



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN

May 9, 2022

CITY OF WILSONVILLE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee was established at the direction of the Wilsonville City Council in January 2021. On May 3, 2021, the Council passed Resolution 2893, adopting the charter & bylaws. On May 17, 13 community members were appointed, including:

- Imran Haider (Chair)
- Jay Edwards (Vice Chair)
- Malak El Manhawym
- Luis Gonzalez
- Tracy Hester
- Diane Imel
- Santiago Landazuri
- Camryn Lau
- Joni McNeil
- Erika Pham
- Fay Gyapong-Porter
- Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom
- Sudeep Taksali

The Committee is establishing the City's DEI Strategy, and working to identify and address that which excludes or marginalizes anyone on any basis, including and not limited to their age, gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, religion or abilities. Initially, the Committee's work is being guided by de la Cruz, who has worked extensively with several local municipalities to identify structural barriers and yield more inclusive cities.

Committee members serve as a direct liaison between the community and City Hall, amplifying the voices and addressing the needs of people traditionally under-represented or excluded in government.

A DEI Committee was a recommendation made by the community at a listening session with the City Council in December 2020. As the Committee establishes the City's DEI Strategy, it may seek to address additional recommendations brought forth at the listening session. These include:

- Increased Representation, Diversity on City Committees
- Consistent City communication to brand Wilsonville as an inclusive community
- More Inclusive Cultural Events, Celebrations & Holiday Recognitions
- Education to the Broader Community (how to address bias, micro-aggressions, etc.)
- Opportunities for DEI Advocates to Network and Work More Efficiently Together

On December 14, 2021, the DEI Committee established their Mission and Vision. Chair Haider presented the Mission and Vision to the City Council on December 20, 2021.

## Mission

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee serves to connect Wilsonville to the diverse perspectives and lived experiences of its people. We advocate for equitable access and opportunity for every community member. We identify barriers to participation and inclusion, and pursue programs, policies, partnerships and ideas that remove those barriers.

## Vision

The Wilsonville Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is a beacon of connectivity, empowered to take thoughtful action to ensure sustained community collaboration to foster a climate of inclusion and belonging for all residents in and visitors to Wilsonville.

The DEI Committee developed their strategic plan during the first half of 2022. They gathered community input from online surveys and at three focus groups during April and May 2022 with the assistance of consultant Bill de la Cruz.

## **Objective 1: Community Engagement**

Creating a voice for underrepresented people in Wilsonville & effectively engaging the community

Assumptions:

- Including student voices is important
- Exhibiting transparency in the gathering and sharing of information
- Listening and developing priorities from the information we gather
- Connecting with local businesses and collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce

*Strategic Actions:*

- *Lecture series: Develop community conversations on DEI-related topics (i.e. racism, sexism, ageism, classism, heterosexism, access, prejudice, discrimination, bias, naming etc.); address topics with sensitivity, conviction, and compassion. Collaborate with City boards and commissions, community, school district, other cities.*
- *Juneteenth as a springboard to develop new multi-cultural events. Collaborate with Juneteenth Subcommittee, community.*
- *Identify and compile best practices among City departments; develop consistency.*
- *Provide recommendations on meeting and event accessibility, as well as ADA enforcement*
- *Develop partnerships, collaboration with businesses*

Outcomes: Provide events, educational opportunities and recommendations for community members and city departments.

## **Objective 2: Communications & Education**

Increase social media impact by using best practices already occurring within the city of Wilsonville and sharing community voices.

Assumption:

- Increase social media impact by using best practices already occurring within the City of Wilsonville.
- Actions speak louder than words. Actions should lead, and consistent communication is necessary to support the action.
- More Spanish-translated content is necessary
- DEI network can be expanded to include more people committed to supporting the work.
- Advertising should be inclusive.

*Strategic Actions:*

- *Provide recommendations for producing bilingual materials*
- *Engage youth to provide regular social media content (to share on City platforms)*
- *Highlight, share perspectives of community members to tie in with monthly themes. Interviews, columns (Boones Ferry Messenger)*
- *Highlight, advocate for businesses owned by marginalized people. Share their stories.*

Outcomes: People feel heard, Committee makes new connections, engages followers on social media.

### **Objective 3: Inclusive Cultural Events, Celebrations and Holiday Recognitions**

Increase inclusive community events.

*Strategic Actions:*

- *Develop a cultural calendar (highlight events, holidays, etc.)*
- *Visual representation (flags, symbols, holiday decor on City property)*
- *Work with other cities/school district to elevate, promote, support or partner in the development of cultural events (Pride, Dia de los Muertos, etc.)*
- *Collaborate with City departments (Library, Parks, etc.) and boards (Arts, Culture & Heritage, Kitakata Sister City Board, Tourism, etc.)*
- *Provide recommendations regarding existing programs, meetings, events, etc. to make them more inclusive to all community members.*

Outcomes: Inclusive representation and community events.