendations for people who have more access to resources or decision making and funders fit that bill, and that place is by reminding that change never comes without an actual seeding of power and redistribution of resources. We can talk all day long about what it means to fund disabled people. We're even going to talk about funding multi marginalized, disabled people, but if multiple marginalized, disabled people are not in a significant decision making role, then it doesn't matter if some of our organizations or projects are also receiving funding, because it means that we're also going to continue to see re-entrenchment of research dollars going into cures for all of our disabilities.

Lydia X. Z. Brown:

As an autistic person, that's literally been my reality for decades, is witnessing the vast majority of federal research dollars for autism going into finding the cause of autism so that a cure could be identified and that if a cure is identified, then we could prevent autism from ever coming into existence again. That is, to prevent people like me, my partner, and most of my friends from ever existing again in the future because of our ableist ideas of what kinds of people ought to exist.

Speaker 1:

To continue your learning journey, visit DisabilityPhilanthropy.org.