



## **Community Engagement - 2022**

**Prepared by Michelle Leise, Community Engagement Facilitator**

**1 Staff Member:** Michelle Leise

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Community Engagement Facilitator is to listen to the community, create a stronger, more trusting two-way conversation between local government and residents, and assist in developing and implementing city systems and procedures so government is responsive and equitable, and residents are engaged in the decisions that affect them.

**Summary:** This year we returned to in-person meetings as the pandemic receded. In the community engagement area, we made important gains in building relationships with more residents, incorporating equity work throughout City departments and boards and commissions, and bringing policy recommendations to Council from a broad representation of our community.

### **2022 Accomplishments/Activities**

- **Guided equity work and helped build relationships and trust between local government and the community.**
  - Planned and facilitated monthly Advisory Team meetings and produced summary report of the team's 110 recommendations across all departments to City Council. The team met for 27 months and represented a broad representation of our community. Meetings in 2022 focused on bringing the team together with each City department.
  - Guided and produced the City's 3-Year Equity Plan: 2023, 2024, 2025. Facilitated meetings, collected input from multiple community groups and residents, and drafted and edited plan throughout the community feedback process.
  - Monitored steps taken by all departments in the 2022 Racial Equity Plan and provided updates to Council. Assisted department heads when requested throughout the year.
  - Organized and facilitated discussions at each City department on what they wanted their equity goals to be.
  - Shared the City's goals and planning and evaluation tool with board and commission members at their meetings so staff and commissioners could incorporate the framework into their decision-making process.
  - Created template for the board/commission 5-year plans. Attended board/commission meetings to explain new planning timeframe, plan template, and gathered feedback.

- Organized workshops for all City staff, the community (including board and commission members), and local organizations with Wing Young Huie. Workshops were focused on how we can shift our thinking to reach more understanding with each other. Attendance included more than 200 City staff members; 92 local organization staff members, and 112 community members.
- Coordinated and worked with staff members of Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) and City of Red Wing on finalizing and implementing steps in the Memorandum of Understanding between PIIC and the City.
- Assisted in planning the kick-off events and promotion of the multi-year Honoring Dakota Project. Project is a partnership with PIIC, Goodhue County HHS, and Red Wing Arts.
- Coordinated meetings with Housing Strategy Partners on goals in the Plan to Increase Housing Stability and Decrease Homelessness. Members include more than a dozen organizations across the city.
- Worked as the Human Rights Commission staff liaison for all meetings and workshops.
- Coordinated the work of the Human Rights Commission committee to plan and implement the first Juneteenth Celebration in Red Wing.
- Coordinated the work of the Human Rights Commission committees to hold the Martin Luther King, Jr. event and the Amos Owen Award.
- Organized the board/commission free childcare partnership program with the Y.
- Attended Native Cultural Context training at Prairie Island and online training through the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.
- Coordinated translation services with Hispanic Outreach.

- **Other engagement work:**

- Wrote Title VI Plan, a federal requirement for Red Wing to be eligible to receive federal street and highway funding.
- Provided guidance as a member of Community Health Assessment (CHA) Steering Committee through Goodhue County Health and Human Services. Facilitated meetings of community organizations and residents and advised on the final report.
- Helped Community Development Department in communication with residents and landlords to inform them about their first inspections in the Rental License Program.
- Wrote communication and assisted on tour when City hosted the CGMC Conference.
- Produced sidewalk/trail survey for Night to Unite – attended most locations and received roughly 150 surveys back.
- Assisted Three Rivers in discussions on potential housing project.
- Participated in monthly RiseUp Red Wing meetings – with a focus on increasing translation and interpretation services across the community and at the City of Red Wing.
- Participated in Community Ed & Rec board meetings and provide recommendations.
- Assisted Water/Wastewater Division in planning communication around increased water fees.
- Represented City with HRC at Hispanic Heritage Festival.
- Welcomed and assisted residents before, during, and after City Council meetings.
- Edited and wrote portions of City Beat, the City's online newsletter.
- Planned River City Days outreach, listened to community members, and documented their ideas during the three-day event. Gathered more than 200 surveys on sidewalk/trail priorities.
- Participated in community-based Hands for Hope meetings on housing.

- Researched, wrote, and produced hard copies of the Report Card on Housing and The Economy.
- Facilitated partnership with i3works and drafted the upcoming digital Red Wing Report Card.
- Assisted community members as needed on a regular basis and met on specific topics as requested.
- Guided two summer interns (1 in high school, 1 in college) in engagement practices and projects, including an “In the Know” video series on how government works.
- Provided data to assist work on the City’s infrastructure grant request.
- Assisted City staff as needed on outreach, strategy, communication, and engagement guidance.