

EQUITY ARCATA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Connecting Through Community

Thank you for checking out equity arcata's first of many quarterly newsletters!

We hope you find valuable information about equity arcata events, projects, and collaborations with community organizations. As equity arcata develops, we intend to strengthen our relationship with community partners and collaborate on events that focus on equity and belonging in Humboldt.

If you know of any organizations or events that equity arcata should partner with, please let us know at equityarcata@gmail.com

Visit us at:

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



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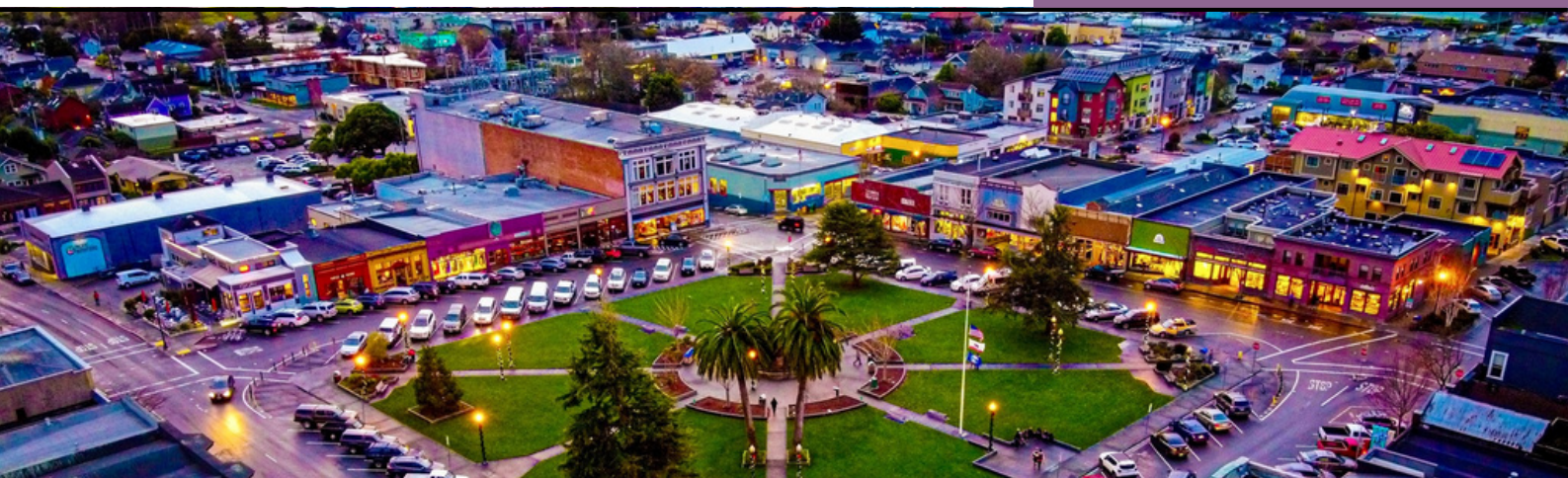
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Introducing equity arcata

Equity arcata is a partnership between the City of Arcata, Cal Poly Humboldt, Humboldt Area Foundation, local educators, businesses and community leaders working to make Arcata a more inclusive and welcoming environment for Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color

Our purpose is to create a welcoming, safe and racially equitable community. We envision an Arcata that believes we are a better community because of our growing racial diversity, where new residents and students are successful and feel supported within the community.

Backbone Support Team



Joseph Pang currently serves as the Network Coordinator for equity arcata. He is primarily responsible for the day to day operations of equity arcata. Joseph is also a graduate student at Cal Poly Humboldt studying Psychology. In his free time, he likes to spend time with his cats, play video games, and work on his cars.



Max Hawk is an equity arcata student fellow who assists with a wide array of tasks as a part of the backbone support team. He is in his final year at Cal Poly Humboldt as a political science major and psychology minor. When he isn't at work or in classes, he enjoys practicing guitar, spending time outside in the sun, and finding great wine and cheese pairings.



Lisa Bond-Maupin acts as the Network Manager for equity arcata. Her role involves the bigger picture, overarching aspects of living up to the purpose and helping to position equity arcata for sustainability and impact in the future. Lisa attended Ferndale High School and has reconnected with some of her classmates since returning to Humboldt forty years later.



