

# Diversity Committee Meeting – 10/14/25

The meeting began with an acknowledgment of the city's ancestral land and approval of previous meeting minutes. Leon Patton discussed his views on election fraud and the impact of political language on race relations. A member of indigenous descent countered, emphasizing the importance of land acknowledgements and the ongoing genocide of indigenous cultures. The committee discussed a community forum event on November 8, a Hispanic Heritage event with increased attendance, and a potential mural project. They also planned a ceremony for a new interpretive panel on November 8 and a town hall event on November 5. The meeting concluded with discussions on future events and committee activities.

## Action Items

- Finalize details for the November 5th community forum event and promote it to the community.
- Coordinate with Public Works to determine when the interpretive panel can be installed and communicate that to the Diversity Committee.
- Organize a celebration event for the unveiling of the interpretive panel on November 8th at 3:00 PM.
- Reach out to the Mayor to invite him to the interpretive panel celebration.
- Prepare a land acknowledgment and proclamation for Native American Heritage Month to be presented at the November 3rd City Council meeting.

## Outline

### Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chi Nguyen, at 4:33pm on October 14, 2025.
- Acknowledgement of the ancestral land of Kickapoo, Ohsheti, Sakawan, Osage, and Kansas tribes and emphasizes the importance of community inclusion.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes and Opening Remarks

- Chi did not have any opening remarks
- A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the group.
- There were no preliminary presentations.

### Public Comment

- Leon Patton introduces himself as a lifelong Republican and retired federal prosecutor, specializing in election fraud. Patton shares personal anecdotes about judicial appointments and land acknowledgements, expressing discomfort with the latter.

## **Response to Leon Patton's Comments**

- A committee member expressed her appreciation for the different perspectives and acknowledged the lack of communication across political viewpoints. The committee member discusses the importance of diverse sources of information and the need for a balanced view in reporting federal criminal cases.
- Another committee member responds to Patton's speech, emphasizing the importance of land acknowledgements and the ongoing genocide of indigenous cultures.
- Speaker 1 transitions the meeting to committee discussions and project updates, mentioning an email from Trudy Williams about a community forum event.

## **Project Updates and Future Plans**

- Chi shares details about the upcoming Environmental Justice forum, including the date, time, and the educational session on goals.
- A committee member discusses the Hispanic Heritage event, noting increased attendance and the challenges with mariachi payments.
- Another committee member mentions a potential collaboration with a muralist on an immigration-themed mural, but there are questions about costs and logistics. Committee members discussed the timing and logistics of the mural project. The Committee decided to schedule it for discussion at the next meeting.
- Staff shares updates on the interpretive panel project, including the installation of the panel and plans for a ceremony.

## **Planning for the Interpretive Panel Ceremony**

- Committee members discuss the timing and logistics of the interpretive panel ceremony, considering various dates and times. The group decides on a tentative date of November 8 for the ceremony, with plans to confirm the date with the mayor.
- Committee members suggest inviting key stakeholders, including the mayor and representatives from Parks and Recreation to the ceremony.
- The group discusses the possibility of having a call to action at the end of the event, with input from the moderator and speakers.

## **Final Discussions and Meeting Adjournment**

- Chi brings up the topic of welcoming KC, but it is decided to table the discussion for now.
- A committee member suggests focusing on kid-friendly events, such as cultural events and playdates, to educate them about their heritage.
- The committee discusses recent conversations with the Global Montessori school about potential collaboration on a cultural event.
- The group discusses the importance of language access for voters and plans to address this issue in the next meeting.

## **Meeting Schedule and Future Plans**

- Chi outlines the meeting schedule for the rest of the year, including the town hall event on November 5 and the planning meeting on December 9.
- The group discusses the possibility of holding a year-end meeting to review the 2026 agenda.
- Chi mentions the upcoming council meeting on November 3, where a land acknowledgement and proclamation for National American Indian Heritage Month will be discussed.

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting is adjourned at 5:30pm.