

City of Milwaukee

EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS

MONTHLY UPDATE



JUNE 2026

JOIN ONE OF THE EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS!

An Employee Resource Group (ERG) is an employee group formally recognized by the City that shares a common background, focus area, and set of interests or goals that foster an environment of inclusion.

Any City of Milwaukee employee can be a member of an ERG.



Start your own ERG!

Want to start an ERG of your own?

We encourage City employees to consider creating other ERGs.

Example: Muslim, Interfaith, etc.

Interested? Check out the **ERG Policy & Application**.

Contact the HR Compliance Officer with any questions at 414-286-6210.



Visit milwaukee.gov/ERG for more information.



AVANZANDO ERG

 milwaukee.gov/AVANZANDO

Contact: Jessica Sanchez | jessan@milwaukee.gov

GET TO KNOW US!

Avanzando promotes the advancement of the Hispanic/Latinx community working at the City of Milwaukee by providing personal and professional development opportunities that attract, engage, and retain employees.

Avanzando aims to foster awareness, understanding, and inclusion of Hispanic/Latinx heritage within City services. Learn more at: www.milwaukee.gov/Avanzando

- Sign up to be a [member](#)!
- Avanzando is looking for the following:
 - Recruitment Chair
 - Committee Members

Keep an eye out for upcoming events!



BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN ERG

 milwaukee.gov/BAA

Our mission is to ensure that the City of Milwaukee cultivates an atmosphere in which BAA employees are valued, respected, supported, and encouraged to better serve the BAA Milwaukee population as seen through an increase in BAA employee recruitment, retention, and engagement in City of Milwaukee initiatives.

- Learn more [about us](#) and join us on [Teams](#).
- [Sign up](#) to receive communications from BAA ERG.
- Contact us: BAAERG@milwaukee.gov

**On May 29, the Black/African American ERG hosted a Bowling Night!
BAA ERG members had a great time, and we were thankful to have
Alderman Sharlen Moore stop by and join the fun.**





BLACK AFRICAN AMERICAN ERG

 milwaukee.gov/BAA



On **June 19, 1865**, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce that all enslaved people were free, marking the official end of slavery in the United States two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

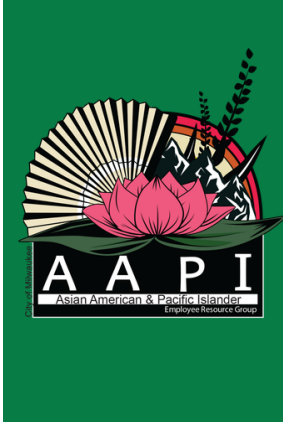
Today, Juneteenth stands as a powerful celebration of Black resilience, liberation, and American history.

Nowhere is this spirit more vibrant than right here in our city. This year marked the 55th Anniversary of Milwaukee's Juneteenth Day celebration, proudly recognized as one of the longest-running continuous Juneteenth traditions in the entire nation.

Operating under the 2026 theme, "**Honoring the Past and Empowering the Future**," Milwaukee hosted several key events to bring the community together.

Thank you to everyone who joined the celebration.

Milwaukee's Juneteenth is not just an African American celebration; it is a unifying city-wide event.



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ERG

The AAPI ERG's mission is to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and value for its members and the broader community by fostering community, mentorship, collaboration, advocacy, celebration of AAPI heritage, and resources to personal and professional career development and advancement opportunities.

Membership:

Interested? Please fill out our form: [AAPI Membership Interest Form](#).

Or feel free to email us at AAPIERG@milwaukee.gov. [milwaukee.gov/AAPI](https://www.milwaukee.gov/AAPI)

Looking to take a more active role? We are also seeking members interested in serving on the AAPI ERG Board. Board service is a great opportunity to help lead initiatives, plan events, and support the growth of our ERG community. If interested, please contact us via email.

What's The Latest?

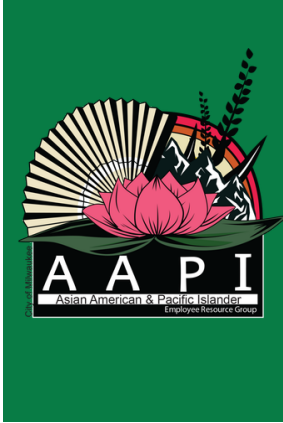
Collaboration with RCW Cafe

In partnership with the RCW Café, we transformed the café space with festive AAPI-themed decorations to highlight and celebrate the rich cultures and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. City staff were invited to enjoy special menu offerings, including a popular Build-Your-Own Ramen Bowl experience. The ramen station was especially well-received, with many employees sharing positive feedback and returning for another bowl.



