

7/16/21 *UPDATE: YOU are receiving this email because you registered for one of the City of Olympia's Community Conversations on Race and Equity. We plan to send out periodic updates about the Equity Commission process to this list -- if you do not wish to receive these emails, please ask me to remove you from the list.*

### Social Justice and Equity Commission Update

As part of the work to form Olympia's first Social Justice & Equity Commission, the Founding Members Work Group are reviewing everything they have heard during the community conversations, focus groups and online survey. They are also looking at other cities and counties who have done this before to learn what is working and what is not. The next step will be a check-in and special work session with the City Council General Government Committee to share what they've learned. The Founding Members Work Group is made of community members from marginalized communities tasked with making recommendation to the Olympia City Council on the establishment of a Commission.

We are grateful for the guidance and facilitation from the consultant teams of The Root of Us and Brick 13 during the community input gathering phase. The two teams helped create welcoming and safe spaces where those who are most vulnerable could speak openly and honestly.

### Social Justice & Equity Community Conversations: Actions that are underway

In April and May this year, the Founding Member Work Group hosted four community listening sessions with Black, Indigenous, People of Color and intersecting marginalized groups (LGBTQ+, immigrants and disabled), and an open community session.

Out of these sessions came input on different areas and ways in which the City can contribute to addressing inequities and bias for marginalized community members. The Founding Member Work Group and conversation participants have asked: What's currently being done at the City in response to what was heard in the sessions?

While the Founding Member Work Group and staff are continuing to review the input received, there are actions that are underway to address some of what was heard in the sessions. Learn about these initiatives on the Commission's [newsfeed](https://engage.olympiawa.gov/equitycommission): [engage.olympiawa.gov/equitycommission](https://engage.olympiawa.gov/equitycommission).

With respect and kindness / *con respeto y amabilidad*, Olivia

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[Why do gender pronoun matter?](#)

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