

AGENDA DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION

January 13, 2026

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



Accessibility

The City of Ellensburg strives to make our services, programs, and activities readily accessible.

- Closed Captioning is available to Zoom viewers. To enable closed captioning, you will need to click on the "CC" button at the bottom of your Zoom screen and then select either "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript."
- Members of the public who do not speak English or who have limited proficiency may request an interpreter if they wish to participate in public meetings.
- The City will provide reasonable accommodation for members of the public with disabilities.

Zoom Webinar ID: 897 3788 2563

Zoom Passcode: 717948

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89737882563?pwd=c1hycWlIK2FFMENyT1daV0dkcHg2Zz09>

Please submit requests for language assistance or reasonable accommodation to the HR Director/ADA Coordinator by calling (509) 962-7222 or by email at ADACoordinator@ellensburgwa.gov. Five (5) business days' notice is appreciated.

**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION AGENDA
Council Chambers
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
And remotely via Zoom
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
3:00 PM - Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

1.A DEI Commission Meeting Grounding (Read)

1.B DEI Commission applicant introduction - allow applicants in attendance a few moments to make an introduction

2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2025

4. New Business

4.A Introduction of Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (Stacey Henderson)

4.B Proclamations Discussion (Nancy to lead)

4.C Move February DEI Commission Meeting to Tuesday, February 3 due to quorum issue

4.D Joint Study Session with City Council Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers

5. Liaison Reports Teresa Chanes - Ellensburg Downtown Association; Dr. Elvin Delgado and Ruben Cardenas - CWU; and Rhonda Schmidt - Ellensburg School District

6. Subcommittee Reports

6.A Grant Subcommittee: Reports

7. Commission Member Reports

8. Staff Report

8.A Staff Report

9. Public Comment PUBLIC COMMENT RULES FOR ALL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

1. Each speaker's comments are to be limited to 3 MINUTES and must state their name and city of residence. 2. Speakers are cautioned not to engage in conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the DEI Commission

meeting. 3. Comments must be related to the commission's business or over which the Commission has control. 4. Speakers may not identify themselves as candidates for elective public office or make any statements which assist or discuss the campaign of a candidate for elective office or discuss or campaign for or against a ballot proposition.

10. Adjourn



For more information on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, contact Public Information Officer Nicole Klauss at 509-925-8657.

DEI Commission Meeting Grounding: What We Mean by DEI

Diversity: We recognize and celebrate the wide range of backgrounds, experiences, identities, and perspectives that make our city unique.

- For example: Unity Park's grand opening included a variety of performances that reflected the cultural richness of our community.

Equity: We understand that not everyone starts from the same place, and acknowledge the unique needs of different groups and residents. We strive to identify and help remove barriers that prevent people from having full and complete access to opportunities and resources, so everyone has the ability and self-determination to thrive.

- For example: DEI grants have supported small, local businesses and events that center underrepresented voices.

Inclusion: We strive to create spaces where people from all walks of life feel welcomed, safe, respected, and invited to be an active part of the community.

- For example: Conversations with Parks & Rec have led to more inclusive restroom options for different families and visitors.

Accessibility: Everyone deserves the opportunity to take part in community life, so we work to address and remove barriers (ex. physical, language, social, and communicative) so everyone can fully take part in community life.

- For example: We've encouraged the city to use interpretation services and listening devices in meetings so more people can engage.

Belonging: We all want to feel like we're part of where we live and make our home—seen, valued, respected—and that our contributions are welcome. Belonging is at the heart of a healthy community.

- For example: We've supported heritage month proclamations, Juneteenth celebrations, and partnerships that build bridges between groups.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG
Date of Meeting
Time of Meeting
Place of Meeting

Minutes of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Commission Meeting
December 9, 2025
3:00 PM
Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Nancy Goodloe called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Phil Backlund, Kande Cleary, Nancy Goodloe, and Amber Hoefler, M. Eliatamby-O'Brien.

Also present: Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission; Heidi Behrends Cerniwey, City Manager; Ruben Cardenas, CWU Associate Vice President liaison; Cody Natland, applicant; Ramona Bryant, League of Women Voters of Kittitas County; and 5 members of the public (3 in person and 2 online).

Chair Goodloe provided comments about former DEI Commission member Tylene Carnell, who passed away in November.

The Commission read the grounding statement.

Applicant Cody Natland provided an introduction. Another applicant plans to attend the January meeting. The third applicant was also invited to the December meeting but did not reply.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Eliatamby-O'Brien seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

3. Approval of Commission Minutes from November 11 & November 18, 2025 Meetings

Commissioner Backlund moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 11 and November 18, 2025 DEI Commission meetings. Commissioner Cleary seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

4. New Business

A. Commission members confirmed availability to attend a joint study session with the Ellensburg City Council on Tuesday, January 20.