AAPI Food Truck Day

We also hosted a highly successful AAPI Food Truck Day at Red Arrow Park, bringing employees together through food, culture, and community. The event provided an opportunity for City employees to support local AAPI-owned businesses while experiencing a variety of authentic flavors. A special thank you to our participating food trucks: **MKE Bento, Korean KISS, and Cha House**. Their outstanding food and enthusiastic participation helped make the event a tremendous success.



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ERG



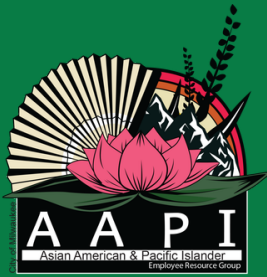
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our AAPI Heritage Month celebrations. Together, we created a month filled with culture, connection, and appreciation for the diverse experiences and contributions of the AAPI community.

This year, we celebrated several exciting milestones, including the City of Milwaukee's first official AAPI Heritage Month Kickoff, our AAPI Food Truck Day, a special collaboration with RCW Café, our first egg roll fundraiser, and the opportunity to co-host a short film screening and Q&A discussion. Thank you for helping make this year's celebration such a tremendous success!

Looking for an Opportunity to Serve Your Community?

The Election Commission is currently seeking bilingual poll workers to help support voters during upcoming elections, with a particular need for Hmong-speaking poll workers. Bilingual poll workers play an important role in ensuring that all voters can access the information and assistance they need at the polls.

If you are fluent in Hmong or another language and are interested in serving your community, we encourage you to consider this rewarding opportunity. Please see the attached flyer for additional details, eligibility requirements, and information on how to apply. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about becoming a bilingual poll worker, please contact Nu Yang Jackson at nudyang@milwaukee.gov or electionworker@milwaukee.gov.



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ERG

Make a Difference in Your Community

BE A POLL WORKER



Qualifications:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be 18 years old (except qualified high school students)
- Live in Milwaukee County
- Never have been convicted of a felony

Benefits:

- Serve your community
- \$220 stipend for a full-day shift or \$117 for a half-day shift
- Additional \$45 for attending training and \$15 for being bilingual (Spanish/Hmong) at specific voting sites



Help ensure every eligible voter is able to exercise their right to vote.
Apply online at MILWAUKEE.GOV/POLLWORKERS or scan the QR code.

If you have any questions, contact the Milwaukee Election Commission at 414-286-3491 or email electionworker@milwaukee.gov.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT ERG

 milwaukee.gov/CDERG

CDERG strives to provide opportunities for increased connection and collaboration of career-minded public servants across departments to provide greater access to professional development, networking, and mentorship opportunities.

Become a Member!

Interested in joining the Career Development Employee Resource Group? New CDERG members may sign up for meeting notifications and links [here](#).

Our board members include Tristan Goetz (Co-Chair), Stacy Sommerville (Co-Chair), Lanesha Baldwin-Rojas (Secretary), and Tim Lundburg (Treasurer).

Event Planning Survey

Please complete a short survey to help us plan motivating and engaging events in 2026. Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/BsLfxiW73VTC3jsWA>

Welcome Our Newest Board Member!

Please join us in welcoming **Amanda Richman** to the CDERG Board! Amanda will serve as our Technology Coordinator, supporting the group's technology needs, communications, and digital engagement efforts. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to the contributions and ideas she will bring to our organization. Amanda is the Workforce Development Coordinator with the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

In her role, she oversees training, employee engagement, and student placements, aiming to build a prepared and skilled public health workforce. Amanda has worked with the Milwaukee Health Department since July 2020, first as a Population Health Fellow and later as a Public Health Strategist focused on creating a healthier built environment.

Amanda is passionate about leadership development, facilitation, and collaborative project leadership. Amanda is excited to join the Career Development ERG board to continue building relationships across City Departments, support career growth and reflections, and plan engaging events that support leadership development!