Introducing equity arcata

Advisory Team

The Advisory Team consists of leaders of partner organizations that form equity arcata. The team assists equity arcata by providing credibility, expertise, resources, and brokering relationships with community organizations.

Members of the Advisory Team include:

Rosamel Benavides-Garb; Cal Poly Humboldt

Karen Diemer; City of Arcata

Roger Macdonald; Northern Humboldt Union High School District

Sarah Schaefer; City of Arcata

Ron White; Humboldt Area Foundation

Lisa Bond-Maupin; Cal Poly Humboldt

Partners





Advisory Team Update

As we emerge from the pandemic, the Advisory Team for equity arcata has been putting some energy into understanding where we are as a network and what we have learned from our years as a collective to help shape a sustainable future for equity arcata. As partner and founding organizational representatives, they did so in the context of a few years of change in their organizations and a call for systems transformation, impact, and accountability in our larger communities.

The Team engaged with Melissa Meiris of Stepping Stone Consulting to help design and implement a process of examination, envisioning, and planning over the last few months. Janaeé Sykes and Ron White represented the Design Team and Joseph Pang and Lisa Bond-Maupin represented the Backbone Support Team in this process.

As a result, a renewed focus emerged on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-centeredness and collective impact, placing additional responsibility on partner organizations for systems transformation. A refreshed structure is intended to provide resources and grow partnership to BIPOC community members and affinity organizations working for equity.

With renewal of commitments and some organizational restructuring, we will build together on the best of equity arcata, including ongoing learning, collective impact, and BIPOC centeredness, toward a sustainable and strong network. Two representatives of the Advisory Team (Rosamel Benavides-Garb, Karen Diemer, Ron White, Roger McDonald, Sarah Schafer) will be sharing a brief overview of future plans at the Arcata Chamber's State of the City event later in March and welcome your feedback. Lisa and Joseph will also meet with Working Group leadership individually to share more about the restructuring and explore future possibilities. As details are finalized following feedback, information will also be shared more broadly at equityarcata.com. Renewed structuring will occur slowly across the spring and summer with implementation in Fall 2023.



Featured Working Group

Providing a Home Away From Home

Home away from home (HAFH), one of equity arcata's working groups, centers community building as well as student welfare and belonging in Humboldt. In the past, HAFH hosted potlucks, but to keep people safe from COVID-19, changed the potlucks to supply and food distributions.

Last semester, HAFH hosted two distributions where students received free household supplies and partnered with Taqueria La Barca and Pupuseria San Miguel to provide students with a warm meal.



For their September 11th distribution, 160 bags of household goods were distributed and more than 160 students received a free meal from Taqueria La Barca. In December, more than 160 bags were distributed and nearly 180 students received free pupusa meals from Pupuseria San Miguel.

"All of the stuff provided was great and resourceful! I really appreciated it, thank you Home Away from Home!"

Equity arcata is grateful to community members and partners who have donated supplies and financial resources. Your continued contributions make these distributions possible. If you would like to donate to HAFH distributions or equity arcata in general, please contact equityarcata@gmail.com.





equity arcata events

Renewing Partnerships and Building Towards Equity

Equity arcata has recently rejoined the Arcata Chamber of Commerce as a member and look forward to their partnership in developing a more inclusive business community and practices. Some planned future projects include working with local chambers of commerce to host BIPOC-owned business mixers. Equity arcata will join the Chamber in its annual State of the City Event, providing updates on the status of equity arcata.



City of Eureka's Inaugural Leadership Summit for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The City of Eureka has partnered with Fogbreak, an equity-based consulting organization, to develop a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion both as a workplace and as a city. This began in 2019 as internal work between Human Resources, city employees, and Fogbreak with the goal of creating a unifying vision of the city's values.

Now, a new phase of this process has begun which involves engaging a wider audience, beginning with key stakeholders and expanding to involve more community organizations and leaders. The City of Eureka aims to form meaningful relationships that will facilitate collaboration on DEI efforts throughout Humboldt.



Community Events

Equity arcata continues to center community organizations as part of its efforts to foster a welcoming community. As a result, equity arcata has lended assistance to various organizations hosting events related to equity. Below are some examples of events that equity arcata has been a part of.