B. Commissioner Backlund made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Report and forward it to the Ellensburg City Council. Commissioner Hoefler seconded the motion.

During discussion Goodloe suggested capitalizing Community Conversations, adding language about the workshop attendance, and clarifying language in the last bullet point of the Policy, Advisory and Government Engagement section.

Backlund made a motion to amend the main motion to accept the changes. Hoefer seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Eliatamby-O'Brien made a motion to further amend the document to include a bullet that acknowledges providing in advisory capacity feedback to DEI Commission liaisons under the community and outreach section. Hoefer seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

The Commission then voted on the amended document through the main motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

C. Commissioner Hoefer moved to approve \$150 to purchase name plates. Commissioner Backlund seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

D. Staff discussed the Juneteenth 2026 event and challenges with finding an organization to lead the efforts. Goodloe and Backlund will reach out to the 2025 Juneteenth subcommittee members. Eliatamby-O'Brien has a meeting at CWU to discuss a multicultural event and will ask about Juneteenth. CWU liaison Ruben Cardenas suggested reaching out to the Multicultural Center on campus.

E. Chair Goodloe provided a brief update on the Council's discussion of Chapter 9 and the direction that was taken at the December 1 City Council meeting. Staff encouraged DEI Commission members to attend the Dec. 15 City Council meeting to provide public comment.

5. Previous Meeting Motions

The Commission reviewed the previous meeting motions.

6. Liaison Reports

CWU liaison Ruben Cardenas reported on CWU's Capacity Building for Shared Equity Leadership and April 18 Veterans Resource Fair in the CWU Student Union and Recreation Center.

7. Subcommittee Reports

None.

8. Commission Member Reports

Commission members expressed gratitude for other commission members and the work they have been doing.

9. Staff Report

None.

10. Public Comments

Chair Goodloe called for public comment.

- Cari Vickers provided public comment.
- William Coleman provided public comment.

11. Preview Next Meeting January 13, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Nicole Klauss, staff member assigned to the DEI Commission

Drafted: 12/9/25

Approved:

DRAFT

City of Ellensburg

Comprehensive Plan Introduction

January 13, 2026



ELLENSBURG 2046

Hometown Heart — Bright Future

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A 20-year vision **by and for the community**, it establishes **goals and policies** for nearly everything the City does. And it is intimately **tied to zoning and other regulations** that govern land development throughout the community.



Why have a Comprehensive Plan?

- State Law Requires It!
- Sets the stage for what can be built where
- Development decisions are not "on the fly" but made in the context of a broader **vision by the community**
- Provides a degree of predictability for property owners, businesses, and residents
- Is the **legal basis** for zoning and other development regulations



Comprehensive Plan vs Zoning (and other regs)

Comprehensive Plan *Guides*

- ✓ Guiding document

- ✓ Legal basis for zoning

- ✓ Long range (20-year) community vision

- ✓ Existing trends, data and growth forecasting

- ✓ GMA provides requirements

Zoning & Subdivision Regs, etc. *Implements*

- ✓ Zoning *in accordance* with the plan

- ✓ Determines what uses/densities go where

- ✓ Establishes lot sizes, setbacks, height limits

- ✓ Other development and design standards

- ✓ Subdivisions: public infrastructure

Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan

Mandatory Elements (RCW 36.70A.070)

- ✓ Land Use
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Capital Facilities and Utilities Plan
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ *Climate Change and Resiliency*

Optional Elements

- ✓ Economic Development
- ✓ Parks and Recreation
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Historic Preservation
- ✓ Access, Engagement, and Belonging



Timeline

Counties and cities planning under the GMA are required to complete periodic updates to their comprehensive plans and development.

