

Registration for all summers camps is now open. For more information, visit the [Summer Camps](#) page.

[View the Summer Camp Guide](#)



RISE TOGETHER - MARCH 4, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

WHAT IS RAMADAN?

Ramadan occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is regarded as Islam's holiest month. Because it is based on the lunar calendar, the dates shift from year to year. This year, Ramadan takes place from Feb. 28 – March 29.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, avoiding partaking in food, drink, smoking or other behavior as a way to demonstrate devotion, self-discipline and empathy. The fast is known as *sawm*. During this period, Muslims may also increase how often they pray, read the Quran or reflect in order to purify their souls and become closer to their faith. After sunset, participants can eat a meal, which is known as *iftar*.

Ramadan concludes with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a holiday that marks the end of fasting. As part of this celebration, Muslims gather to enjoy meals with family and friends, as well as give donations to those in need.

For a list of local events celebrating Ramadan, check out the list below.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **National Women's History Month (March):** This annual observance recognizes and celebrates the contributions and achievements of women throughout history and contemporary society.
- **Gender Equality Month (March):** This observance is dedicated to raising awareness against gender bias in society.
- **Ramadan (Feb. 28 – March 29):** Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.
- **International Women's Day (March 8):** This global holiday is celebrated annually as a focal point in the women's rights movement. It focuses on issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.
- **St. Patrick's Day (March 17):** A Christian and cultural holiday, St. Patrick's Day honors the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

their contributions to society.

CELEBRATIONS AROUND TOWN

- [The History of Women’s Basketball in Columbus](#): March 11, noon-1 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse (1 Capitol Square, 43215)
- [Women’s History Month Pop-up Concert featuring the Columbus Cultural Youth Orchestra](#): March 16, 2-3 p.m., at Columbus Museum of Art (480 E. Broad Street, 43215)
- [Florence Harding: First Lady of Consequence](#): March 18, noon-1 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse (1 Capitol Square, 43215)
- [Girls Empowerment Day](#): March 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Schiller Park (1069 Jaeger St., 43206)
- [Interfaith Community Iftar Dinner](#): March 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Turkish American Society of Ohio (2885 W. Granville Rd., 43235)
- [A Portrait of My Life and Work, Presented by Artist Leslie Adams](#): March 25, noon-1 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse (1 Capitol Square, 43215)
- [A Book Talk With Author Natalie Dykstra](#): March 16, 2-3 p.m., at Columbus Museum of Art (480 E. Broad Street, 43215)
- [Community Conversation: Women, Art and Activism](#): March 28, 6:30 p.m. at Columbus Museum of Art (480 E. Broad Street, 43215)

THE CULTURE DROP

FAST, FRESH UPDATES ON OUR VALUES

Culture isn’t static, it’s always evolving. That’s why we’re keeping you in the loop with The Culture Drop, your go-to space for quick hits on the values, behaviors, and big moves shaping our workplace.

Check this space for news, tips and resources to help us strengthen our workplace culture together!

And save the date! We’ll see you for the launch of our new values on April 30, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.! More information to come.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

HELP US GROW OUR TEAM: SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE SEASONAL HIRING FAIR

Do you know someone looking for a part-time summer job? Have them attend the annual Seasonal Hiring Fair! This annual event connects residents with our more than 500 part-time seasonal positions in Aquatics, Maintenance, Parks, Rental Services, Sports and more.

Registration for all summers camps is now open. For more information, visit the [Summer Camps](#) page.

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[View the Summer Camp Guide](#)

The event is on Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Goodale Shelterhouse. [Share the details about this great event!](#)

SPRING INTO WELLNESS AND FUN WITH UPCOMING CREATE ACTIVITIES PI DAY CELEBRATION

March 14 is one of the sweetest days of the year! Join us for Pi Day festivities on Friday, March 14, from 12 to 2 p.m. at 1111 E. Broad St. in the Hungry Soldier Room. There are several ways to participate!

- Make or bring a sweet or savory pie for the homemade pie contest. Judges will choose their favorite homemade pie. The winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Pies and Pints.
- Sign up for the (mini) pie-eating competition at 1 p.m. The winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Pies and Pints.
- No pie? No problem! Bring \$3.14 to try the pies!

[Sign up if you plan to bring a pie or participate in the pie-eating contest.](#) You don't need to register to try the pies.

Be there or be square! Get it – π ?

Prizes are provided from proceeds of CREATE fundraising activities. They will not be reported or taxed.

