

DEI Commission
Community Connections Subcommittee Meeting
February 2, 2026

Start time: 6:12pm

Location: Staunton Public Library

Attendees: Mark Jeter, Belinda Osario-Cortez, Ian Callahan

- **Meeting minutes**
 - Motion to approve meeting minutes from Mark
 - Mark, Belinda, and Ian voted unanimously to approve
- **Belonging event:** in January, Subcommittee met with the Superintendent, who is interested in hosting the event for K-12 students.
 - Status: the superintendent is coordinating with staff member who can help set up the event
 - Date: aiming for November 2026, using the summer to plan and get students involved in the fall
 - Funding: available for materials and/or ceremony costs
 - Location: Discussing potential locations for a gallery, but nothing determined (City Hall, Smith Center, high school gymnasium?)
 - Next steps: no meeting scheduled yet, but planning in progress
- **DEI Messaging**
 - Final messaging has been circulated to the Commission in person and via email
 - Subcommittee asked for final feedback before our next Commission meeting
 - Subcommittee will send a reminder before we meet for any remaining edits
 - Next steps: messaging finalized and stored for future use
- **Mutual Aid Event**
 - Get feedback at the next Commission meeting on current mutual aid offerings via:
 - Project GROWS
 - LGBTQ Center
 - Augusta Health
 - Arrow Project
 - Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
- **Boards and Commission Feedback:** at our next meeting, Subcommittee will offer overview of this project
 - Timeline: outreach to begin in March, April for a potential event (i.e., meet and greet)
 - Shortlist of contacts:
 - Redevelopment & Housing Authority
 - Library Advisory Board
 - School Board
 - Tourism

- These contacts and conversations to determine next steps and themes for meet and greet talking points
- Additional shortlist for future outreach has been created

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.