



Architects

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Committee Newsletter

MAY - JUNE

Keith Bush & Lorraine Ensley



May and June brought warmer weather and some awesome community events. We took this time to reflect on our internal learning, emphasizing the history behind the traditions.

Check out some of our events below!

JEDI Team' Activities

May Heritage Celebration

Did you know that in 1992 Congress passed Public Law 102-450 designating the month of May to take time to reflect and celebrate the important roles Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have played in this nation's history.

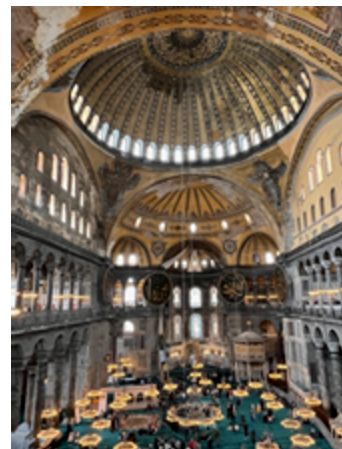
[Asian & Pacific American Heritage Month \(asianpacificheritage.gov\)](http://asianpacificheritage.gov)



Travel Highlight - Istanbul, Turkiye

In May, I jetted off to Turkiye to ring in a new birthday decade. Apart from seeing my bucket list building, Hagia Sophia, a fourth century Byzantine architectural wonder, experiencing the layers of culture, history, and diversity Istanbul has to offer was amazing...where Europe meets Asia. Having a local Turkish history teacher, Berrin, as a tour guide was great for the first two days to see the main attractions and grasp the city layout, but self-exploration is always a must. I love to leave time when traveling to take in the unexpected treats you may come across outside tourist areas.

From getting a Turkish hair cut in a random neighborhood, to experiencing a traditional Turkish bath at a historic Hammam, and most memorable, hearing the Muslim calls to prayer, Ezan, from the mosques across the city six times a day leave ever lasting impressions.





Community Spotlight - Little Kurdistan

Nashville's growing Kurdish American population is the largest in the United States. There have been three major waves of the migration process that began following Saddam Hussein's genocide in the anfal campaign.

Mid -1970's, Late - 1980's, and Mid – 1990's

The Salahadeen Center of Nashville was formed in 1998 with the purpose of the upbringing of Muslim children and serving the community. Since its inception, the center has grown to be one of the largest Muslim community centers in Nashville providing children's programs, a library, your programs and also a grocery store.

[SCTN | Salahadeen Center of Nashville](#)

See links below for other articles on the Kurdish community in Nashville.

[Nashville is the largest Kurdish community in America - Global City Mission Initiative](#)

[Nashville's Growing Community of Kurdish Americans \(thekurdishproject.org\)](#)

Other business to note is the Azadi International Food Market on Elysian Fields Court and Edessa Restaurant Kurdish Turkish Cuisine: [Home - Edessa Restaurant \(edessarestauranttn.net\)](#)



Did you know...

- Kurdish culture has a significant oral tradition in the form of **poems**, or **lawj**.
- The term “**Dengbej**” refers to musicians who perform Kurdish folk music. They are best known for their **songs of mourning** or “**stran**”. Traditional instruments include flute, drums, and ut-ut.
- Carpet-weaving is the most significant form of Kurdish folk art, with floral and “jaff” geometric patterns the most popular. Traditional rugs would use **symbols to depict dreams, wishes, and hopes** of the rug makes.
- Kurds are also well known for their copper-working, embroidery, and metal ornamentation.
- **Cirit** is a traditional Kurdish sport that involves throwing a Javelin while on horseback.

Juneteenth

This year EOA enjoyed a quick “Juneteenth” short film to promote conversation around allyship.

Juneteenth National Independence Day was officially recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, but it has been recognized and celebrated throughout the United States since 1866. It is considered the “longest-running African-American holiday”. This day commemorates the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas and the end of slavery. Nashville celebrates throughout the city with Black Restaurant Week, Black on Buchanan, a special block party at NMAAM, and various festivals. EOA observes the holiday and encourages our crew to attend events with frequent calendar reminders and social media posts.

Nashville Pride

Nashville Pride Festival and Parade

EOA gathered for a happy hour at Canvas during the week to start a conversation about queer spaces and their significance in our growing city. Often, allyship and advocacy go hand in hand.

From the parade down Broadway to the festival of events at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, Nashville Pride weekend attracted upwards of 200,000 people this year! Our JEDI ambassadors were in attendance, along with a few other EOA'ers willing to brave the heat. Despite temperatures upwards of 90 degrees, the day was filled with music, dancing, and community building. Some of our favorite floats included the giant (and random) sheep by Virgin Hotels and the incredible choreography of Rhythm Nation.

[Nashville Pride](#)



Organizational Spotlight – Tennessee Pride Chamber

The Tennessee Pride Chamber aims to champion the work of LGBTQ+ individuals, small businesses, and non-profits. They amplify diverse voices and stories that might not otherwise be heard. They fight for equal rights and representation through LGBTQ+ legislative and political support actions. The organization has excellent resources along with the foundation for funding educational programming. Monthly calendar events include Classroom Connect which covers various topics for example Transgender Inclusion in the Workforce: Best Practices for HR Policies and Employment Support, Pride nights with local sports teams like the Nashville Predators and Nashville Sounds, Brewing Up Business monthly mixers for professional connections and personal growth. There is also a Legal Defense Fund to protect performers, festivals, and businesses, community impact grant programs, as well as counseling and housing resources. To learn more about the Tennessee Pride Chamber, click on the link below:

[TN Pride Chamber - Home](#)



Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

515 Main Street
Nashville, TN | 37206 US

This email was sent to sshah@eoa-architects.com.
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®