THE CREATE CULTURE WELLNESS CHALLENGE IS BACK

Kick off spring with intention! Join us for a fun four-week challenge designed to help you build healthy habits while engaging in some friendly competition. Whether you gather a group of coworkers or join a house team to meet new people, this is your chance to focus on becoming the best version of yourself and build camaraderie with your coworkers!

Here's how it works: From April 7 to May 4, track key wellness indicators that are accessible to all abilities. Each participant will submit a weekly form that will contribute to the team's average score, and the top teams will be visible on the leaderboard. You can participate in pop-up wellness events throughout the challenge and an after-work celebration at the end of the challenge. Contact CREATE@columbus.gov with questions or suggestions.

[Register by April 4, and check the dashboard for more information about the events.](#)

SUSTAINABLE SPRING CLOTHING SWAP

Spring is here, and it's time for a wardrobe refresh! Join us for our Spring Clothing Swap, where you can exchange gently used clothing for some fresh, like-new pieces. Whether it's workwear, casual wear or something in between, we're looking for clothing in excellent condition—no bags of old, worn-out items, please.

Drop off your items from March 17 to April 2 at 1111 E. Broad St., Suite 101 in the Capital Planning Area. Please bring only pieces that are still in great shape and ready to be worn again. Think clean, well-maintained items that could use a second life with someone new.

Everyone is encouraged to stop by for the swap at 1111 E. Broad St. from April 7 to April 18. There's no cost, and you don't need to contribute items to browse the selection and take something home.

We can't wait to see what treasures you'll contribute!

All remaining clothing will be donated.

3/17/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



There are no events on this day.

KEY DATES

MARCH

APPS Job Readiness Program Interviews

March 8 | 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St.

CREATE Culture Pi Day Celebration

March 14 | 12-2 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St.-Hungry Soldier Room

CREATE Culture Sustainable Clothing Swap Drop Off

March 17-April 2 | 1111 E. Broad St.-Capital Planning Area

APPS Job Readiness Program Interviews

March 15 | 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St.

Seasonal Hiring Fair

March 29 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Goodale Shelterhouse

APRIL

CREATE Culture Wellness Challenge

April 7-May 4

CREATE Culture Sustainable Clothing Swap

March 17-April 2 | 1111 E. Broad St.

Quarterly Leadership Staff Meeting

April 22 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 East Broad St., Continental Room

Play To Win Town Hall for Staff

April 30 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Fawcett Center

TECH TIPS

WEB ACCESS: CHECK YOUR IMPORTANT SITES NOW

New websites have recently been whitelisted, or become available, on the City Network. For example, ActiveNet’s customer side is already accessible, which is essential with camp registration underway.

We don’t have a complete list, so please check any sites you’ve been anticipating getting access to. If there’s a site you need that isn’t yet available, please contact the CRPD Technology Team or submit a ticket through the [CRPD Technology portal](#). Also, it’s critical to check that you have access to **all** of the sites you depend on before the summer rush – we’ve experienced delays in getting sites approved, and the Department of Technology (DoT) is unlikely to prioritize emergency whitelisting requests from non-public safety sources.

Many blocked sites and functions are tied to Amazon Web Services (AWS) because its data handling practices don’t meet DoT’s requirements. For example, attachments cannot currently be uploaded to or downloaded from Smartsheet; WebEx is experiencing similar limitations. If you need access to these functions, disconnect from the City Network and they will operate normally.

Remember: If you don’t request it, it might never be opened!

REINVESTING IN YOU

ANNUAL ETHICS COMPLIANCE IN-PERSON OPTION

As City of Columbus Employees, we have the responsibility to live up to high standards in our work and will need to complete annual ethics training. Soon, you will be receiving assignments for required training. You will be able to complete the training online later this year.

If you'd prefer to complete your training in person, you can attend a live session: Ohio Ethics Law presented by Susan Willeke, Ohio Ethics Commission will take place on March 18, from 9-11 a.m. at 1111 E. Broad St. in the continental Room.

Complete your annual ethics requirement and [register today!](#)

TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- March (Date TBD): [Technology and Data in Parks](#), City Parks Alliance
- April 2: [Building Culture and Advanced Leadership Skills](#), Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
- April 29: [2025 OPRA Women in Leadership](#), Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
- May (Date TBD): [Climate Resilience and Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Have you recently earned a degree, award or certification? [Let us know, and we will share your accomplishment in the newsletter!](#)

ARCHIVE

2025



2024



2023



2022

