

Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee
Report for March 28, 2023 Committee Meeting
Diversity and Awareness Projects (DAP)

Members of the Diversity Awareness Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members are: Chair Carlos Valverde, Vice Chair Anissa Di Vincente, Member Haiffa Moammar, and Member Rebecca Rona.

Vision:

We envision four DAP kiosks representing four ethnicities and races, people who have resided in Culver City, long ago as well as today. These include Japanese Americans; African Americans; Latinos, and the Tongva People. Each kiosk would include a QR code that would enable any visitor to access a write up about each of our subjects; documents, photos, videos and music. On each kiosk itself would be a few photos or one, and brief text in addition to the QR code.

Programming:

Members of the Diversity Awareness Ad Hoc Subcommittee have discussed the possibility that programs will be held near the kiosks. For example, if the proposed Kunisawa Farm kiosk is located in Coombs Park, across from where the Kunisawa Farm used to be located, a lovely program featuring Japanese Americans, possibly including the grandchildren of the Kunisawa family, could be held near that kiosk. The audience would presumably be a mixture of local or regional Japanese Americans in addition to those who are not Japanese American, such as members of the Sister Cities Committee and many others.

Microsite:

Our microsite would be located prominently on Culver City's official website. It would house the items listed above and would be accessed via the QR code included on each kiosk.

Budget:

The kiosk invoice is attached to this report. The total cost of the kiosk is \$2,139. There is no cost as long as the microsite is part of the existing City website. In the future, the committee may consider having the Diversity Awareness Projects microsite become a stand-alone website, similar to the Fiesta La Ballona website. The cost of a separate microsite would be approximately \$3,000 for design and setup (one-time fee) and \$2,000 annually for hosting.

Grants, collaboration with nearby companies:

We subcommittee members are requesting that the costs of two of the four kiosks be borne by the committee. In order to fund the others, we envision applying for grants from two area companies and discussing with representatives of those companies ways in which they might collaborate with us. The first would be Apple, located near the former Sebastian's Cotton Club.

Budgetary questions:

What is the purchasing process? Would it be necessary to obtain quotes from additional companies? Do we need to send out an RFP? Who would maintain and repair any damage to the kiosks and what would this cost? Would any insurance be needed, and if so, what would be the cost?

Insurance Costs:

There are no insurance costs related to the kiosk manufacturer. The DAP ad hoc subcommittee is not aware of any insurance costs that may be associated with the City.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**EHRAC's Purview:**

Based on EHRAC's Bylaws, EHRAC serves in the capacity to recommend to the Council:

"programs, policies and activities designed to promote the full acceptance of all people in all aspects of community life" (Section I.B.1).

"Recommend programs, policies and activities designed to reduce discrimination, increase cultural competency, improve intergroup relations" (Section I.B.2).

Aligning with Equity & EHRAC's Work Plan:

On June 17, 2021, The Culver City City Council adopted a resolution on Acknowledging Culver City's Racial History. The resolution states:

It is our duty to be a leader in creating a culture that ends racial disparities within city government, and to promote racial equity through policy, procedures, and programs that inspire the Culver City community.

EHRAC's Diversity Awareness Projects ad hoc subcommittee believes that highlighting the unique and rich histories and influence of various ethnic groups in Culver City is a program designed to "promote racial equity that inspires the Culver City community" (EHRAC Work Plan).

According to EHRAC's Work Plan, EHRAC is tasked to establish ad hoc subcommittees and/or liaisons as necessary to implement the work plan. Under "Partnerships, Education and Public Events," the EHRAC's Diversity Awareness Projects ad hoc subcommittee believes that this

proposal helps address “discrimination by building and cultivating relationships among different demographic groups” (EHRAC Work Plan). We want to inspire the opportunity for dialogue and potentially more stories to be told throughout Culver City. The kiosks make Culver City a living learning space where residents and visitors can reflect on the ethnic and cultural representation of its heritage and present-day make-up.

Kiosk Installation Requirements:

The kiosks are aluminum and are manufactured by Pannier Graphics which provides detailed instructions for proper installation. No special service is required and can be installed by any maintenance professional. Pannier Graphics offers a comprehensive website (panniergraphics.com) that provides all necessary instructions. According to Pannier, maintenance to the kiosks is minimal. Other than keeping it clean and undamaged, there is very minimal maintenance.

We understand that EHRAC does not have the authority to designate who maintains the kiosks. Therefore, our recommendation to the Council that, upon approval, any needed resources for maintenance and/or repair would be directed by the Council and City Manager.

In the event that a content change is necessary, we would hope that the City Manager provides the existing EHRAC the opportunity to contribute to that process.

Proposed Spaces:

The first kiosk, placed at Coombs Park, in the vicinity of Culver City High School, Culver City Middle School and Farragut Elementary, will be dedicated to the **Kunisawa Farm** which made up the land of these school sites. The second kiosk, placed on the corner of Washington Blvd and National Blvd, in front of the Apple building, will be dedicated to the **Sebastian’s Cotton Club** with a rich musical history that included performances by prominent African American artists. The third kiosk, near the bus stop at the Ivy Substation, will be dedicated to the **Pacific Electric Labor Camp** which was located in the area of the Warner Media building, where countless Latinos resided for decades. The fourth kiosk, located in downtown Culver City (precise location not determined), will be dedicated to acknowledging the **Tongva People** and their ancestral bond with this land.

The DAP ad hoc subcommittee understands that these spaces will need to be reviewed by various City departments. We will seek the guidance of Staff to follow through on this process.

Coordination and Collaboration:

The DAP ad hoc subcommittee would like to invite the Culver City Historical Society and the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission to collaborate on this project. We seek to authorize representatives from EHRAC to speak to these entities and establish a proper path for communication.

Departure of subcommittee members.

Staff has questioned who would continue the work of realizing the DAP kiosks after Vice Chair Di Vincente no longer serves on this subcommittee, and if one or more of the remaining subcommittee members leave the subcommittee or the committee itself. It must be assumed that new committee members or possibly current committee members would take their place/s. It is envisioned that all kiosks will have been installed by the end of the 2023/2024 fiscal year. However, we realize that this may not be possible.

Potential Policy Impact:

The Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee was created as a result of the City's commitment to improve intergroup relations along with the City's promotion and celebration of diversity and inclusion. The kiosks serve as an on-going commitment to enhance the recognition and knowledge of the modern day presence and rich cultural heritage of the varied groups in Culver City. This type of educational and informational recognition helps inform future public policy that educates current citizens and visitors, as well as future generations, of the City's unique cultural and ethnic make up. New public policies could conceivably address the need to reach out to ethnic communities, make Culver City more welcoming, and encourage and assist these communities to become more involved in the life of Culver City.

City staff:

Naturally we would be guided by those who staff our committee, the City Manager and possibly the City Clerk, as well as those departments listed above.

Residents:

We may consider holding a community meeting explaining the kiosks and gaining input from them.

City Council:

The last step in this process would be to approach the City Council with a more complete plan. Once they granted their approval, we would move forward.