



## RISE TOGETHER - APRIL 1, 2025

### SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

## WHAT IS MINORITY HEALTH MONTH?

Created in Ohio in April 1989, Minority Health Month is a 30-day inclusive wellness campaign. In 2000, It became a national celebration.

Minority Health Month has five main goals:

1. Provide crucial information to allow individuals to practice disease prevention.
2. Promote healthy lifestyles.
3. Showcase the providers of grassroots healthcare resources and information.
4. Highlight the disparate health conditions between Ohio's minority and non-minority populations.
5. Gain additional support for ongoing efforts to improve minority health year-round.

Fitness is pivotal to maintaining good health and overall wellness, and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department boasts 20 designated [Get Active Fitness Centers](#) with affordable rates for community members. We offer free access to these locations to all City of Columbus employees.

As we celebrate Minority Health Month, take a look at some of the events occurring throughout the City this month in the Celebrations and Events Around Town section.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Arab-American Heritage Month (April):** Celebrates Arab-American heritage and culture and pays tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans.
- **Diversity Month (April):** Honors the world's diversity and aims to recognize and understand our differences, be it gender, race, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation or other factors, while honoring the common essence of humanity.
- **Minority Health Month (April):** Aims to raise awareness about the importance of improving the health of racial and ethnic minority communities and reducing health disparities.
- **National Fair Housing Month (April):** Commemorates the anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the landmark civil rights law signed on April 11, 1968, that made discrimination in housing transactions unlawful. The Fair

gender identity and sexual orientation), disability and familial status. This year’s theme is “Fair Housing: The ‘Act’ in Action.”

- **World Autism Awareness Day (April 2):** Encourages Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about individuals with autism throughout the world.
- **National Day of Silence (April 11):** Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network’s annual day of action to spread awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of LGBTQ+ students. In the United States, students take a day-long vow of silence to symbolically represent the silencing of LGBTQ+ students.
- **Passover (April 12-20):** A major Jewish spring holiday and one of three pilgrimage festivals that celebrates the liberation of the Israelites’ escape from slavery in Egypt. During Passover, those who observe it forgo leavened grain and bread products. Instead, they replace these foods with matzah, an unleavened cracker or flatbread.

## CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS AROUND TOWN

- [African American Heritage Festival](#): April 1-5, at The Ohio State University Office of Student Life Multicultural Center (1739 N. High Street | 43210)
- [All Out ERG Safe Space Social – Mario Wii Tournament](#): April 2, 2-3:30 p.m., at Jerry Hammond Center (1111 E. Broad Street | 43205)
- [CML Black Heritage Collection Spotlight: The Girl Friends, Inc.](#): April 8, 12 p.m. (virtual)
- **Cultural Humility: Engaging Residents as It Relates to Cultural Norms and Beliefs:** April 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Columbus Public Health (240 Parsons Ave. | 43215)
- **Mexican Consulate Visit:** April 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Columbus Public Health (240 Parsons Ave. | 43215)
- [Nosotros ERG Spring Mixer – Learning & Growth](#): April 23, 5-7 p.m., at Habaneros (1105 Yard Street | 43212)

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

## CULTURE DROP

## JOIN US FOR THE BIG REVEAL: OUR NEW CORE VALUES ARE HERE

Over the past few months, we’ve been working together to strengthen our organizational culture through *We Play to Win*. Thanks to your valuable feedback — through surveys and in-person sessions — we’ve shaped a set of core values that reflect what matters most to all of us.

Now, it’s time for the big reveal! Join us at the “Championship Culture: We Play to Win – All-Star Team Meeting” where we’ll unveil these new values, designed to inspire, unite and elevate our department moving forward.

- When:** Wednesday, April 30, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Where:** Fawcett Center at The Ohio State University, 2400 Olentangy River Road, 43210
- Who:** All Columbus Recreation and Parks and COAAA staff

You could win fabulous door prizes provided by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation. Light snacks will be available. [Learn more](#).

These values aren’t just words — they represent who we are and where we’re headed as a team. This is a milestone moment for our department, and we’d love for you to be part of it. Come celebrate this exciting step toward a stronger, more connected culture!

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## INTRODUCING IGNITE: EMPOWERING OUR MALE YOUTH

We’re thrilled to announce IGNITE: Male Empowerment—a powerful new event designed to equip young men ages 8-18 with the confidence, resilience and tools to succeed. This engaging day is all about breaking down social barriers, building emotional strength and challenging stereotypes while encouraging honest conversations about what it means to be a man today.

The event is on Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at East High School, 1500 E. Broad St., 43205, and will include interactive sessions, dynamic activities and mentorship opportunities that foster growth, brotherhood and leadership. Encourage your friends, neighbors and participants to [register for this free event today!](#)

You can be a part of shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for the next generation! We’re in need of staff to help make this event a success. Sign up to work at the event. If you’re interested, contact TD Dishmon at [TDdishmon@columbus.gov](mailto:TDdishmon@columbus.gov) or 614-645-3151.