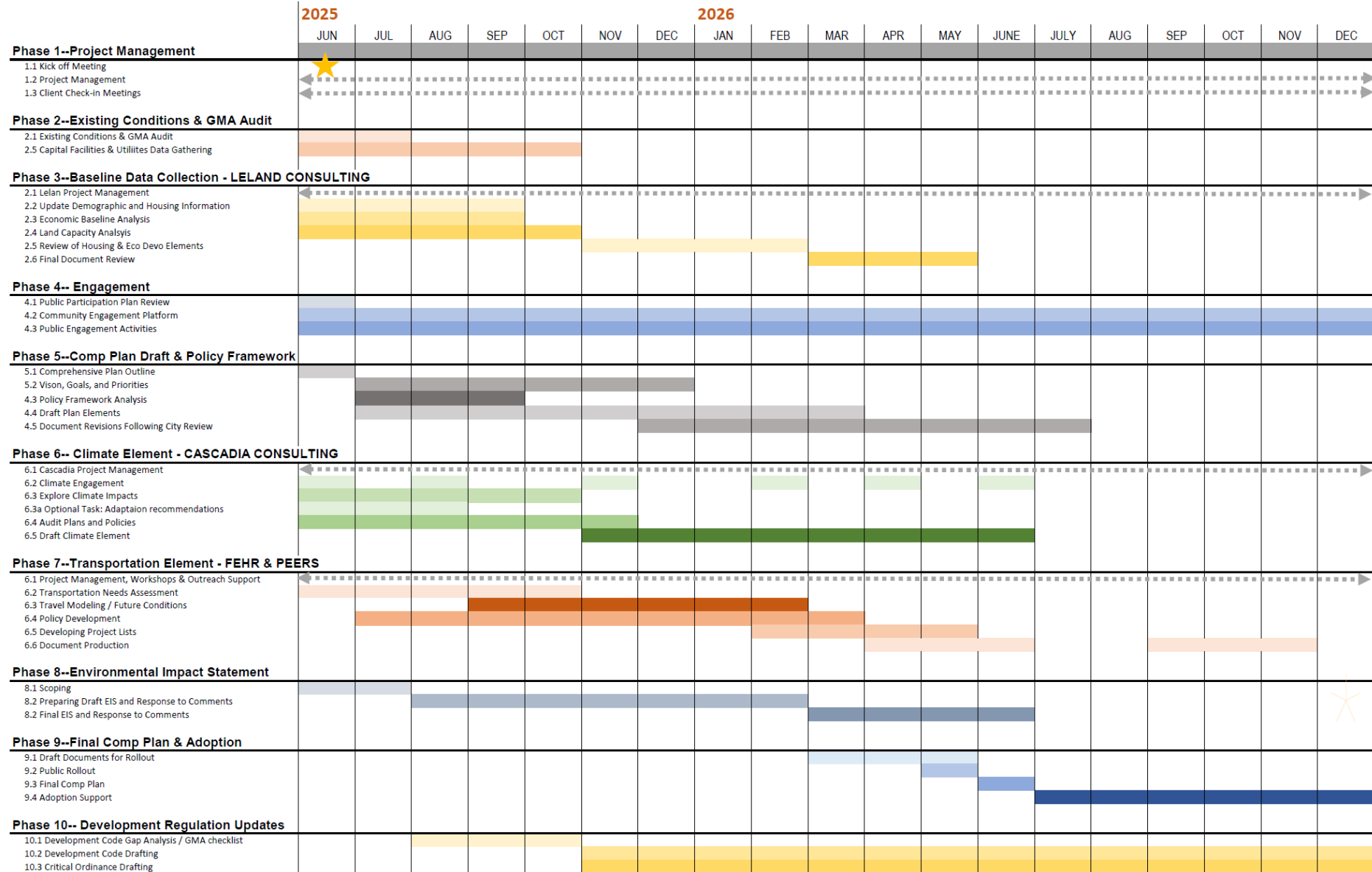
These deadlines vary by location and are set by the Washington State Department of Commerce, as shown on the map



2024 Due December 31st 2025 Due December 31st 2026 Due December 31st 2027 Due June 30th

★ Starred counties are partially planning under the Growth Management Act

Timeline – Comp Plan Adoption Schedule



Alignment with State Legislation and Regulations

SEPA- EIS

To comply with SEPA, we will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The EIS will describe existing conditions for various elements of the built and natural environment, analyze potential impacts of adopting the Comprehensive Plan, and identify mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.

CLIMATE & TRANSPORTATION

HB 1181 – *Climate-Ready Planning*

- Climate Resilience Planning
- Multimodal Transportation
- *Environmental Justice*

HOUSING

HB 1337 – *Accessory Dwelling Units*

- Two ADUs allowed on all single-family lots
- Impact fee caps, ban on owner-occupancy requirements

HB 1110 and HB 2321 – *Middle Housing Options*

- Not applicable to Ellensburg at this time
- Housing Diversity identified as priority in HAP and City Council Strategic Vision

HB 1220 – *Housing for All*

- Housing Needs by Income Band
- Adequate Provisions
- *Racially Disparate Impacts*

