

Diversity Roundtable

Achieving a Culture that Values Diversity

Greater Lafayette Commerce

Thursday, February 5, 2026

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

The Arts Federation (TAF) and Zoom

Minutes

Impacting Change in Issues of Diversity and Inclusion

DiversityTippecanoe.org

1. Welcome/Introductions – Barb Clark, Rita Holman, Jos Holman, Jen Casey, Mica Toliver, Roberta Schonemann, Don Schieber, Zelda Flye, Tetia Lee, Bob Downing, Joan Marshall, Eric Cox, Connie Heier, Nohemi Lugo, Carol Clark – Elliott, Tenecia Waddell – Pyle, Mark Cripe, Christopher Munt, Naj McFadden, Heather Mitt, Sana Booker, Adelia Sorge, Iseral Quintarro, Lon Lucas, Johanna Wu, and Jane Frankenberger were present.
2. Program – Juggling through Black History by **Jos Holman**, Director of TCPL and DRT Steering Team. Jos began his presentation juggling. He sang a verse from America the Beautiful and read from Langston Hughes, *I Too*. Jos introduced himself, sharing that he is from Texas, is married to his wife Rita, and has five children. He has lived in Lafayette for the past 24 years and serves as the Director of the Tippecanoe County Public Library.

Notes on Black History:

- Dr. Carter G. Woodson is the father of black history. He was the first to study the black diaspora. Second African American to receive a PhD from Harvard (second only to W.E.B. Dubois). First individual born to enslaved parents. It is the 100th anniversary of negro history week.
- The majority of black students went onto HBCUs for college – Tuskegee (founded in 1868 founded by Booker T. Washington and established by the Alabama State Legislature). Adams is a former enslaved person and could read and write and was a skilled tradesman. Foster was a candidate wanting to be re-elected and connected with Adams to secure the African American vote.
- 2/16/1847 Missouri State Legislature prohibited black and Mulato individuals from learning how to read. A significant fine would be assessed if violated (\$180K in today's dollars).
- The Underground Railroad: Network used by enslaved black Americans to travel north towards freedom. Ohio River divided free states from those practicing slavery.
- Levi Coffin, station master, lived in what is now Fountain City.

- James Sidney Hinton: Politician and Legislator 1834-1892. Born in Raleigh, NC and in 1848 moved to Terre Haute, IN. First African American to hold an Indiana state office. Elected for one term to the Indiana House of Representatives. Was a faithful GOP supporter. Passed in Brazil, Indiana.
 - Samuel A. Elbert, Physician 1832 – 1902: First African American to receive a medical degree. Oberlein College student; attended Indiana Medical College, received MD in 1871 and developed a large private practice. Active in the Republican Party. Buried in the Crown Hill Cemetery.
 - Shirley Chisholm – first woman to receive the backing of the party to run for the office of president of the US.
 - James Weldon Johnson wrote the black national anthem.
 - Guion Buford Astronaut – First Black American to go into Space
 - Vanessa Williams first Black Miss America
3. Hot Topics – **Barb Clark** explained that the DRT Steering Committee discussed hot topics and their discussion within the context of the monthly DRT meetings. She stated that moving forward, there will be a change in format wherein submission of questions is encouraged.
- Today’s question: What do you know about Black History in the Greater Lafayette Community?
4. Announcements – **Barb Clark**
- a. State of the Black Community, February 5th, 6 pm at Word of Life Church on Greenbush
 - b. Healthcare Policy Forum 2026, February 15, 3 – 4:15 pm at TCPL
 - c. MAD Voter’s Civic Lab by We All Belong – February 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 1700 W State St., WL
 - d. Democracy in a Cup by the League of Women Voters, February 21st at First United Methodist Church, 1700 W State St., W Lafayette, IN
 - e. LWVGL Townhall on SEA1 – early March
 - f. No Kings 3 – March 28
5. Future Topics – **Barb Clark**
- a. March 5 – Pride 101, Derrick Jones, Director of Greater Lafayette Pride. (Adelia Sorge). Sana Booker will host
 - b. April 2 – Update on GLC, Mikel Berger, President and CEO, and Jesus Correa, Latino Business Liaison. (Amy Sundell)
 - c. May 7 - Brainstorming of new topics (Barb Clark)
 - d. June 4 – HIV Pathways, Nathan McBurnett (Christopher Munt)
 - e. July 2 – Sana Booker will host.