



# WE RISE TOGETHER

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE TEAM

## RISE TOGETHER - FEB. 6, 2024

### SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

#### CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Originally known as Negro History Week, historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson formed Black History Month to highlight the importance of celebrating and preserving the historical contributions of Black culture. Woodson chose February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln to showcase the interconnection of African American History and American History.

There are many ways to celebrate Black history throughout Columbus this month, including [African Dance](#) offered at Marion Franklin Community Center and [African American Art](#) classes at Glenwood Community Center. Whether it's celebrating through the arts, literature or the history of Black culture, there are plenty of opportunities to honor this month. Check out the list of upcoming events below.

#### LUNCH AND LEARN: ALL THAT JAZZ-THE HISTORY OF LINCOLN THEATRE

Come to [Lincoln Theatre](#) (769 E Long St.) on Friday, Feb. 23, and learn about the theatre's history, including its role in providing a platform for Black jazz musicians in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. This special Lunch & Learn hosted by the DE&I Committee will feature a presentation by Suzan Bradford, Lincoln Theatre's Executive Director, and a historic venue tour.

This free event, presented by the DE&I Committee, runs from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [Register now](#) to secure a spot!

*Check with your supervisor if you have scheduling questions.*

English 

## CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AROUND TOWN

[“On Her Shoulders: A Celebration of Women,”](#) now through Feb. 24 at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center

[Black History Month at the Columbus Metropolitan Library](#), Celebrate Black history in February with in-person and virtual programs.

[Black History Month at the Ohio History Center](#), Wednesdays-Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

[Black History Month: Community Gathering & Conversation](#), Feb. 10 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the King Arts Complex

[Black History Month Celebration and Poindexter Award Ceremony](#), Feb. 16 at 10 a.m., at Lincoln Theatre

[Love Letters to the Next Generation of Black Girls](#), Feb. 17 from 3-4 p.m. at Barack Community Center

[Carnegie Author Series: Brendan Slocumb-acclaimed author of \*Symphony of Secrets\*](#), Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. at Columbus Main Library

[Black History Month Celebration](#), Feb. 22, from 12-1 p.m. at Gillie Community Center

[Black History Ceremony](#), Feb. 27 from 6-8 p.m. at Woodward Community Center

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **February: Black History Month:** This annual observance celebrates Black history and culture. Black educators and Black United Students (BUS) at Kent State University first proposed Black History Month in February 1969, before holding the first celebration at Kent State Jan. 2-Feb. 28, 1970. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976 during the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. Black History Month is observed in Canada during February, and in Ireland and the United Kingdom in October.
- **Feb. 10: Lunar New Year:** This holiday marks the dawn of a new year based on the lunar calendar. It corresponds with several different ethnicities.
- **Feb.14: Vasant Panchami:** This Hindu festival is celebrated on the fifth day of the Hindu month of Magha to honor Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and the arts. Marked by the prominent use of the color yellow and special ceremonies in educational institutions, the festival signifies the arrival of spring and is considered an auspicious time to begin new educational or artistic endeavors.
- **Feb. 15: Parinirvana Day:** Also known as Nirvana Day, this Mahayana Buddhist holiday is celebrated annually to commemorate the death of the Buddha when he attained complete nirvana or parinirvana.
- **Feb. 20: World Day of Social Justice:** Celebrated annually, this event is focused on inviting global citizens to rally around the pursuit of equity, dismantling of barriers to inclusivity, and the ennoblement of human dignity for all.
- **Feb. 24: Lantern Festival:** This festival marks the first full moon of the new lunar year and is celebrated two weeks after Chinese New Year, marking the end of those celebrations. Celebrations involve enjoying lanterns, lantern riddles, eating tangyuan / yuanxiao (ball dumplings in soup), lion dances, dragon dances and more. The use of lanterns signifies letting go of the previous year.
- **Feb. 24-25: Lailat al Bara'a:** A major occasion in the Islamic calendar, Muslims pray and seek forgiveness for their wrongdoings. It is said to bring good fortune for the entire year and purify them of their sins.

Share your opinion with the DEI Committee by filling out this quick [online survey](#). Your input is valuable and it will help shape the committee's work. Do you want to see the DEI Committee organize events? Let them know!

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## 2024 PPO OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW AVAILABLE

The annual Open Enrollment period for the 2024 PPO plan year is now open and runs through Feb. 29. This is your opportunity to make changes to your benefit elections for the next plan year.

You should have received a home mailer with more information. Please take a moment to review the details of the Traditional PPO Medical Plan, Pharmacy, Dental and Vision coverage. If you do not wish to make any changes to your election, **no action is required**. However, you are encouraged to review your beneficiary designation and dependent demographic information for accuracy.

Once you have reviewed all of the information, make your elections for the 2024 plan year in [Dayforce](#) by Feb. 29. [Watch this instructional video for tips on how to make your elections in Dayforce.](#)

If you have questions, contact the Benefits and Wellness Office at 614-645-8624 or [EmployeeBenefitsAndWellness@columbus.gov](mailto:EmployeeBenefitsAndWellness@columbus.gov).

## 2023 TAX DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN DAYFORCE

Your 2023 W-2 and 1095-C are now available in Dayforce. You will need these documents to file your 2023 taxes. To download and print your tax forms, [log in to Dayforce](#), click on “Earnings,” then click the Year End tab.