Outside of work, Amanda is in too many book clubs, loves to catch movies at the Oriental Theatre, and volunteers with Healthy Climate Wisconsin to address climate change as a public health crisis.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT ERG

 milwaukee.gov/CDERG

Join Us for the CDERG Summer Social!



- **Location:** The Spread Sports Bar & Grill | 1137 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53203
- **Date:** Wednesday, July 8, 2026
- **Time:** 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

RSVP by emailing: CareerDevelopmentERG@milwaukee.gov

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of connection and conversation!

Upcoming Leadership Chat

CDERG is currently planning a Leadership Chat with Melissa Buford, Director of the City of Milwaukee Office of African American Affairs. We look forward to hearing about her leadership experiences, career journey, and the important work being done to serve Milwaukee residents. Details and registration information will be shared soon.

Be sure to check your emails for upcoming event information, announcements, and opportunities to connect with fellow members throughout the summer.



COMMUNITY SERVICE ERG

Helping our community, the City of Milwaukee, and our commitment to serve by volunteering our time to local organizations. The group will help further the City of Milwaukee brand, while acting as volunteer ambassadors and promoting civil service.

WANT TO BE A LEADER?

- Find local volunteer opportunities on the [United Way Volunteer website](#).
- [Check out photos from our recent events here!](#)
- Click [here](#) to join our monthly planning meeting.
- Please complete this [interest form](#) to receive updates on CS events/activities .

We are always looking to grow our support to include City of Milwaukee events! If you have a work-related event or opportunity that would benefit from volunteer support, please contact [Susan Picione](#), [Paul Keltner](#), or [Likisha Hairston](#) to discuss further. **Let's all join in together to help others in our Community!**

UPDATES:

- **2026 Girls on the Run (GOTR) Spring 5K** - Sunday, May 31, 2026
 - Our annual spring event, GOTR, had a fair turnout (*hoping more CSV-ERG members will join us for the next GOTR in Fall, 2026!)
- CSV-ERG's newest member,  **Dakota (MPD)**, brought a lot of cheers, spirit, and encouragement to the runners! Welcome, Dakota! Many thanks!
- We're very appreciative and grateful to have had representatives from other ERGs join us for the fun! Special shout-outs to  **Tristian (Avanzando)** and  **Chloe (Career Development)** for their showing up and showing out in their tu-tu's! Thank you!
- We also had Common Council's  **Alderman Sharlen Moore** help cheer with us in her superwoman cape! Fantastic! Thank you, too!
- Also, GOTR will feature the City of Milwaukee in its fall newsletter. **Keep an eye out for this and plan to attend the Fall 2026 GOTR!**



COMMUNITY SERVICE ERG



UPCOMING EVENTS!

- **Eastside Senior Services** needs volunteers. Please click the link to learn more.
-  **July 17 Chill on the Hill ERG Meet & Greet!** Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, July 21st**, and **SAVE THE DATE!** Be sure to join fellow-CSV ERG members for a fabulous & fun Community Music event at Humboldt Park. Please visit the link for general info on the Chill event; more details will be forthcoming!
<https://www.bayviewneighborhood.org/chill-on-the-hill>

Did you know?

*City employees are eligible to receive up to 32 hours per year of paid time off to participate in mentorship programs through [Mentor Greater Milwaukee](#). Find policy information as well as request/verification forms [here](#) (#31).

And, as a City of Milwaukee employee, you can use up to 8 hours of paid time for volunteer activities? Find policy information as well as request/verification forms [here](#) (#65).




THE DATA & INSIGHTS GROUP (DIG) ERG

The Data & Insights Group (DIG) connects colleagues to stay informed about evolving data analytics and research practices by fostering knowledge sharing, networking, and research support. DIG aims to improve understanding of data, artificial intelligence, and research, share current research methods, and build connections within and beyond the city.

Join the Group - No membership application required!

Join now by emailing TheDIG@milwaukee.gov with Subject: Join.

We will add you to MS Teams, giving you access to the community channels and resources.

 **Community Platform:** Our community will live and breathe on **MS Teams**, with ongoing updates, member interaction, and weekly resources posted.

