



ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That the May 27, 2022, Office of the City Clerk report OCC00974, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

REPORT

The Chair of the Anti-racism Advisory Committee (ARAC), Shalini Sinha, has been invited to present the 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan.

ARAC is an advisory committee to City Council which consisted of 12 appointed community members and two Council Advisors in 2021 (Attachment 1). ARAC's mandate is to raise awareness and catalyze action on racism and anti-racism in Edmonton and provide advice to Council regarding community perspectives on issues relating to racism, including, but not limited to, diversity, discrimination, hate and extremism, racial equity, anti-Black racism, racism against Indigenous Peoples, xenophobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and the lived experiences of persons of colour.

While ARAC's in-person initiatives were restricted by COVID-19 safety protocols, the committee still achieved many accomplishments from January 2021-December 2021.

Overview of ARAC's 2021 accomplishments

- Advised on the creation, launch and adjudication of the City of Edmonton's Anti-racism Grants Program, which provided grant funding to support the anti-racism initiatives of youth, nonprofits and grassroots organizations in Edmonton.
- Appeared in the media on several occasions, including 1) a CBC news radio interview with ARAC's Chair to discuss the launch of the Anti-racism Grants Program, 2) articles in the Edmonton Journal and on CTV news regarding the launch of the Anti-racism Grants Program, 3) a CBC Radio (Radio Active) interview with the Chair to discuss hate-based symbols and 4) an

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interview with the Chair in Taproot to discuss the arts-related Anti-racism Grants Program recommendations.

- Continued to strengthen relationships with various City of Edmonton advisory committees, such as the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE) and Edmonton Youth Council (EYC).
- Advocated for equity measures, such as remuneration for civic agency members.
- Continued to engage/consult with City of Edmonton departments to inform policy through an anti-racism lens (i.e. Public Places bylaw; Edmonton Transit Service Advisory Board: Inclusive Transit report).
- Continued to engage with community to understand and facilitate dialogue on the needs of citizens with lived experience:
 - Met with members of Edmonton's Muslim community to learn more about existing community initiatives and explore ways to lend support;
 - Hosted an online event to discuss the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force's Safer for All report.
 - Attended various events to connect with community.
- Convened community groups in the final quarter of 2021 in response to Council's motion for the development of an Anti-racism Strategy to be created in a collaborative way between Administration, ARAC and BIPOC communities.
- Received presentations from 1) community groups such as Shift Lab to learn more about their community-based anti-racism initiatives, 2) the Edmonton Police Service to learn more about their Commitment to Action initiative, 3) Community Standards team and 4) the City Manager.
- Participation of the Chair as a panelist at the *Ibram X. Kendi, How to be an Antiracist* community event hosted by Edmonton Culture Society, Shift Lab, the City of Edmonton and Norquest College.
- Adopted a new subcommittee structure consisting of three subcommittees: Internal, Policy and Projects.
- Drafted letters, including a letter in support of recognizing the day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- Adopted two work priorities: 1) To ensure awareness of the connection between racism and the climate emergency and catalyze anti-racist actions to end the climate emergency and 2) To work on community safety and well being and part of that work is helping to build a collaborative decision making structure.

2022 work plan

- In 2022, ARAC will focus on:
 - developing its communications strategy;
 - building community awareness of ARAC and its mandate through public engagement and outreach;
 - engaging with community to understand and facilitate dialogue on the needs of citizens with lived experience;
 - finding opportunities for capacity building within racialized communities;

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- soliciting, reviewing and responding to requests from community groups and members of the public to present at Anti-racism Advisory Committee meetings;
- promoting and administering the Anti-racism Grants Program;
- providing advice to Council on issues within the scope of ARAC's mandate, as they arise;
- continuing to find opportunities for collaboration with other City of Edmonton Advisory Committees;
- developing the Anti-racism Strategy; and
- working on implementation of the Anti-racism Strategy and the Safer for All report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2021 Anti-racism Advisory Committee Members
2. 2021 Anti-racism Advisory Committee Expenses