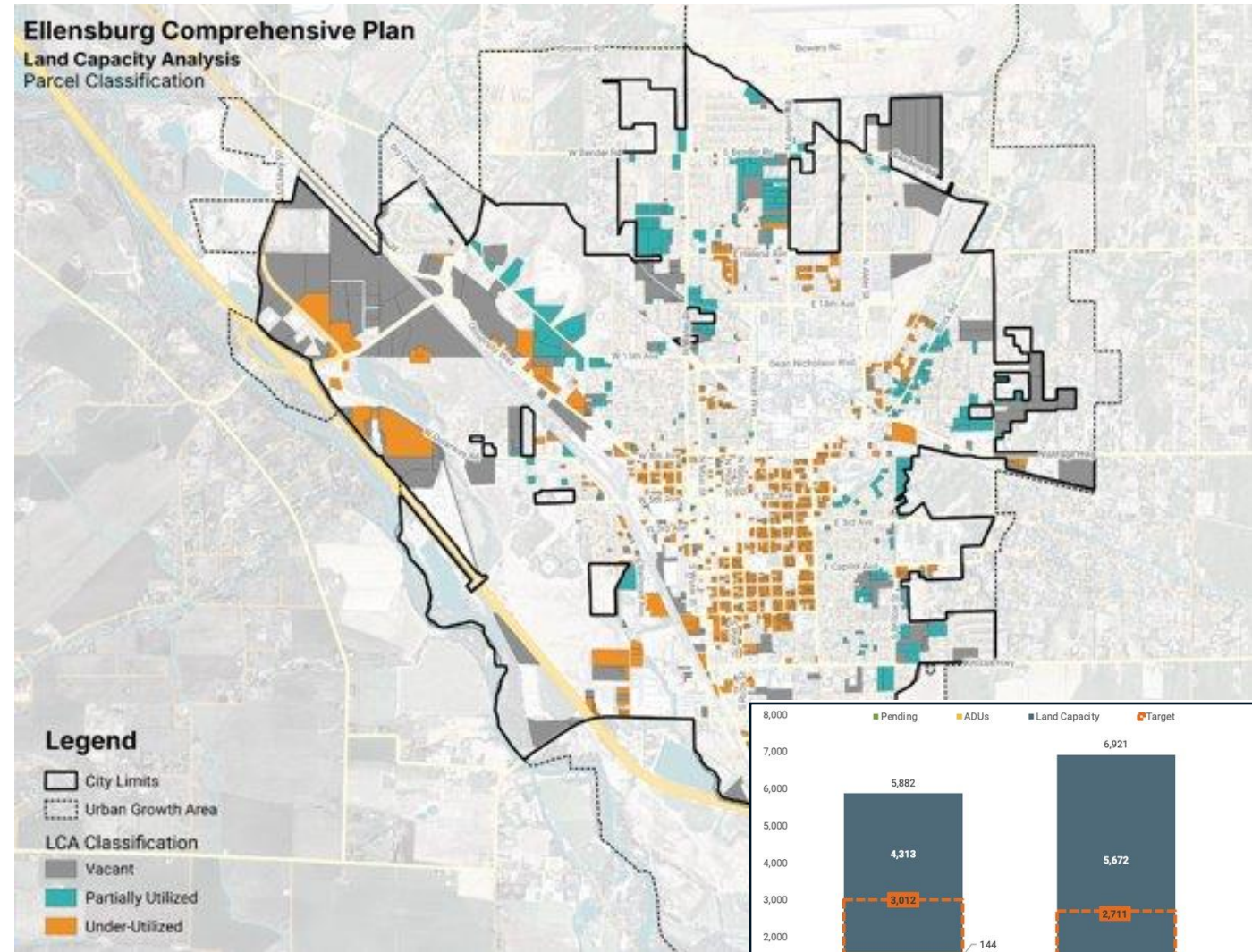
Analysis and Modeling- Example

Future housing needs broken down by area median income (AMI) groups



Economic Development

- Placemaking and downtown strategies
- Farmers Market
- Potential corridor improvements
- Wayfinding
- Housing and Economic Development
- Partnerships and Marketing
- Opportunity sites
- Business community engagement



A Cohesive Comprehensive Plan

PLAN CONSISTENCY AND NEXT STEPS

City staff are working closely with the planning consultant to audit policies, concepts, and content, analyze data, and model impacts of future growth throughout the City of Ellensburg's Comprehensive (Comp) Plan periodic (10-year) update which began in 2025. Contents of the current Chapter 9 Access, Engagement, & Belonging (adopted in December 2025) are being **incorporated into this overall review to ensure all Comprehensive Plan elements are cohesive and synthesized at the conclusion of the periodic update in 2026.** Following the analysis and modeling phase, elements (chapters) will be formulated with the intent on having an overall draft completed and ready to begin the adoption process by mid-2026.

Over the next few months, additional online survey tools will be published to gather additional feedback from community members on a broad spectrum of issues related to elements of the Comp Plan that have surfaced during early stages of the update process.