## IMPORTANT MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

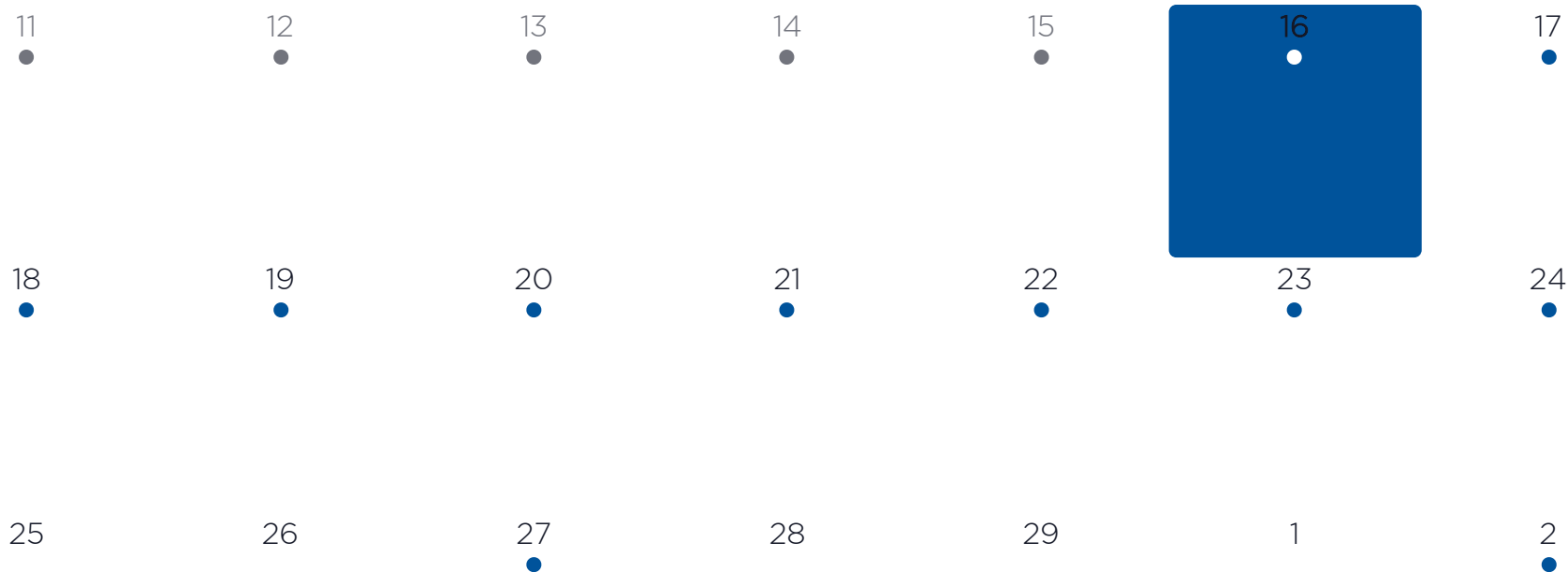
Effective Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2024, the IRS standard mileage rate for the use of a privately owned car for business purposes is \$0.67 a mile for all business miles driven. Please use the [new mileage reimbursement form](#). The form is also located in Fiscal/Forms & Instructions/Mileage Forms/2024 on the P drive. [More information is available on the intranet.](#)

***Note:** Street address must be used on the mileage reimbursement form for any destination or starting point that is not a City of Columbus facility.*

If you have any questions, please contact your section’s Fiscal representative.

2/16/2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 ●	10 ●



February 9

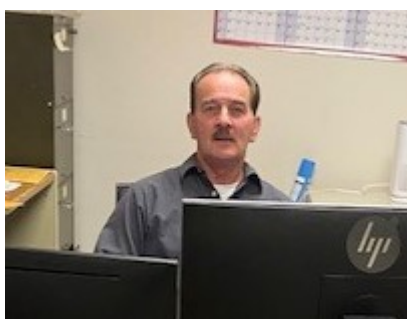
All day

THE THAW REGISTRATION

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## DANNY COLEMAN

He/Him/His



### Section

Inventory Control Manager. I manage a three-person team that operates the warehouse. The warehouse gives the department a centralized location to receive and distribute supplies, materials and goods for over 280 facilities and programs.

### Length of Employment

7 years

### What's your favorite aspect of Columbus Recreation and Parks?

My team and I really enjoy providing support and supplies to the front-line employees to help them serve and connect to the community.

**What’s your favorite project that you have worked on?**

The annual Adopt a Center event. It brings me great joy to think of all the smiling faces of the people who receive the gifts during the holidays.

**What is your favorite ice cream flavor?**

Chocolate

**What is your favorite book or movie?**

The Bible

**What is one piece of advice you have?**

Be grateful to have a great career where you can help the community.

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**Nominate A Coworker for the Staff Spotlight**

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) They will be notified that they were nominated in order to answer spotlight questions.

# ARCHIVE

**2024**



**2023**



**2022**



**NATURE**

[Nature](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Educational Gardens](#)

[Nature Preserves](#)

[Outdoor Recreation](#)

[Parks](#)

[Pollinator Gardens](#)