

EQUITY ARCATA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Building New Bridges

Thank you for checking out equity arcata's summer & fall edition of our newsletter!

In this issue we celebrate our new network coordinator, the onboarding of our SAGE Fellows, collaboration with the City of Arcata's Community Development Department, and more!

equity arcata is a partnership between the City of Arcata, Cal Poly Humboldt, and other community leaders working to create a more welcoming, safe and racially equitable community.

Visit us at:

<https://www.equityarcata.com/>



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NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION



aubrey pongluelert

aubrey pongluelert serves as the City of Arcata Network Coordinator for equity arcata. She leads equity arcata's city and community-based relationships and partnerships, and works closely with Cal Poly Humboldt's Student Advisory Group for Equity (SAGE) to uplift BIPOC student voices and experiences within the Arcata community. aubrey joins equity arcata from a background in grassroots community organizing and food justice movements, and is committed to supporting and empowering communities that have structurally marginalized in our systems. aubrey earned her BA from Oberlin College in Environmental Studies and Studio Art, and her MS in Environmental Studies: Sustainable Food & Farming from the University of Montana. She finds delight in making and sharing soup, running her fingers through bags of seeds, and jumping into alpine lakes.

STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP FOR EQUITY (SAGE)



Introduction to SAGE

SAGE is a BIPOC-centered group of Student Equity Fellows who advise on areas of priority for programming, ground the work as informants, assist to vet funding proposals, and help inform our approaches as a network.

The SAGE members bridge equity arcata with the Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence and the Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Center (SJEIC). Centering the voices of BIPOC students and networks, they provide guidance on how equity arcata can best align our programs and practices with BIPOC student needs and feelings of acceptance in the Arcata community.

SAGE members collaborate with and learn from BIPOC leaders across the area, practice inclusive peer leadership, and are committed to collaboration and communication. They serve as representatives of students and the university in the critical work of equity and social justice.

SAGE Members are advisors, planners, & supporters with Three Focus Areas:

- 
- 1) Grassroots Partnerships
 - 2) Collective Impact
 - 3) Convening & Communicating

MEET THE SAGE FELLOWS



Nicole Arizcorreta Ramirez

is a Criminology and Spanish double-major from Los Angeles, CA. Nicole has worked for El Centro as the Event Specialist and has learned to work well within a team. She sees diversity, equity, and inclusion as a pathway for positive change and community education toward equitable and inclusive practices. She believes in hearing and recognizing individual voices to promote agency and feelings of acceptance.

El Centro
Académico
Cultural

El Centro
Académico
Cultural

Jesse Beachem Grijalva Prieto

is Psychology major and Philosophy minor from Sacramento, CA. Jesse describes themselves as a dedicated advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion and has actively engaged with student-based organizations. They believe in fostering an understanding of our diverse campus community's challenges and perspectives to actively work towards strengthening community partnerships through meaningful interactions and discussions.





Koda Myers

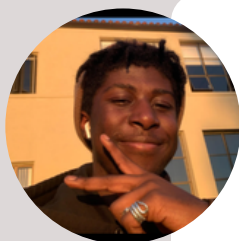
is a Psychology major from Grants Pass, OR. Koda has experience working with others to develop equitable policy and practice through their advocacy and student organizing, making positive changes toward equity and inclusivity. Koda describes herself as a very caring person who wants to help others succeed and grow, and does this by promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion wherever possible.

Indian Tribal &
Educational
Personnel
Program
(ITEPP)

Social
Justice,
Equity, and
Inclusion
Center
(SJEIC)

Bryant Gonzalez

is a Criminal Justice major from Los Angeles, CA. Bryant describes himself as very goal-oriented, a good problem solver, and loves to work as a team and see his whole team succeed. Bryant prides himself on being responsible and communicating with others effectively.



Kamar Little

is a Film major from Cerritos, CA. Kamar is an experienced leader of a percussion ensemble and values encouraging their peers to thrive. They describe themselves as a great team player and communicates well to meet tough challenges.

Umoja Center
for Pan-
African
Student
Excellence

COLLABORATION ON THE ARCATA GENERAL PLAN

The Arcata General Plan shapes how the City of Arcata will look, function, provide services, and manage resources for the next 20 years. A General Plan is the City's "constitution" for physical development and change within the existing and future city boundaries. Throughout the development of the General Plan: 2045 the City has committed to evaluating City policy for social justice and racial equity impact, and equity arcata has played a significant role in the latter part of 2023 in supporting this work.

The City recognizes that it is crucial to ensure that the General Plan review process has meaningful input from Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community members while not placing the responsibility for dismantling structural racism at the feet of those most impacted by it. Equity arcata helped to organize two working sessions in May and August that involved community leaders identified as having expertise in various policy areas. These sessions were organized in response to the report from Blanck & Oram equity partners which emphasized the need to build community engagement and accountability structures. They focused on three core content areas in these meetings: Community Health & Housing, Student & Community Safety, and Transportation.

The City plans to adopt the General Plan 2045 early next year. Moving forward, equity arcata and the Community Development Department will continue to work as accountability partners, with the purpose of ensuring that the voices of BIPOC community members are heard, uplifted and reflected in relevant policy. This work is part of a larger change in conversation, where the City and equity arcata have an opportunity to refine partnerships and explore various structures and methods to shift outcomes and reduce racial disparities moving forward.

For a more detailed description of the City's equity engagement work on the General Plan, click [HERE](#).

**CONTRIBUTED BY DELO FREITAS,
CITY OF ARCATA SENIOR PLANNER**

AUGUST 27, 2023



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

AUGUST 27, 2023



Photos courtesy of Matt Filar for the Mad River Union.

EQUITY ARCATA BOARD & PARTNERS

EQUITY ARCATA BOARD

Rosamel Benavides-Garb

Cal Poly Humboldt, Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

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Sarah Kerr

Open Door Community Health Centers

Cinthya Ammerman

Cal Poly Humboldt, Native American Studies Department

Kintay Johnson

College of the Redwoods & Eureka NAACP

GROWING LIST OF PARTNERS



contact us



736 F St, Arcata, CA 95521



(707) 822-5953



equityarcata@gmail.com



@equityarcata

***Thank
you!***