

West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

City Government - Community Outreach - West Linn Schools

Volume 2 Number 5 September 2019

Visit us online at: WestLinnAlliance.org

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The West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community (WLAIC) brings together a diverse, non-partisan group of West Linn neighbors working to ensure that all members of our community have equal opportunities to participate in the quality of life that our town offers; that all of our neighbors are safe from hate crimes, abuse or harassment; and that no person or group is subjected to discrimination, bigotry, or prejudice.

IN THIS ISSUE

Articles:

West Linn supports the Multi-City Equity Summit

School Board sets goals on eliminating equity barriers and disrupting systems of racism

WLAIC Summer Summary

Events:

September 14th - WLAIC booth at [Stafford Family Festival](#)

September 15th: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm WLAIC will have a table at the West Linn Lutheran Church Community Ministry Fair

September 18th: A WLAIC event on how economic disadvantage impacts equity and inclusion in West Linn - A community discussion

West Linn City supports the Multi-City Equity Summit

By William House

Community members from Lake Oswego, West Linn, Wilsonville, Tigard, and Tualatin have come together to plan the Multi-City Equity Summit. This inaugural event strives to share strategies on how to identify systemic inequities within our governments and communities and to address those inequities.

The City of West Linn stepped up to be one of the gold sponsors of this event. Mayor Russell Axelrod said that this event can help form the “foundation of a program that [our] communities are seeing the need for.” The Mayor also noted that City support for the event is “symbolic of the commitment of West Linn to social equity.”

The participating “cities are naturally linked through many commonalities, including a recognition that there is an ever-increasing need to address diversity, equity and inclusion



West Linn City Council

within all facets of our communities,” said David Salerno Owens, director of equity and strategic planning at Lake Oswego School District. “Our five communities have come together to learn from each other and to bring solutions to systemic issues.”

The goals of the Summit are:

1. Collectively deepening our understanding of how racism and discrimination are experienced in our communities.
2. Share ways that our communities are responding to the problem in neighborhoods, schools, and the city government; and
3. Exploring ways to address these issues at the local level.

For more information visit:

Multicityequity.org



School District goals highlight equity and inclusion

The West Linn-Wilsonville School Board held a regular meeting on August 19th and approved their goals for the 2019-20 school year.

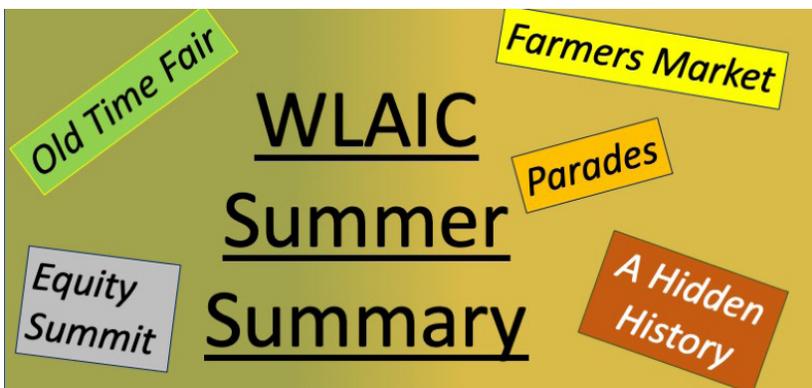
Their first goal is to “Grow student achievement through the use of high leverage instructional and engagement strategies to raise rigor, disrupt systems of racism, and generate equitable outcomes for all students while eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps.”

WLAIC has supported the district’s long-term emphasis on equity in education and welcomes this focus on eliminating barriers to equity and disrupting systems of racism as part of the district’s vision.

To provide your own feedback to the district, you can visit the WLAIC website and send a personal or automated message to the School Board members.

Visit our Community Voices page:

[West Linn Alliance.org](http://WestLinnAlliance.org)



Summer time in West Linn and the living is easy

Summer can be a slow time of the year, but the West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community (WLAIC) has maintained an active pace this summer. WLAIC co-sponsored a July 23rd event featuring Walidah Imarisha. Walidah’s talk was entitled “Why Aren’t There More Black People in Oregon: A Hidden History.” Walidah’s excellent presentation was very well received by an audience of 266 people.

WLAIC’s partners in organizing this event were Respond to Racism LO and Mary’s Woods Diversity Task Force.

The Community Outreach Committee organized WLAIC’s participation in the West Linn Old Time Fair with a booth and a group of members who walked in the Old Time Fair parade. The booth was visited by 143 of our neighbors during the three days of the fair. Children were able to make their own “Celebration Hats,” and we appreciated the chance to hear from the community.

WLAIC also sponsored a booth at the August 7th West

Linn Farmers Market and had 68 visitors. Children were able to plant seeds to take home while parents discussed WLAIC’s activities and goals. Hearing comments and ideas from the community provided an interesting and informative evening.

WLAIC is one of the founding members of the Multi-City Equity Summit, and the work on this project has continued throughout the summer. The event will be held on October 19th at Lake Oswego High School. Visit the [Equity Summit’s website](#) for more information or to register. Don’t delay the tickets are going fast.

WLAIC is grateful for the high level of community interest in our activities. We have welcomed 24 new members to the organization during July and August, and we are currently planning our schedule for the next year. Our first big event will be on September 18th, and you can read about it on page 3.

As events are planned, you can keep up with them using

COMMUNITY EVENTS

September 9th - [West Linn City Council Meeting](#) (6:30 pm)

September 9th - WLWV School Board Meeting (6:00 pm)

September 14th - WLAIC booth at [Stafford Family Festival](#)

September 15th: WLAIC partners with several organizations including the West Linn Lutheran Church to offer events related to equity and inclusion. On September 15th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm we will have a table at the church's Community Ministry Fair at 20390 Willamette Dr, West Linn

September 18th: How does economic disadvantage affect equity and inclusion in West Linn – A community discussion. The public is welcome and admission is free. West Linn Lutheran Church at 20390 Willamette Dr, West Linn from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

October 19th: Multi-City Equity Summit - Lake Oswego High School - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm ([More Information](#))

COMMUNITY LINKS OF INTEREST FOR YOU

WLWV School Board Briefs with the 2019-20 school year goals ([Click Here](#))

West Linn Tidings coverage of the WLAIC sponsored event 'Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon: A Hidden History' ([Read more](#))

West Linn aims to tackle discrimination – In 2011, former West Linn resident Melissa Lowery began working on her documentary, "Black Girl in Suburbia," hoping to spur the seldom-heard conversations about racism that exists in communities like West Linn. ([Read More in the West Linn Tidings](#))

[A Garet in Wilsonville](#) - A Wilsonville focused website seeking to establish a creative platform where, together, we might serve others through listening, amplifying voices of the marginalized, increasing awareness of inequality, and highlighting actions for change.



JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION

How does economic disadvantage impact equity and inclusion in West Linn

**West Linn Lutheran Church
Sept. 18th at 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

West Linn is the third wealthiest municipality in the State of Oregon, but this does not mean there is no economic distress.

The West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community and West Linn Lutheran Church are hosting a community discussion about the effects of economic disadvantage on equity and inclusion in West Linn. Come and discuss how community action and policy change from our city and schools can address equity barriers related to economic disadvantage. Help develop ideas to ensure that all community members have a chance to share in the opportunities that West Linn has to offer.

The event is open to the public, admission is free, and food will be provided. Join in the conversation and donate your ideas and insights to this community discussion. Visit our [website](#) for details.