Building Ujamaa in the Community

The HC Black Music and Arts Association hosted its second annual Martin Luther King Day Learning Center Event. An entire day of music, dancing, healing, and community was held in the Arcata Community Center, and funds were donated to the Glen Edward Kuumba foundation to improve literacy awareness and Black excellence.

Justice for Josiah Winter Coat Drive

Charmaine Lawson, the mother of David Josiah Lawson, a Black Humboldt State University student leader who was murdered, hosted a coat drive to assist those in need of winter clothing and toiletries. In addition to supporting those in need, the coat drive served as a reminder to the community of the continuous pursuit of bringing justice for Josiah. Volunteers from the City of Arcata, equity arcata, and Cal Poly Humboldt assisted with the event.

Charmaine and her family travel every month from Southern California up to Arcata to continue the fight to bring justice for Josiah. Events are held on the 15th of every month.

If you would like to support their fight, please visit <https://www.justiceforjosiahlawson.com/>





Ongoing Projects

Festejando Nuestra Comunidad

Equity arcata has partnered with Latinx community organizations including El Centro Academico Cultural at Cal Poly Humboldt, LatinoNet, Arcata Playhouse and Cumbre Humboldt, who have come together after a pandemic hiatus to introduce Festejando Nuestra Comunidad, a community festival that celebrates Latinx heritage, education, and health in Humboldt. Festejando will take place at Cal Poly Humboldt's West and East Gyms. They will have children's activities, music, cultural dance demonstrations and much more! An aim of Festejando is to start a conversation about creating a Latinx/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which will promote the growth, development and interests of local Latinx Businesses.

Festejando Nuestra Comunidad will take place on **September 16th, 2023 from 12-4pm** at Cal Poly Humboldt. If you would like to support their efforts, please reach out to them at [**Festejando@latinonet.org**](mailto:Festejando@latinonet.org). You can also sign up to participate in the event by filling out this [**google form**](#).

Después de la pausa incurrida por la pandemia, El Centro Académico Cultural de la Universidad Politécnica Humboldt, LatinoNet, Arcata Playhouse, y Cumbre Humboldt, en colaboración con equity arcata, se han unido a introducir Festejando Nuestra Comunidad, un festival comunitario para celebrar nuestras herencia, educación, y salud. Festejando se dará en los gimnasios de la Politécnica de Humboldt. Tendremos juegos para niños, música, exhibiciones culturales, y más! En este evento, se iniciará una conversación sobre la creación de una Cámara de Comercio Latinx/Hispanx. Esta Cámara promoverá el desarrolló, crecimiento económico, y los intereses de las empresas locales

Festejando Nuestra Comunidad tomará lugar el **Sábado, 16 de Septiembre del 2023, de las 12 a las 4 de la tarde** en los gimnasios East and West de Cal Poly Humboldt. Si le gustaría aprender como puede apoyar nuestros esfuerzos, por favor mande mensaje a [**Festejando@latinonet.org**](mailto:Festejando@latinonet.org). Si desea participar en el evento, por favor siga [**el link**](#) para llenar nuestro formulario de inscripción.



Ongoing Projects

Arcata Chinatown: Clues of a Forgotten Past

In the late 1800's, Chinese residents were forcibly expelled from multiple cities in the U.S., including Eureka. A hostile culture in Eureka prevented Chinese Americans from returning to Humboldt County until the 1950s. Humboldt Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI) and community members worked to establish the Eureka Chinatown Project to raise awareness of local Chinese history.



Recently, community members and HAPI have discovered evidence of a Chinatown that existed in Arcata. Equity arcata has joined the Arcata Chinatown Committee to further research local Chinese history. If you would like to help with this project, please contact equityarcata@gmail.com.

Home Away From Home

For Spring, Home Away From Home has planned two distributions. The first will take place on Sunday, March 26th at 4pm. Wildberries has generously offered to host, cater, and provide reusable bags for this distribution. The free meal will be burritos, with vegan options also available. This event will take place in the Wildberries parking lot. If you would like to support this event, City Hall will be accepting community donations from March 20th - March 24th. Please drop off donations at the City Manager's Office.

The second distribution is tentatively schedule for Sunday, May 7th. This distribution will take place at the D Street Neighborhood Center. More details will be available after the March distribution. If you would like to be updated on Home Away From Home distributions, please email equityarcata@gmail.com

