Diversity Roundtable

Achieving a Culture that Values Diversity

Greater Lafayette Commerce

Thursday, October 1, 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, Adelia Sorge, Tetia Lee, Tammy Conard-Salvo, Linda Swihart, Sheila Rosenthal, Meredith Richmond, Jos Holman, Betsy Coffing, Joan Marshall, Joanna Wu, Sheryl Singleton, Joe Venable, Carol Ben – Davies, Breanya Hogue, Sara Atkins, Dr. Tiffany Lyle, and Larry Guentert were present.

2. Feedback on Summer Festivals – Barb Clark reported that Juneteenth/Hanna Fest, OUTFest, Global Festival were staffed by members of the DRT. Joan stated that we did get good participation from the Human Rights Commission. Those that did volunteer had a good experience. There was discussion regarding future participation in tabling for community events. Sheila reported that the HRCs take every opportunity to be community facing though it can be challenging to identify volunteers on an ongoing basis. Sheila updated the group on the status of the HRCs. While they will be streamlining the filing/complaint process, each HRC will remain autonomous with 9 members serving on each Commission (City of Lafayette, City of West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County).

3. Survey on attendance – Barb Clark reported on the recent assessment that the Steering Team has conducted on attendance as it has seen a sharp decline within this year. She is encouraging those that receive the survey to complete it to inform us about the future of the DRT meetings and content. She asked for feedback from those present (potential additions to the survey or potential theories on why the attendance has lagged).

4. Program – Purdue CDF Freedom School (a summer literacy program), Tammy Conard-Salvo, Board Chair. Sheila Rosenthal talked briefly about how she was made aware of Purdue CDF Freedom School and her current engagement. Tammy explained that she and her family care very much about the community and have resided here for a long while. She has a very multi-cultural family and having the CDF Freedom School is vitally important for her family, especially for her daughter. This is a culturally rich summer program. The roots of this Freedom School are in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project of 1964 – historically and continues to be a part of the Black Community Crusade for Children. The goal is to embed in places where children don't have access to quality K-12 education. This particular program offers an intergenerational leadership model and is primarily staffed by college students and recent college graduates. Children and

youth make significant gains in reading achievement.

CDF Freedom Schools help school-aged scholars engage in a research-based, multicultural Integrated Reading Curriculum that supports them and their families through five essential components.

Our CDF Site represents a unique partnership between Purdue's College of Education and First United methodist Church of WL since 2023. There are two EDs: Dr. Breanya Hogue and Pastor Duane Carlisle. They have supported up to 60 scholars in K-8 from across Greater Lafayette schools. 70.9% of all scholars qualify for free or reduced lunches in 2025 and dropped to 42% in 2026.

Spring 2027, hiring of SLIs and various trainings and preparation will occur. They attend a National Training in Knoxville, TN June 2-5; June 7-11 set up classrooms at FUMC in WL; June 14-July: Parent Empowerment meetings.

Program Benefits

- Scholars maintain or improve reading levels and avoid summer learning loss; learn about and engage in social action; receive exposure to a Civil Rights focused pedagogy taught by diverse teachers and staff; and participate in afternoon STEM, art, fitness, and outdoor activities with the possibility of field trips.
  - This program is free of charge
  - The entire family receives support
  - Servant Leader Interns gain valuable professional development experience

National Day of Social Action is scheduled for July 21, 2027

Research and Professional Development

- In 2025 and 2026, a grant supported 3-4 teaching fellows from West Lafayette School Corporation
- Assessments conducted by the Children's Defense Fund have demonstrated that our site maintains or increases reading levels
- Estimated at $118,300 in total or $1971. 67 per student (equivalent to other summer camps)
- Staffing $75K
- Curriculum and Program Fee - $305 per child

5. Announcements - **Barb Clark**
   a. We All Belong – Cracks in the Constitution showing a film entitled "Democracy Under Siege" on Saturday, Oct 3rd at 2 – 4 pm at First United Methodist Church, 1700 Mitch Daniels Blvd, WL
   b. No Kings 4 – October 17th from 1 – 3 pm at 5 locations
      - Mackey Arena
      - Outside of Target

- Sagamore Parkway and Soldiers Home Rd
- Veteran's Memorial Parkway and 18th
- Tippecanoe Courthouse

Mobilize.us for more information

c. Vote 411 – Presented by the League of Women Voters; This is a project that encourages individuals to not vote blindly. They are coordinating an effort to put door hangers out in neighborhood; adeliasorge@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.
d. October 17: Freedom School here will be hosting a read aloud "The Walk" by Winston Bingham; voteforchildren.netlify.app/downloads/read-aloud-for-democracy-guide.pdf

6. Future Topics – **Barb Clark**
    a. Nov 5 – Food Finders, Kier Crites Muller (Tetia Lee)
    b. Dec 3 -