

News

DEI Initiatives Update - July 6, 2020



July 6, 2020

At their June 15, 2020 meeting, the Mill Valley City Council discussed a draft plan to address systemic racism and injustice in Mill Valley, based on staff research and the community feedback received. [View the Meeting, Staff Report and Correspondence here](#)

Council directed the formation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force to review and develop additional actions, investigate best practices, and make specific recommendations to Council for next steps.

Some of the suggested work of the Task Force may include:

- Consider all the suggestions and ideas from the public and other ideas raised by the Task Force and City Council.
- Develop a list of actions to make meaningful and lasting impact.
- Be transparent about the process and honest about the changes that must be made so we can all hold each other accountable for making the changes.
- Hold the City accountable to prioritize and fund continued work beyond this moment.
- Work with education, health, faith-based, non-profit community.
- Hold a Town Hall Meeting and/or a series of community workshops/conversations on making Mill Valley inclusive, welcoming, anti-racist.
- Offer opportunities for people of color to share their stories with leadership.

The City is engaging a professional facilitator to design a meaningful process for the task force including community participation.

To make progress on DEI initiatives, the following actions have taken place:

- Assigned a working group which includes Mayor McEntee, Councilmember Ossa, Acting City Manager Piombo and administrative/analyst support.
- Sent out an eNewsletter with a call for interested community members to contact us. We have received emails from over 35 people indicating interest.
- Researched and reached out to several potential facilitator candidates. The working group is seeking a facilitator with the following criteria in mind:
 - Skilled at assisting with designing the process and advising on appropriate group size
 - Experience with managing public meetings and potential conflict resolution
 - Skilled at making room for all voices
 - Ability to create opportunities for additional public input/participation
 - Define role of Task Force Chairperson
- Created a web page and email list for people interested in receiving updates. If you would like to receive updates or to find information, go to www.cityofmillvalley.org/dei
- The Arts Commission is working through several proposals, including a utility box wrap in the short-term as well as a themed Art Walk, and that the many other larger proposals are going through the Public Art Program process. The Staff Report is available for review at www.cityofmillvalley.org/dei.

Next steps

The working group has met twice and will meet again this week to discuss next steps. Many questions are still being considered, such as how many people will make up the Task Force and how they will be selected, and what kind of facilitator we will bring on to assist us.

How Can I Get Involved and Participate?

We acknowledge and thank you for your commitment to equity and justice. [Sign up to receive updates and calls to action on this topic.](#)

[Learn more here.](#)

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City of Mill Valley



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Mill Valley, CA 94941

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