## ODI GOAL UPDATE: ANOTHER YEAR OF PROGRESS

The 2024 Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) utilization numbers are in, and our department’s utilization has increased again this year, reaching 27.27 percent, up from 26 percent last year! This success is a testament to the hard work of our Capital team for emphasizing the importance of diversity in project teams and our Fiscal team for onboarding new vendors. Fantastic job, everyone!


To see how other departments and the city performed in 2024, [check out the official ODI Supplier Scorecard](#).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: HELP MAKE CAP CITY FESTIVALS A SUCCESS

We’re looking for 20-25 volunteers for the upcoming [Cap City Festivals](#), which provide free entertainment, food and resources to high-need areas across Columbus.

4/14/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	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	1	2	3

 There are no events on this day.

## KEY DATES

### 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

**Take Your Child to Work Day**  
April 24 | Details TBD

**Play To Win Town Hall for Staff**  
April 30 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Fawcett Center

Volunteers will assist with setup, food distribution, kids’ activities and cleanup.

Volunteer Dates & Locations:

- Saturday, April 26 – Adams Community Center
- Friday, May 30 – Driving Park Community Center and Pool
- Friday, August 8 – Barack Community Center and Pool
- Saturday, August 23 – Nafzger Park
- Friday, September 19 – Maloney Park
- Friday, October 24 – Westgate Community Center

Volunteers are needed from 3:30 to 8 p.m. to help ensure these events run smoothly. [Sign up today](#). *Please note: This is a volunteer opportunity and is not considered paid work time unless approved by your supervisor in advance.*

## CRPD DIAPER DRIVE: HELP LOCAL FAMILIES THRIVE

We’re hosting a diaper drive to support local families through the City’s CelebrateOne initiative, which works to ensure children are raised in healthy environments. You can contribute by [donating diapers through Amazon](#) (no need to go to the store) or [making a financial donation](#)—every bit helps!

The drive ends on April 30, so let’s come together to make a meaningful impact in our community!

## DAYFORCE TIP: MAKING SCHEDULE CHANGES

When adjusting schedules in Dayforce for staff on rotating shifts, remember:

- The system performs a “hard” upload on the last day of the pay period. Changes made during the pay period will apply only to that period.
- To make permanent changes, update the schedule and generate shift rotations—this will populate the new schedule for the next 52 weeks.

Need help? Contact Eric Potts at 614-6454-5549 or [EEPotts@columbus.gov](mailto:EEPotts@columbus.gov), or Kori DeFelice at 614-645-7570 or [KMDeFelice@columbus.gov](mailto:KMDeFelice@columbus.gov).

## TECH TIP: SAVE SMART, AVOID LOSS

Don’t save important files on your desktop! For security and accessibility, save them to your U drive, which is backed up daily and accessible from any city-networked computer. To locate your U drive: Open File Explorer and look under “This PC.”

# REINVESTING IN YOU

## TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- April (Date TBD): [Technology and Data in Parks](#), City Parks Alliance
- May (Date TBD): [Climate Resilience and Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

Reminder: All staff are members of City Park Alliance! Use your email to log in; reset your password if needed.

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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STACY CHANDLER, CUSTODIAN-PRISCILLA R. TYSON CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

SHE/HER/HERS



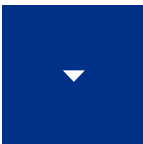
- How long have you been with the department?** 3.5 years
- What’s your favorite aspect of working here?** The people both staff and the community.
- What’s your favorite project that you’ve worked on?** Getting the CAC cleaned up so that it is a beautiful place to visit and attend classes.
- What’s your favorite ice cream?** Peanut butter chocolate chip
- What’s your favorite book or movie?** Six Triple 8
- What’s one piece of advice you’d share?** Address anyone and everyone with a hello and smile and maybe we can make the world a better place.

# ARCHIVE

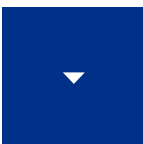
2025



2024



2023



2022



## NATURE

- [Nature](#)
- [Conservation](#)
- [Educational Gardens](#)
- [Nature Preserves](#)
- [Outdoor Education and Recreation](#)
- [Parks](#)
- [Pollinator Habitats](#)
- [Trails](#)
- [Urban Forestry](#)
- [Summer Camps](#)

## WELLNESS

- [Wellness](#)
- [Aquatics](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [CoGo Bike Share](#)
- [Fitness](#)
- [Food and Nutrition](#)
- [Therapeutic Recreation](#)
- [Summer Camps](#)

## CREATIVITY

- [Creativity](#)
- [Columbus Performing Arts Center](#)
- [Golden Hobby Gift Shop](#)
- [Performing Arts](#)



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