A Cohesive Comprehensive Plan

LIAISONS

Members of City Boards and Commissions—including the DEI Commission—will be asked to designate liaisons to **participate in briefings and focus groups to review the analysis and drafts of various elements (chapters) and provide guidance on content, policies, and goals that have been developed from data analysis and public input.** Liaisons are expected to brief their respective advisory board on issues, discussions, and significant changes to those elements. Staff will also provide updates to relevant advisory boards throughout the development and adoption process.

At the February 2, 2026, City Council Study Session, an overview, updated timeline, and roadmap for completion and adoption will be presented and posted on the City’s website at [Ellensburg 2046 Comprehensive Plan Update | Ellensburg, WA](#).

Thank you! Any questions?



ELLENSBURG 2046

Hometown Heart — Bright Future



Meeting Date: January 13, 2026
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Proclamations Discussion (Nancy to lead)
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Discussion

Background/Summary:

Discuss proclamations. The current process for anyone submitting a proclamation involves submission of the proclamation with an application. The mayor reviews proclamations and approves their inclusion in the City Council agenda packet. Proclamations are no longer read at City Council meetings. Chair Goodloe wants to have a discussion about proposing an abridged version being read at Council meetings.

Previous Council Action:

The DEI Commission has been submitting proclamations for these months/observances as previously approved by the City Council:

National Black History Month	February
Irish American Heritage Month/St. Patrick's Day	March
National Women's History Month	March
Trans Day of Visibility	March 31
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month	March
Jewish American Heritage Month	May
Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	May
LGBTQ Pride Month	June
Juneteenth National Independence Day	June 19
Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month	September 15-October 15
National Disability Employment Awareness Month	October
Native American Heritage Month	November

Analysis:
N/A

Financial Impact:
N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None



Meeting Date: January 13, 2026
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Grant Subcommittee: Reports
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Review the reports submitted by 2025 grant recipients.

Background/Summary:
At the June 2, 2025 City Council meeting, the Council approved the 2025 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission grant awards in the amount of \$5,000. The projects or events had to take place in the 2025 calendar year. The five grant recipients included:

- Valley Voices Community Choir - \$1,320 for four community performances
- Peers Rising (formerly Kittitas County Recovery Community Organization) - \$800 for 509teens Annual Back to School Event
- Gallery One - \$770 for Spanish-language art workshops
- Ellensburg Ski Team - \$800 for materials and outreach, and winter clothing and gear to make skiing accessible
- CWU on behalf of Juneteenth Planning Committee - \$1,310 for Juneteenth Community Celebration

Previous Council Action:
At the June 2, 2025 City Council meeting, the Council approved the 2025 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission grant awards in the amount of \$5,000.

Analysis:
All five grant recipients held their events/programs and submitted the required documentation for grant funding reimbursement. The 2025 grant process is now closed.

Financial Impact:
The 2025 grants total of \$5,000 was included in the 2025 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission budget and spending plan.

Budget Adjustment: No

- Attachments:**
1. Peers Rising Grant Writeup
 2. Valley Voices Make Music Ellensburg Grant Writeup

3. Juneteenth Grant Writeup
4. Gallery One Grant Writeup
5. Ellensburg Ski Team Writeup



<https://www.peersrisingwa.org> | info@peersrisingwa.org | 509-968-5224

How the Grant Was Used:

Funding from the Ellensburg Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Commission made it possible for Peers Rising's 509Teens Program to host our 2025 Back-to-School Event, providing local youth with school supplies, hygiene kits, snacks, and community resource connections. The grant helped ensure every participant—regardless of income or background—started the school year prepared and supported. Supplies were intentionally selected to reflect inclusivity and youth voice, promoting confidence, creativity, and belonging.

How the DEI Commission Was Recognized:

1. **Event Recognition:** The DEI Commission was acknowledged during event announcements and on-site signage thanking them for their sponsorship and community partnership.
2. **Social Media Recognition:** A public thank-you post was shared across our Peers Rising and 509Teens social media pages, highlighting the DEI Commission's support and the positive impact of their investment in youth and inclusion.

How Many People Were Impacted:

We had a total of 88 participants, including 65 teens who received essential Back-to-School supplies. In addition to those youth, family members and community partners attended to connect with local resources and learn about ongoing programs available through Peers Rising.

Project Outcome:

The event met its goals by reducing barriers for families and ensuring equitable access to school readiness resources. It also introduced new youth and families to ongoing programs at the 509Teens Center, where they continue to access safe spaces, mentorship, and peer support. The collaboration strengthened trust between community members, local agencies, and Peers Rising as a youth-serving organization.

