

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## Message from the Chair

This past year has been an exciting one for the Community Relations Commission. Since our inception we have been attempting to take the pulse of the community through meeting with community members and residents at various events and with listening sessions at the annual Diversity Dialogue. The CRC has been a co-sponsor of the Diversity Dialogues since 2015 and actively works to create the agenda as well as leads several workshops at the event. With the information gathered from outreach and with the approval of City Council, we have shifted our focus and started the launch of the Civility First Durango Pledge Program to further promote the values of our community to visitors and residents alike.

We'll continue to listen and refine the Pledge Program as we move forward in promoting real understanding of each other and social harmony.

We are appreciative of the City Council for their continued support of the CRC's mission. It has been a pleasure serving on the CRC for two plus terms, thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nancy Stoffer, 2018 Chair Community Relations Commission

## 2018 Outreach Survey Responses: Youth Expo and Rainbow Youth Center

### Most Frequent Responses from Survey Participants at Both Events.

#### **1. What do you like about Durango?**

- Access to the outdoors, openness, plethora of activities.

#### **2. What does living in a diverse community mean to you?**

- Accepting others unlike you, everyone is welcome, opportunities to learn about others

#### **3. What are the challenges/issues in Durango?**

- Homelessness, suicide, financial inequality, and transportation.

#### **4. Message for City Council?**

- Support diversity and inclusion efforts, support transportation, learn about organizations and their endeavors.

(To view these surveys and others visit [Durangogov.org/CRC](http://Durangogov.org/CRC))

### 2019 CRC Goals

- ⇒ Launch and promote the Civility First Durango Pledge Program.
- ⇒ Make ourselves available at local events to learn what the Durango community is saying.
- ⇒ Continue regional partnerships with other area Community or Human Relations Commissions.
- ⇒ Continue to invite community groups to share their success and challenges at the CRC meetings.



Resolution 2018–45 adopting a Civility First Durango Pledge Program was approved by City Council on November 5, 2018. This resolution gave the CRC the ability to develop and implement the Pledge Program with plans to unveil the Program in the Spring of 2019. The traits of the Civility First Durango Pledge Program include: respect, fairness, compassion, consideration, kindness, responsibility, sincerity and acceptance. The Pledge is voluntary and invites business, organizations and individuals to support the traits of the Program and encourage others to do so as well.

## CRC SPOTLIGHT

Each year the Community Relations Commission votes on an individual or organization to Spotlight in its annual report. The CRC would like to acknowledge CRC commission member Nancy Stoffer with a brief summary of her contributions to the Durango Community.



Nancy Stoffer is the Coordinator of Diversity Programming at Fort Lewis College and is part of their Diversity Collaborative. She oversees the Common Ground program at the college which facilitates conversations about identity, bias, privilege and multicultural appreciation using a collection of interactive and introspective activities.

She also coordinates the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), affectionately called the G, or the G-spot by students. The Center creates a warm and inclusive space for the campus community with a special emphasis on those in the rainbow alphabet. GSRC programming is geared toward education and discussion of gender and sexuality topics, mental and physical health issues and more playful arts and crafts. The Safe Zone Ally program for the faculty and staff is also under her umbrella.

One of the inaugural members of the CRC, Nancy enthusiastically served in the capacity of both vice chair and chairperson on the Commission. She does this work in the hopes that all may be free to live their lives authentically and joyfully.

The CRC is grateful to Nancy for her volunteer commitment!

## 2018 Diversity Dialogue

CRC co-sponsors the event with 90 participants at the workshop held at Fort Lewis College.



## CRC 2018 Guests

Ryan Garcia, Chair of the Four Corners Alliance for Diversity and Community Engagement Manager of Planned Parenthood speaks to the CRC about his work, logos, labels and discusses Civility First Durango Pledge initiative.

Imogen Ainsworth, City Sustainability Coordinator updates the Commission on how the CRC contributes to the City's Sustainability Action Plan.

City's Public Engagement Team presents to the CRC the "wicked" problems facing the City's budget and general fund.

CRC shares outreach data about creating a more diverse tourism campaign with Frank Lockwood, Durango Area Tourism.

## New CRC Member

Martha Flores is appointed by City Council to the Commission in May of 2018.