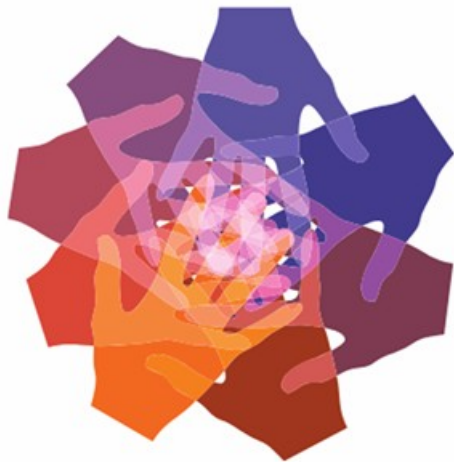


News

DEI Initiatives Update - July 30, 2021



The City of Mill Valley commits to act and encourage community action towards eliminating racial disparities, both inside government and in the community. The City Council has identified Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives as their top priority, and staff provides regular updates to the City Council and community on activities in Mill Valley and around Marin County on a regular basis.

Vandalism of "Perspectives" Artwork

On the morning of July 22, 2021, an officer with the Mill Valley Police Department was conducting extra patrol in the area of the Tamalpais High School when the officer found that the local art installation piece titled "Perspectives: Past, Present and Future" appeared to have recently been vandalized, with the wording "Black Lives Matter" on the "Present" door and "Equity" on the "Future" door sprayed with an unknown substance.

The recent vandalism follows another incident in June when the artwork was defaced. Since then, the City has worked with the artist Zoe Fry and the Mill Valley Police to increase surveillance and video monitoring.

"This racist act has harmful ripple effects across our town, especially for the people of color of our community," Mayor John McCauley said. "We unequivocally denounce and condemn the defacement of the artwork and we are committed to a thorough investigation and bringing the perpetrator to justice." [Read the entire article and view video footage here.](#)

City Council/Work Plan

- Work Plan Update Schedule: The City continues to follow a regular schedule of updates on the DEI Work Plan to Council and the community. Follow the progress on the City's [DEI Tracking Tool](#)

- At their meeting on September 20, Council will receive an update on items under the purview of the Police Department.
- At their meeting on November 15, Council will receive an update on items under the purview of the City Manager Department, Human Resources, Recreation, Arts, and Library.
- City Council Vacancy: At their meeting on Monday, August 2, Council will discuss options and direction for filling the City Council seat to be vacated by Councilmember Ossa. [Read the Staff Report here.](#)

Recreation & Arts

- DEI Art Gallery Space - On July 13, 2021, Arts Commissioners received an update on the DEI Art Gallery Space in the Aquatics & Fitness Center.
- Training - Director of Arts and Recreation Sean McGrew completed a Cultural Community Benefits training conducted by ArtChangeUS This training, according to their website, guides participants “through creative exercises aimed at unpacking complex equity issues, highlighting best practices that evolve beyond representation to create participatory equity and community benefit.”

Library

- First Wednesday - By the Light of Burning Dreams With David Talbot and Margaret Talbot - The first American Revolution was fought to secure representation and freedom from an unwanted empire, a monarchy stretching its tentacles across the ocean. But that revolution didn't win rights for everyone. That would take a series of smaller but nonetheless crucial movements, including the series of uprisings that unfolded in the 1960s and 1970s. [Learn more and register for this event.](#)
- World Literature Book Club - Does a country define the writer or does the writer define a country? Join us as we dip into the literary waters of many cultures and sample some of the best stories around. The August 17th meeting will focus on Man of My Time by Dalia Sofer. [Learn more and register for this event.](#)

Police

- Community Collaboration - Chief Navarro continues to meet regularly with the Police Working Group subcommittee of the Mill Valley Force for Racial Equity and Empowerment (MVFREE) to work on remaining Work Plan items under the purview of the Police Department.
- “Uncomfortable Conversations with Black Men” Discussion Series Continues to Build Relationships - On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, the Mill Valley Police Department hosted the second meeting of the “Uncomfortable Conversations with Black Men” series. The meeting was a continuation of the [discussion initiated earlier in May](#), which included breakout sessions aimed at understanding the culture between the two groups. Participants continued their discussion around the history between black men and law enforcement, its history of strife, mistrust, and conflict over fundamental issues. The group worked on identifying action items going forward. [Please view the complete article about this meeting here.](#)

Southern Marin Fire District/Mill Valley Fire Department

The SMFD/MVFD DEI Task Force met on July 22, 2021. Discussion topics included a review of [community data](#), which is available on the SMFD's [new website](#), an internal staff survey, the implementation of DEI Training Program for employees, SMFD policies review and hiring and recruitment.

Community Partners

- County of Marin Announces Openings - The County of Marin has announced openings on the Marin Housing Authority Board and Marin’s Child Care Commission. Please visit the [Call for Applications](#) webpage to learn more and apply for these opportunities and others in your area.
- Mill Valley Historical Society’s “Review” Magazine Focuses on Mill Valley’s Black History - “The carefully researched articles, life stories, anecdotes, overviews, and fragments of information in this issue form an illuminating but unavoidably incomplete picture limited by available documentation and prior history work. Rather than attempting to present broad-sweeping conclusions and opinions, the magazine instead presents information and evidence to the extent they are available, and focuses on the lives of people of color who came to Mill Valley throughout the 20th century. We hope that our readers, many of whom have lived in Mill Valley for decades, will find it informative to relate the magazine’s substance to their own life experiences.” ~ MVHS President Eric Macris. [Read and download the MVHS Summer 2021 “Review” Magazine](#)

Learn more:

- DEI Initiatives Tracker: Please check out this [Resource Page of City Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives](#)
- Contact us: Email us at dei@cityofmillvalley.org.
- Join our email list: [Sign up to receive DEI updates](#).

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City of Mill Valley



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Phone: (415) 388-4033

Hours: 8:00a.m. - 12:00 noon;

1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Closed Alternate Fridays

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