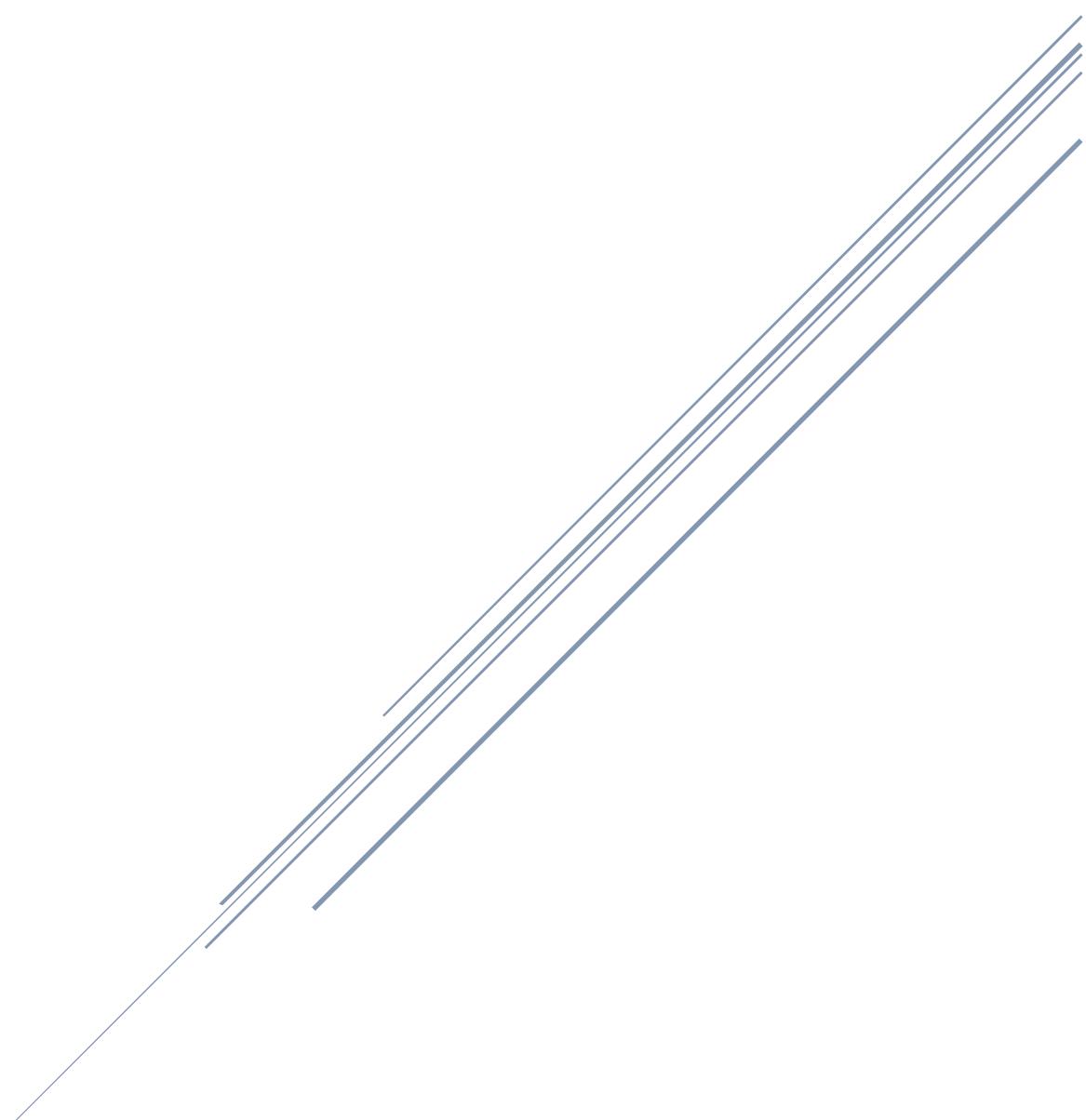


# 2018 – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Ogden Diversity Commission



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## *Overview*

The Diversity Commission continues to be active in the Ogden community. Over the last year, the commission has conducted outreach at various community events that target our diverse populations. In the Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, the commission was awarded a budget that allowed them to deliver the city's message as adopted in the Diversity Charter. The commission is working to reengage the original group who helped establish this body by hosting a Community Dinner.