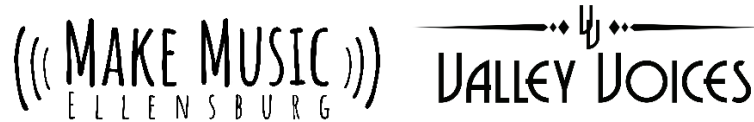
Future Vision:

We hope to grow this event each year, offering bilingual materials, expanded outreach in underserved areas, and more community partnerships. Continued collaboration with the DEI Commission would help sustain equitable access and celebrate the diversity of youth in Ellensburg.

Positive Impact on Our Organization and Ellensburg:

This project deepened our relationship with local families and highlighted how community partnerships advance inclusion and wellness. It strengthened Peers Rising's capacity to serve as a bridge between youth and supportive resources, while celebrating Ellensburg as a community that values diversity, equity, and opportunity for all.





December 20, 2025

Dear Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Commission,

With your support, the **Valley Voices Community Choir** pulled off a fabulous production on June 21st, a beautiful winter concert on Nov 22nd, as well as some joyful caroling for our downtown tree lighting on Nov 29, 2025.

The Valley Voices is a non-auditioned group of 35-40 members each season. I operate this program as a “nonprofit project” of Make Music Ellensburg with a suggested monthly donation from members. The singers of Valley Voices are a diverse crowd, ranging in ages from 21-80+, all experience levels, with a wide range of income levels, varying abilities, from diverse ethnic backgrounds, & including members of the LGBTQIA+ community. I call it a “y’all come” choir, & you have helped make it even more welcoming this year. About half of this wonderful group of people partakes in our weekly after-rehearsal dinners, just for the fellowship.

June 21st was our 3rd annual **Classics+Rock performance** & silent auction, this time with the theme of “Home.” I chose music that would create a sense of “hominess” with warmth & friendship, & it turned into an inspiring evening that one audience member said was “just what [they] needed.” We featured solo vocalists, a rock band, a high school string ensemble, guest instrumentalists, a local author, original art, a kids choir... phew! We had 66 performers from elementary school age to retired adults, & around 200 audience members + friends/family watching online. (It’s quite the production.)

The Classics+Rock concert is our annual fundraiser with a silent auction each year, & this year I also added an entry ticket fee to additionally offset costs. (Just purchasing our music is nearly \$1200 for this concert.) Your grant helped us to provide **large-print programs, nice posters, & professional sound** for this event. These details helped make our production appear more professional as well as making it more accessible to people with disabilities, including our regular elderly crowd. We made sure to thank the DEI Commission in our announcements, & you were included on the cover of our program. We hope to continue this level of quality next year.

The Valley Voices took a break for July, but was back at it in August to prepare a light-hearted set for the Kittitas County Fair. Our Winter season rehearsals began in September for our Nov 22nd concert & Nov 29th performance at the downtown tree lighting event. For these two performances, we were able to hire Alanna Alegria for **ASL interpretation** for the first time. What a delightful addition! She performed each piece with us as well as interpreted the MC’s introductions & chatter. We hope that we can offer ASL interpretation again the future & focus some advertising better to reach those who would benefit from it the most. We teamed up with the Methodist Church’s new Community Band & bell choir for the Nov 22nd concert, at which I estimate about 150 audience members (probably many who came to our June concert as well). The EDA estimates around 450 people came to the tree lighting on Nov 29th.

There is nothing else in our county like this choir – community-based, mixed-voice, non-auditioned, & donation-based. We are so grateful that you chose to support this project’s growth toward accessibility & professionalism, & we hope to continue providing year-round positive opportunities for both musicians & music-lovers for many years to come.

In gratitude,

Jan Jaffe, director of Valley Voices Community Choir & Make Music Ellensburg

P.S. Our next **Classics+Rock is on June 20, 2026**, in the evening at the United Methodist Church! Kids & adult singers are invited to join. The Community Band is also welcoming new players of all skill levels. Please join us!







Juneteenth Event

The Juneteenth Community Celebration, held on June 19, 2025, celebrated the federal Juneteenth holiday, which commemorates the end of slavery in 1865. The family-friendly celebration included live music and activities at Unity Park in Downtown Ellensburg.

The event was planned by representatives of the City of Ellensburg, Central Washington University, the Ellensburg Downtown Association, the Kittitas County Historical Museum, Black Grenade Entertainment, and community members.

The grant was used to fund the music entertainment provided by Black Grenade Entertainment. This celebration was a way to honor the past while embracing the unity and strength of our local community. The Juneteenth celebration was open to everyone in the community.

The City of Ellensburg's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission was recognized with the City logo on the event social media pages and webpages.

