

BACKGROUND

The Tualatin Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Advisory Committee was established by Ordinance 1473-23, adopted by Tualatin City Council on April 10, 2023, and incorporated into the Tualatin Municipal Code as Chapter 11-11. The enabling ordinance requires the IDEA Committee to file an annual report with the Council including a summary of the committee's activities during the preceding year and other matters and recommendations the committee deems appropriate.

Current members of the IDEA Committee are Sunni Armstrong, Kolini Fusitu'a, Chris Paul (co-chair), Gerry Preston, and Erinn Stimson, plus newly appointed members Samantha Peterson, Maia Schroeder, Emily Baker, Laura Engberson, and Nina Ichikawa (student). Former members included Destini Barajas, Angelica Butler, Winnie Lo, Rebekah Morgan, BJ Park (co-chair), and Cosi Slider (student). Christen Sacco serves as the City Council Liaison, and staff support is provided by Jerianne Thompson, Library Director and Equity & Inclusion Officer, and Betsy Rodriguez Ruef, Community Engagement Coordinator.

ROLES OF THE COMMITTEE

per Tualatin Municipal Code, Chapter 11-11:

1. Provide advice to the City Council by conducting research, including engaging with a range of community members and groups, to identify areas of opportunity to increase equity, inclusion, diversity, access, and belonging in Tualatin.
2. Recommend goals, objectives, and methods for the City to use to measure progress towards achieving greater equity, inclusion, diversity, access, and belonging in Tualatin.
3. Review practices and procedures to make recommendations on how to remove or lessen barriers to public participation in City government.
4. Recommend policies and procedures for the City to further empower people to connect with City elected and appointed officials and staff.
5. Make recommendations to the City Council regarding issues of equity, inclusion, diversity, access, and belonging.

ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The IDEA Advisory Committee in 2025 developed and adopted a workplan with three focus areas: Culture & Identity, Community Engagement, and Housing & Public Safety. (See attachments.) The IDEA Committee took a variety of actions during the past year in support of the powers and duties appointed by Council.

Culture & Identity

Committee members participated in the launch of the Core Opportunity Reinvestment Area in downtown Tualatin. Economic Development Manager Sid Sin gave a presentation

about the project, and committee members provided feedback on opportunities related to inclusion, diversity, equity, access, and belonging. Two IDEA Committee members participated in the Community Advisory Committee for CORA, sharing perspectives to inform the project work and providing updates to the IDEA Committee.

Committee members also received a presentation from Parks & Recreation Director Dustin Schull, providing feedback on opportunities to collaborate and improve access and inclusion within Tualatin's parks and recreation programs. The Committee submitted a letter of support for the City's grant application to fund installation of universal playground equipment at Tualatin Community Park.

The IDEA Committee reviewed and recommended adoption of two proclamations in 2025: Transgender Day of Visibility and Pride Month.

Committee members learned about current regulations regarding food carts in Tualatin and discussed desired potential changes. The IDEA Committee plans to be active participants in future community engagement on this topic.

Community Engagement

Committee members conducted outreach at two 2025 events: ¡Viva Tualatin! and the Concert Celebrating Pride, connecting with community members to learn about what's important to residents. Committee members also participated in the community-led aspects of the Concert Celebrating Pride, assisting with planning and logistics.

Committee members provided feedback about the City's proposed Community Engagement Incentives policy, to support access, inclusion, and equity of opportunity. Committee members also gave recommendations for revisions to the City's Community Resources webpage. City staff and the City Council liaison provided regular updates to the committee about the City's community engagement efforts, and committee members engaged in discussions and shared perspectives about these activities.

Committee members learned about prior community efforts to develop a statement of acknowledgement for native lands and people. They considered recommendations from the City Council-appointed task force, as well as recommendations from Paradigm Public Affairs, the consultant who supported the Committee's launch, and discussed a proposal from a committee member for a different approach to honor the connections between native people and Tualatin, focusing on the Tualatin River. This topic remains under discussion; there is not consensus yet on what approach to recommend.

Housing & Public Safety

Committee members engaged in discussions about the changing regional landscape within public agencies regarding equity and inclusion. Committee members heard updates

from City-County Homeless Liaison Megan Cohen and discussed ideas related to supportive housing services and homelessness.

In addition, throughout the year, members of the IDEA Committee provided networking and support to each other, demonstrating a commitment to ensuring that Tualatin is a place where everyone is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. As Co-Chair Chris Paul said to the IDEA Committee at the beginning of the year, marginalized groups “often face heightened risks of discrimination, exclusion, or reduced access to essential resources. Whether through systemic barriers, policy changes, or societal attitudes, these challenges call for our collective effort to advocate, educate, and create safe and equitable spaces. By addressing these issues together, we can ensure that our community continues to value and uplift all of its members.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

The IDEA Committee makes the following recommendations to City Council:

- Incorporate accessible public transportation, affordable housing, and community gathering places as part of the CORA downtown revitalization plan.
- When considering changes to food cart regulations in Tualatin, prioritize community members’ experiences and ways to encourage community gathering through food cart pods in different parts of town. Prioritize a diverse array of multicultural foods and participation by local vendors.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2026

The IDEA Committee plans to focus on the following priorities in the coming year:

- *Culture & Identity*
 - Participate in community engagement related to food cart regulations, and advocate for amenities that support community gathering and cultural activities.
 - Continue engagement with CORA process, and explore connections between downtown and community identity, arts and culture, housing, and gathering places.
- *Community Engagement*
 - Connect with other City Advisory Committees and Community Involvement Organizations to explore intersecting issues of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.
 - Host an open house for community groups to share ideas on raising awareness among residents about resources available and how to access them.
 - Increase attendance at community outreach events to learn from residents and to share resource information.
 - Continue learning about local indigenous populations and support the City building a relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, to inform future recommended actions.