Additionally, the commission worked towards one of their priorities from last year by hosting an employment and resource fair for teens living in Ogden. Continuing with our collaboration efforts the commission has been able to build relationships with organizations by having them share information at our regular meetings.

## *Current Members*

Priscilla Martinez, Chair

Adrienne Andrews

Jeremy Shinoda, Vice Chair

Ami Noshiravan

Taylor Knuth

Jayson Stokes

Kye Hallows

Oscar Mata

Kathie Darby

Wesley Boykin

Betty Sawyer

## *Functional Committees*

Currently, the Diversity Commission has three active functional committees that support the annual plan for the year. Furthermore, the functional committee on outreach aids in sharing the city's message on diversity and inclusion out in community events.

### *Outreach*

The major role of the functional committee on outreach is to support diverse events in our community by having a booth or making a physical appearance as commissioners. Outreach efforts are limited to Ogden City boundaries.



Jeremy Shinoda currently serves as the chair of the outreach committee. He has managed and continuously updates the Diversity Calendar that the commission uses to stay up to date on the various activities happening in Ogden. The top events that the committee continues to participate on an annual basis as the Diversity Commission are:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- Cinco de Mayo
- Juneteenth
- Night Out Against Crime
- Ogden Pride
- Hispanic Heritage Festival
- Dia de los Muertos

Aside from these key events, the commission has also been requested to attend the Ogden Police Awards Banquet, NAACP Freedom Fund Luncheon, Utah Multicultural Affairs Commission Resource Fair, and Ogden Civic Action Network Committees.

## Poverty

The functional committee on poverty reformed on June 27, 2019. We are working towards supporting groups in our community that are working to fight poverty, and to use our ability as a branch of the Ogden Diversity Commission to promote and strengthen the work they do.

Currently, Ami Noshiravan serves as the chair for this committee, and Kathie Darby was unanimously nominated to be the vice chair. Commissioners on the committee are; Jeremy Shinoda, Betty Sawyer, Jayson Stokes, Priscilla Martinez, and one community member, Reverend Monica Hall.

Our goals are preliminary but ongoing. We will be participating in and actively seeking out, groups in our community to help promote and amplify their work. We will invite people in the community who are working to fight poverty to come and speak at our monthly meetings to learn about the works currently going on in our city. We are seeking resources available in our community to immigrants living in the Ogden area, and plan to assure they are promoted.

## Employment and Resources

The functional committee on employment and resources hosted their first event on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. An employment and resource fair was created to establish a process for cultivating a diverse workforce as identified under the previous action plan for employment and hiring practices.

This event was designed for ages of 15-19. Most of the participants that attend the event were from Ogden City School District and surrounding schools. We were able to conduct outreach by going to a couple high schools and handing out fliers for the event as well as connecting with school staff to share the event information.

For this event, the committee was able to collaborate with Weber State University's Career Center and the Community Education Center. One group provided education on resume building and interview skill to our participants and the other donated the space and staff for this event. There were 40 students who pre-registered and approximately 25 who walked-in the day of the event. Additionally, the Ogden Weber Tech College and Weber State University donated material and merchandise to give to our participants. The commission was also awarded \$50 from Sam's Club.

## Christchurch Community Vigil

A memorable moment this year was the collaboration between the Diversity Commission and Ogden's Muslim community. After the Christchurch, New Zealand shooting various commissioners reached out to the Muslim community to see how they could best support them during this time. The Muslim Community was grateful that the commission cared and wanted to do something to support the community during this time of mourning. The Diversity Commission along with the help of the Diversity Affairs Officer helped facilitate permit information to host a community vigil on the footsteps of the municipal building. At the community vigil, the commission handed out information on how to build community, and a couple commissioners spoke to the audience about building unity in our community.



