



COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

This August, we honored Intersectionality Awareness Month, a valuable time to reflect on the diverse experiences, the identities that shape who we are, and how we show up for one another. At the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice, we recognize that advancing equity means we must consider the interconnected nature of race, gender, ability, immigration status, sexual orientation, and more.

This month was a continued reminder that our policies, programs, and practices must uplift all communities, especially those too often pushed to the margins. Through initiatives like the "You Belong Everywhere" Equity Roundtable and cross-agency partnerships, we're working to embed equity into the very fabric of city government.

Together, let's continue to listen, learn, and lead with empathy so every New Yorker feels seen, valued, and included.

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EQUITY IN ACTION



MOERJ Commissioner Sideya Sherman, NYC Unity Project Director Ronald Porcelli, leadership from Louis Vuitton, and SYEP participants pose for a photo

The NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice (MOERJ) and the NYC Unity Project proudly welcomed students from the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Pride program for a special career exploration event at Louis Vuitton in Manhattan.

Students participated in a dynamic panel discussion, received an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour, and learned about exciting career pathways in fashion and retail.

Opportunities like this demonstrate the power of investing in NYC youth and the limitless potential they bring to every industry.

EQUITY IN ACTION...EMPOWERING CONVERSATIONS, INCLUSIVE FUTURES

In honor of Intersectionality Awareness Month, the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice (MOERJ) hosted an inspiring event: *You Belong Everywhere: An Equity Roundtable*. The roundtable brought together MOERJ leadership, alongside Commissioner Curry from the NYC Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and Jose Rios Lua, Chief of Staff for the NYC Commission on Human Rights for a candid and empowering conversation on inclusion, identity and community. As we reflect on these meaningful conversations, we remain committed to the ongoing work of building a more just, inclusive, and equitable city for everyone.



Attendees listening to the panelists introduce themselves



L-R Principals Dabash Negash, Christina Curry, Sideya Sherman, Nathifa Forde, Laura Rog, Jose Rios Lua, & Priya Wair pose after the event



Attendees had the chance to win MOERJ branded prizes



MOERJ staffers pose for a photo



The conversation was deeply personal and robust



The audience listen captively to the panelists

To celebrate National Night Out 2025, NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice Commissioner Sideya Sherman joined the NYPD's 26th Precinct in Harlem. During the event, Commissioner Sherman delivered an official proclamation on behalf of the NYC Office of the Mayor. The event served as a meaningful opportunity to build trust, foster collaboration, and celebrate the power of community in creating safer, more unified neighborhoods across New York City. An annual, citywide initiative, National Night Out brings together residents, law enforcement, and local leaders to strengthen community ties and promote public safety.



Commissioner Sherman and a community member pose for a photo



Commissioner Sherman presenting the proclamation



Commissioner Sherman, NYPD Precinct 26 officers, and NYCHA community members pose for a photo

EQUITY IN ACTION...SHOWING UP & MAKING A CHANGE

During #NYCNonprofitWeek, the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice (MOERJ) had the privilege of connecting with valued partners to express gratitude for their continued dedication and impact. Commissioner Sideya Sherman presented a proclamation on behalf of the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) to the I Will Graduate Youth Development Program, recognizing their commitment to empowering youth through education and mentorship. NYC Her Future also honored Inspiring Minds NYC with a proclamation in recognition of their outstanding support of the Girls Empowerment program, delivered in partnership with NYC Public Schools.



Commissioner Sherman presented a proclamation to I Will Graduate Youth Development Program co-founder Tonya Lewis-Taylor



NYC Her Future Founding Executive Director presented a proclamation to Inspiring Minds NYC

The NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) hosted a Gender Equity Community Resource Fair, bringing together advocates, city agencies, and community partners committed to advancing gender equity and justice across New York City. The NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice (MOERJ) was proud to participate alongside its offices NYC Her Future, the NYC Unity Project, and the NYC Young Men's Initiative. The event featured free community programs and services, exciting giveaways, and family-friendly activities for all ages. CGE also distributed pantry items and menstrual products to help meet essential needs. Together, we connected with New Yorkers and shared valuable resources to support individuals and families across the five boroughs.



CGE staff and volunteers handing out pantry items to the community



MOERJ staff posing for a photo



MOERJ's table set-up at the resource fair



MOERJ distributed agency notebooks, t-shirts, umbrellas, and informational one-sheets to attendees



Staff from NYC Young Men's Initiative, NYC Her Future, and NYC Unity Project handed out information and items to attendees



Community members were out in full force to attend the resource fair

EQUITY IN ACTION

NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice Commissioner Sideya Sherman joined the NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) to honor the vital contributions of the TRIE Neighborhood Initiative (TNI) partner organizations. These trusted, community-rooted partners have been instrumental in advancing equity at the neighborhood level connecting New Yorkers with resources, programs, and policy solutions through locally grounded networks.

The event brought together TRIE program leads, coalition members, and executive directors from across the five boroughs to celebrate their collective impact and ongoing commitment to equity, collaboration, and public service. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership in building a more just, inclusive, and responsive New York City.



Commissioner Sherman giving remarks

The NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) hosted an information session with students from the Brooklyn College Women's Center, creating a welcoming space to talk about gender equity, leadership, and social justice. In a welcoming and inclusive environment, students participated in open discussions, hands-on activities, and personal reflection exercises that encouraged them to examine how identity and lived experience influence their perspectives and actions.

Leadership from the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice, including Commissioner Sideya Sherman, NYC Her Future Founding Executive Director Nathifa Forde, and NYC Unity Project Director Ronald Porcelli, also met with students to share insights about each office's work and how it supports equity and opportunity for young people across the city.



Students were welcomed and introduced themselves to CGE staff ahead of the information session



MOERJ leadership and Brooklyn College students pose for a photo



Students participating in hands-on activities to learn more about gender equity

This summer, NYC Her Future has been on the ground across New York City uplifting, empowering, and connecting with young women and girls of color. From safety awareness events to open streets pop-ups, our team has been actively engaging with communities, listening to their voices, and showing up where it matters most.

Each of these moments helps build trust, increase visibility, and create real opportunities for the next generation of leaders. A heartfelt thank you to our partners, community members, and everyone who stopped by to connect, we're just getting started!



NYC Her Future Founding Executive Director Nathifa Forde with event attendees



TRIE Neighborhood Initiative organization members attending the awards ceremony



Awards presented to the TRIE Neighborhood Initiative organizations



NYC Her Future's table set-up for community engagement



NYC Her Future Founding Executive Director Nathifa Forde with a future NYC Her Future participant