2026 Rolling Survey

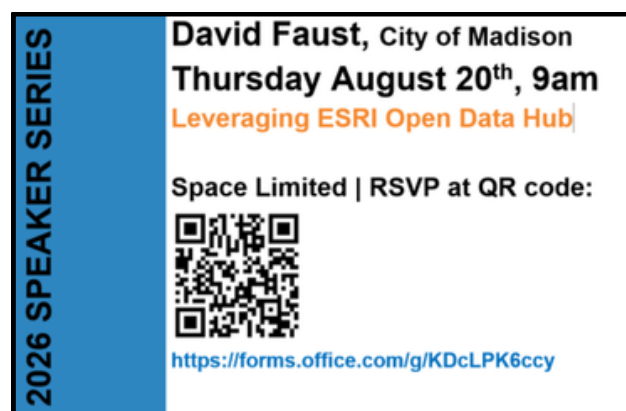
Your input is valuable! Please take a moment to complete a brief survey to help us plan meaningful and engaging programming for 2026.


<https://forms.office.com/g/SMMqgkAYta>

Upcoming Events:

 **Thursday, August 20th David Faust | Leveraging ESRI Open Data Hub**

- **Register:** <https://forms.office.com/g/KDcLPK6ccy>




 **Launch Team:** Luis Martinez, Chuck Irby, Dana Messerschmitt.

If you're interested in joining or have questions, contact us at: TheDig@milwaukee.gov



THE HIVE ERG

 milwaukee.gov/TheHive

The Hive seeks to make the City of Milwaukee a safe and thriving workplace and city for LGBTQ+ employees, families, and allies, through recruitment, retention, and support of the LGBTQ+ community in city employment and services.

BECOME A MEMBER

- Sign up to become a member & receive updates on what The Hive is up to!
- Contact us at TheHiveMKE@milwaukee.gov. Join our mailing list to stay in the know!
- Love the LGBTQ+ community? Love making things happen? Want to stretch your leadership wings? The Hive is looking for folks to join the Board!
 - Co-Chairs
 - Secretary
 - Events Chair

Volunteer with The Hive:

Want to help out but can't commit to a board role?

We always need volunteers to help with events and initiatives! Whether your special skill is writing policy, talking to strangers, or schlepping boxes, we can use it!

Have you heard the latest buzz?!

There's a new breakout group in The Hive! It's called The Hive: TNB, short for The Hive: Transgender and Non-Binary. We seek to create and provide a means of support for gender-diverse employees and their friends and family.

We:

- Strive to offer emotional support through shared experiences.
- Maintain a knowledge resource and repository with our Get and Give program.
- Share your journey and learn from others
- Identify safe navigation through aspects of a gender diverse existence.
- Promote allyship for all gender queer individuals, friends, and families

Have a voice! Share your journey! Help others!

Email TheHiveMKE@milwaukee.gov with the subject line **TNB**.



MILITARY SERVICES & ALLIES ERG

We focus on supporting the City of Milwaukee's military veteran employees by fostering connection, advocacy, and community.

Our goal is to create a network where veterans and their allies can find camaraderie, share resources, and address issues unique to military service. Through our efforts, we hope to support and empower veterans in the workplace.

JOIN US!

Would you like to know be part of our ERG? Feel free to reach out to Dave Mann at damann@milwaukee.gov.

Scheduled Meetings:

- **Date:**
 - Wednesday, July 29
- **Time:**
 - 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:**
 - RCW's Cafe, Below ZMB & City Hall

We warmly invite you to join us for a time of community and fellowship!

For more information, please feel free to reach out to our lead contact, David Mann at damann@milwaukee.gov.



WANT TO BE A MENTOR?

MENTOR Greater Milwaukee

Providing access to quality mentors to Milwaukee's youth by strengthening the organizational capacity and caliber of mentoring organizations.



In 2016, the City of Milwaukee, along with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), funded a study to explore the development of a Mentor Affiliate in Milwaukee. They enlisted the Public Policy Forum (PPF) to conduct research titled "Mentoring in Milwaukee: Developing a Regional Mentoring Network."

The study involved more than 13 additional mentoring organizations in a strategic planning process. The findings indicated a significant unmet demand for quality mentors in the community. As a result, several organizations, including Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee Bucks, and the City of Milwaukee, agreed to partner in addressing this need.

One of the main objectives of Mentor Greater Milwaukee (MGM) is to enhance the capacity of agencies that currently provide mentoring services. Additionally, MGM aims to foster collaboration among these services by establishing an administrative component that will coordinate recruitment and training efforts.

Click the button below to learn more!

LEARN MORE >>

If you would like to be a mentor, click [here](#) to learn how the program works!