## Christchurch Community Vigil News Links

[Standard Examiner - Northern Utah Muslims, other community members honor victims of Christchurch mosque attacks](#)

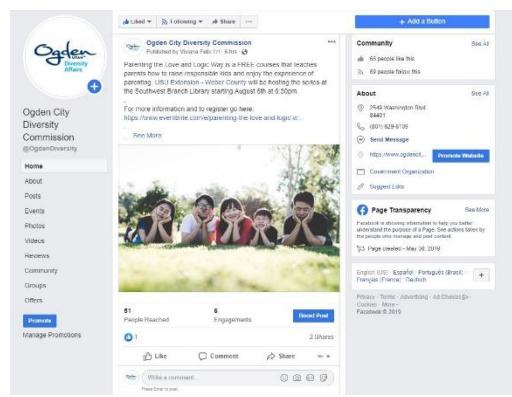
[Standard Examiner - Northern Utah's growing Muslim community perseveres in troubling times](#)

## *Community Dinner*

The Diversity Commission hosted a Community Dinner in order to reengage the original group that helped establish the Diversity Charter. In addition, the dinner was an opportunity to connect with new people that the commission has met over the last two years. Over 25 people appeared at the Union Station on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, for a conversation on the commission's past, present and future. This event helped the commission learn of the needs that the community sees and come up with ideas on how to address these as a commission under Ogden City.



## *Facebook Page*



The Diversity Commission has had a webpage under the city website since its inception. In attempts to take online engagement to another level, the commission requested a Facebook page to help them connect and relay information on available resources and services found in Ogden City. Active as of June 2019, the commission's Facebook page is managed by the Diversity Affairs Officer. On this page, the commission hopes to share information with the community at-large on events relevant to underserved

populations, non-profit services, and Ogden City resources and services available to our residents.

## *2019 – 2020 Annual Action Plan*

The Diversity Commission has outlined the following plan to be worked on during the 2019 – 2020 Fiscal Year. We request written approval from the Mayor or City Council to accomplish as many of these as possible.

- 1) Citywide Initiative Involvement
  - a. Incorporate member of the diversity commission to citywide initiatives to offer a perspective from the commission, this includes but is not limited to strategic plans, committee appointments, community development plans, event ideas, marketing and outreach
- 2) Census
  - a. Promote at community events
  - b. Provide resources and support
- 3) Employment/Hiring Practices
  - a. Develop best practices that could be used across agencies in Ogden City
  - b. Improve employment opportunities by collaborating with employers
  - c. Host an expungement day
  - d. Spring Forward Job Fair focused on ages 16-24
- 4) Communication
  - a. Develop a method to communicate with community members
  - b. Create a process for formal and informal communication with City Council and the Mayor
- 5) Expanding Public Meetings
  - a. Establish quarterly meetings that are held in the evening to have greater community reach
- 6) Leverage Current Resources
  - a. Promote and provide information to Ogden residents on current community resources such as immigration assistance, food banks, low cost medical assistance, etc
  - b. Functional Committee on Poverty to collaborate with organizations to address the poverty rate in Ogden

## *Summary*

Outreach has been the best method the commission has found to gain incite and perspective on the needs of our community. Moving forward with our Poverty Functional Committee, we hope to create strong partnership with organizations to further bring light to this topic that impacts thousands of Ogden residents. An annual action plan is a more efficient way for the Diversity Commission to work given it is an instrument to achieve the goals set out in Ogden City's Diversity Charter. Continuously being informed of procedures and limitations as a body under Ogden City the commission has been determined to identify processes that will allow them to create impact in our community. Finally, the commission would like to continue to count with the support of the Mayor, City Council and administration as continue to work in representation of the city.