Approximately 300 community members joined the celebration, enjoying a day outside with their neighbors.

The project made a positive impact on Ellensburg by bringing people together. The goal is that other community organizations will be inspired to host programming that brings people together in the City of Ellensburg.





Gallery One DEI City of Ellensburg Community Grantee 2024 Report December 30, 2025

Grantee: Gallery One

Project Name: Bi-lingual art classes

Gallery One contracted with Claire Bicchieri to work with the Ellensburg bi-lingual club that meets monthly at Hal Holmes with Alex Mandujano to design and facilitate five bi-lingual art experiences at Gallery One.

Recognition: The acknowledgement was shared with the participants via email and verbally in class. Sample email attached.

Impact: On August 25, the “Smokey Sunset” class had 10 students.

On September 29, the “Autumn Leaves” watercolor workshop had 8 participants.

On December 20, the “Holiday Cards” creation workshop had 6 participants.

On December 21, the “Solstice Anthotypes” workshop had 6 participants.

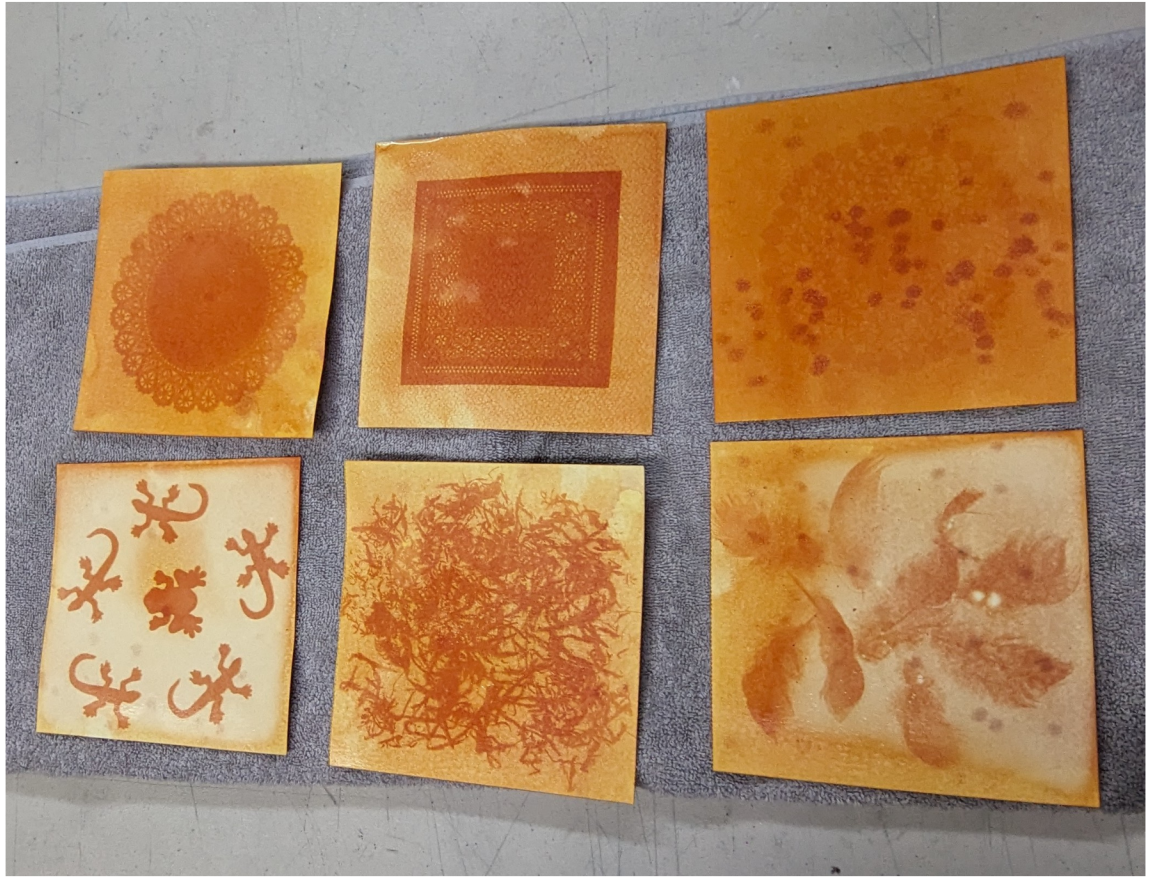
On December 29, the “Joy Jars” class 4 students.

Total served: 34

Outcomes/Objectives:

1. Increase access to the benefits of creativity to Spanish speaking residents of Ellensburg.
2. Create a safe space for dialogue and connection between primarily English and primarily Spanish speakers.
3. Learn from participants about how to create a more inclusive environment that is traditionally considered a non-inclusive space (the gallery/ museum environment). In our research we have learned that the obstacles to accessing these spaces include language, perception of value, and cost.