- *Housing & Public Safety*
 - Learn about Tualatin Police Department's community-based approach to public safety, including data collected and local safety concerns.
 - Support cultivation of community by engaging on policy issues that impact vulnerable Tualatin residents, such as food insecurity and supportive housing services.

IDEA Committee Workplan - 2026



Focus Area: Culture & Identity

Supporting City Council's vision of safe and vibrant gathering places throughout the city that build and celebrate our whole community.

- A. Food Carts / Food Cart Pods
 - a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin has more access to a variety of dining experiences and gathering places with food through increased food cart locations.
 - b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about the city's role in managing food carts, including legal issues and development code, and how IDEA Committee can advocate for change.
 - ii. Explore connections between food carts and community inclusion, diversity and cultural connections, economic development and small business support.
 - iii. Advocate for amenities accompanying food cart pods, such as covered eating areas or performance spaces.
 - c. Timing: Planning Department to begin work in 2026.
- B. Urban Renewal
 - a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin has greater access to gathering places, with sites supporting arts, culture, and community identity, through a revitalized downtown.
 - b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about the city's urban renewal plans for downtown.
 - ii. Explore connections between the city's downtown and community identity, arts and culture, housing, gathering places.
 - c. Timing: Planning work began Spring 2025 for downtown area, continues through 2026.
- C. Gathering Places
 - a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin has increased availability of accessible and inclusive gathering places with amenities supporting community needs.
 - b. Potential actions
 - i. Connect with other city advisory committees that inform the city's support of gathering places. (ex: TPARK, TAAC)
 - ii. Find ways to support increased accessible and inclusive spaces within the city.
 - iii. Learn more about facility rental options and processes, rental fees, and recreation fees.
 - iv. Investigate community interest in a community center.
 - c. Timing: Parks and Recreation Department actively developing new spaces through the parks bond measure.

Focus Area: Community Engagement

Supporting City Council's vision of a connected, informed, and civically engaged community that embraces our city's diversity.

A. Community Groups

- a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin residents feel more connected and supported in addressing needs locally.
- b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about and from other community groups and share ideas on increasing community awareness. (ex: CERT / Neighborhood Ready, CIOs)
 - ii. Explore ways to increase community member's awareness of local groups and resources.
 - iii. Explore ways to advocate for community members facing bias or discrimination, including but not limited to Latino, Asian-American and Pacific Islander, African American, and LGBTQ residents.
- c. Timing: Ongoing.

B. Public Participation

- a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin residents are more engaged with local elected officials and city staff.
- b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about ways community members can be involved and engaged in public affairs.
 - ii. Explore ways to remove or reduce barriers to public participation.
 - iii. Consider hosting listening sessions to engage with residents and community workshops to educate community members about how the City operates, Council functions, city committees, etc. Develop methods to support togetherness for IDEA Advisory Committee members, including social gatherings and field trips to visit sites relevant to committee topics
- c. Timing: Ongoing.

C. Land Acknowledgement

- a. Proposed outcome: The IDEA Committee recommends an approach to acknowledging native land and people in the City of Tualatin.
- b. Potential actions
 - i. Discuss and build consensus for actionable steps to pair with a proposed acknowledgement statement
 - ii. Discuss and build consensus for how to measure the impact and effectiveness of the acknowledgement
- c. Timing: Spring 2026

Focus Area: Housing & Public Safety

Supporting City Council's vision of safe, desirable, welcoming, and sustainable neighborhoods with housing that is available to all.

A. Housing

- a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin offers a greater range of housing and rental choices, including more affordable housing.
- b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about the city's role in supporting affordable housing (including projects in development) and addressing affordability of housing (including rentals).
 - ii. Learn about local homeless populations, availability of services in our area, and the role of the Homeless Services System City Liaison.
 - iii. Suggest ways to reduce barriers for community members seeking resources about housing.
 - iv. Advocate for additional local services to help residents struggling with housing, such as a safe parking program.
- c. Timing: Ongoing.

B. Public Safety

- a. Proposed outcome: Tualatin is known for being a safe and welcoming place to live.
- b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about Tualatin Police's community-based approach, data about local policing, and local safety concerns.
 - ii. Explore ways to build community awareness and support rebuilding trust between the community and local police.
- c. Timing: Ongoing.

C. Cultivating Community

- a. Proposed outcome: The IDEA Committee advocates for partnerships to support local community needs.
- b. Potential actions
 - i. Learn about options for sustainability of funding for service providers
 - ii. Learn about opportunities for mutual aid (ex: food insecurity) within the community
- c. Timing: Ongoing.