Submitted by Buddy Todd, Gallery Director



Ellensburg Ski Team

How Grant Funds were used:

- 4 Equipment scholarships
- 3 Loaner Jackets
- Ski Ties for advertising

How DEI Commission was recognized:

- 1) DEI Commission is recognized on our website and registration form.

ELLENSBURG SKI TEAM

[Home](#) [Programs](#) [Sign Up](#) [Donate](#) [News/Calendar](#) [Race Information](#) [More...](#)


We suggest the following donation amounts:
Elementary School (2 days/week) \$100
Middle School & High School Recreational (2-3 days/week) \$150
Middle School Race (3-4 days per week including race wax support) \$200
High School Race (3-4 days per week including race wax support) \$250

Please donate what you can, with the above as suggested amounts. If you are not able to contribute financially, please don't let that stop your kids from participating! If you are able to donate more, that would be a big help. Thank you!

Equipment

Participants will need skating and classic skis, boots, and poles. Packages are available for season rental at a discounted price from Mountain High Sports. Please mark your child's skis/poles – they tend to look similar. Race participants should consider waxable classic skis and 2 pairs of poles. Elementary participants will mostly classic ski. If cost is an issue, please contact us for assistance- we provide financial assistance to skiers each year. Indicate that you would like to be considered for a scholarship on the registration form.

City of Ellensburg Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee provides financial support for equipment scholarships. Thank you Ellensburg!



alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the "Releasees" or otherwise. 4) I fully accept and assume all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, damages that I or my child incur as a result of my OR my child's participation in the Activities. My signature signifies that I fully understand and agree to be bound by this Release and Waiver Agreement, for myself and for my underage child (if applicable), and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid, the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect

Short answer text

Scholarship for equipment request

If approved, a portion of the rental fee will be paid from our scholarship fund to Mountain High Sports. You would be responsible for the remainder of the cost. Thank you to City of Ellensburg Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission for supporting scholarships.

I would like to request financial assistance for ski rental.

- 2) How many people were impacted by project:
 - a) Equipment Scholarships awarded to 4 youth for 2025-2026
 - b) 3 new Ski jacket loaners purchased 2025 (to add to our 7 loaner jackets)
 - c) All Skiers on the team and all around the pacific northwest will see the ski ties.
- 3) Project outcome: Our mission is to make skiing available to all youth, regardless of financial situation. These scholarships allow 4 skiers to participate who might not otherwise be able. The loaner jackets build team pride and allow skiers to have top quality winter gear at no cost. This is especially helpful for growing children. Finally, the ski ties build visibility for the Ellensburg Ski Team in the local and regional (Washington and Oregon) areas.
- 4) What do you hope to see in the future as a result of this project? I hope the skiers benefiting from scholarships will be introduced to a lifelong sport that will bring them joy and mental health for decades to come. I hope they will spread the word and help Ellensburg Ski Team grow.

The Ski Ties will be used by skiers on our team and also can be purchased by others in the Pacific Northwest area. This can help boost our visibility and club pride, which we hope drives increased participation.
- 5) How do you feel this project made a positive impact on your organization and Ellensburg? The project helped us to support a more diverse segment of the Ellensburg population- specifically those with lower incomes who might not otherwise be able to participate in cross country skiing. More people within the community are made aware of the contributions of the DEI commission.
- 6) 2 examples of how the DEI Commission was recognized. DEI Commission is recognized on our website and on our registration forms.

2-4 digital photos that are approximately 640 x 480



Skier using team jacket and rental equipment



Skiers with team jackets at a race.



Meeting Date: January 13, 2026
City of Ellensburg

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Commission Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Staff Report
Submitted by:
Department: City Manager

Suggested Motion/Action:
Listen to staff updates.

Background/Summary:

- City ordered reusable name plate stands that all boards and commissions can use for meetings, so we will make some for the DEI Commission that fit the stands once they arrive. The funds were not taken from the DEI Commission budget.
- Ellensburg Public Library now offers Friday Tech Time. You can contact the Reference Desk in person, at (509) 962-7228, or by email at reference@ellensburgwa.gov to book a time for assistance with email, online resources, phone settings, or other technology needs. This is open to everyone.
- Free Collage Club Collaborative Workshop at Hal Holmes Community Center on January 27 from 6-7:30 p.m.
- City Hall is closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 for the MLK Jr. Day holiday. The Joint City Council Study Session and City Council meeting is on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Previous Council Action:
N/A

Analysis:
N/A

Financial Impact:
N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:
None