



Architects

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

JULY - AUGUST

Hope Weaver & Katie Pennington



July and August brought some warm weather and lots of engaging community events! From local historic architecture tours to in-depth deep dives with Metro Planning, we covered a lot of ground and are excited to share!

Check out some of our events below!

JEDI Team' Activities

July Disability Pride and Minority Mental Health Awareness

Disability Pride is about celebrating and honoring the uniqueness of all individuals and breaking away from the stigma that having a disability is a shameful condition. It's our responsibility as architects and interior designers to consider, advocate, and design for ADA codes and even go above and beyond. See the link below to read more about Disability Pride Month.

[Disability Pride Month and the Disability Rights Movement | PBS](#)

Minority Mental Health Awareness brings to light the challenges that racial and ethnic minorities face when it comes to mental illness. When it comes to the projects EOA pursues and how each story is told through the built environment, we have an impact of those occupying the space through our creativity, empathy, and understanding. See the link below to read more about Minority Mental Health Awareness.

[National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month 2024 | Office of Minority Health \(hhs.gov\)](#)



July 11-13 - Project Pipeline

Several EOAs volunteered for Project Pipeline with NOMA Nash this year! Project Pipeline is a 3-day design camp for students 6th -12th grade. The students collaborate with architects and designers and are tasked with a series of design challenges addressing scale, community, culture, and context. The camp is not only rewarding for young designers or those curious about design, but also for us as mentors, educators, and listeners guiding young minds to access design at an early age.



July 23 - Dr. George W. Hubbard House

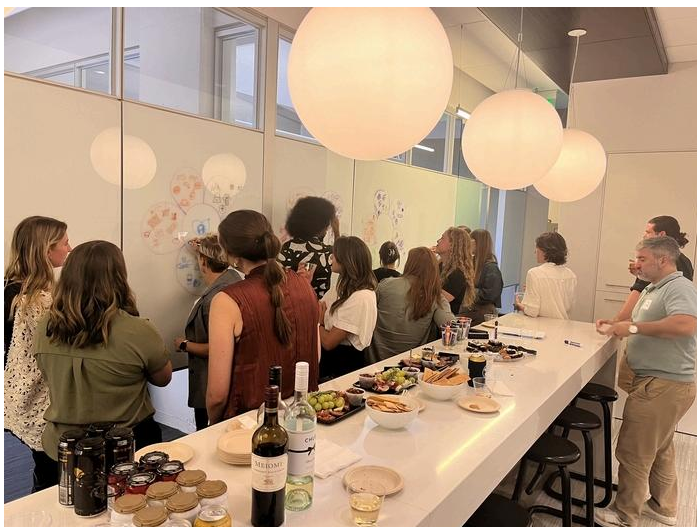
One of our Architects, Keith Bush, attended a tour of the 1921 Dr. George W. Hubbard House hosted by the Nashville Preservation Society & Historic Hubbard House Foundation. It was announced at the tour that the foundation will be awarded funding from The National Trust for Historic Preservation which will be applied to Phase I of the restoration!

Built in 1921 with donations from the Meharry Medical College alumni and trustees, the Hubbard House served as the retirement home of Dr. George W. Hubbard (1841-1924), a founder and head of Meharry for 44 years. During his tenure, more than one-half of the South's African American physicians, dentists, and pharmacists graduated from Meharry. Designed by local African American architect Moses McKissack and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, this building is the last remnant of the original Meharry campus, which relocated to North Nashville in the 1930s. In 1970, the house was converted for use as the parsonage of the Seay-Hubbard United Methodist Church. Currently vacant and in poor condition, plans for restoring the African American historic landmark have stalled, leading to members of the community to worry about its future in the rapidly redevelopment SoBro neighborhood.



July 30 – EP + JEDI Mixer

To expand our network and share our JEDI committee experiences, EOA hosted Hastings Architecture for an EP + JEDI mixer. We acknowledge that each firm's committee operates differently and focuses on varying topics, so we invited Hastings to join us for a night of sharing our own JEDI goals and to learn more about each other as architects and designers. We always love to learn from our fellow creatives in the industry so we can all further improve our initiatives and overarching mission!





August – National Black Business Month

Supporting local makers and businesspeople is always a goal of EOA's, but more importantly making sure that support is equitable. We're mindful of where we choose to acquire our food for Lunch and Learn's. When we can, the goal is to support local minority owned businesses when it comes to the company and our personal endeavors.

See some of our favorite businesses for this month below!



August 2 – Re:Form TN: Season 2, Episode 2: Mentorship

The second episode of Re:Form TN's second season discusses mentorship and its importance in the sphere of equity and diversity within architecture. Valarie Franklin Hernandez, Associate Principal at Moody Nolan, and Whitney Johnson, Project Architect at EOA Architects, join as guests and share their unique experiences in being both mentors and mentees. As an established mentor-mentee pairing, Valarie and Whitney are an unbelievable duo, sharing a compassion for people and underrepresented groups that are incredibly needed and necessary for conversations around equity and diversity.



To learn about their lives and experiences click link below.

<https://aiamidtn.org/podcast/>

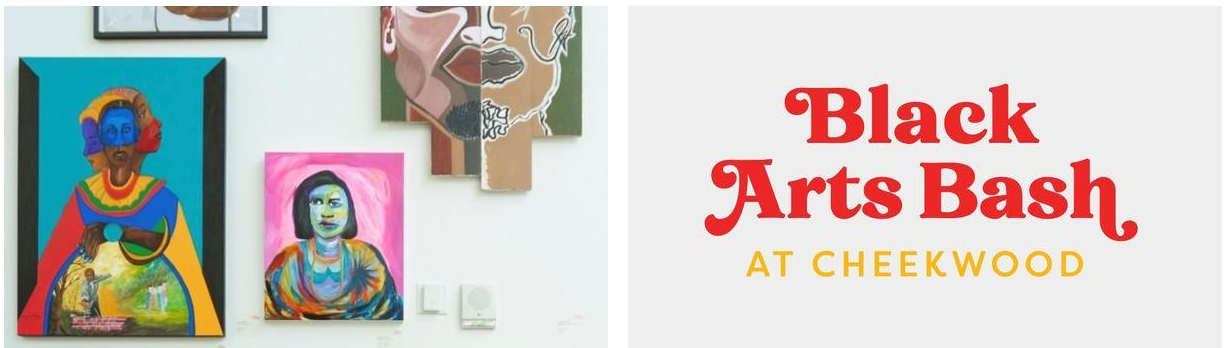
August 16 - Affordable Housing Conversations

Burkley Allen, Council Member At Large, Hannah Davis, Senior Manager of Policies and Initiatives, and Travis Miller, Housing Policy and Program Coordinator, met with EOA to discuss affordable housing policy updates. The Housing Division has been dedicated to identifying the causes of housing insecurity and developing effective strategies to address this growing challenge. Numerous, on-going reports and studies emphasize Metro Nashville's urgent need for affordable housing, inclusive communities, and ensuring equitable access to housing. Key programs and initiatives discussed were the BARNES Fund, Catalyst Fund, CHIP, PILOT, and Permit and Departmental Priority Review. The Housing Division has created an Affordable Housing Dashboard to document and track Metro Nashville's affordable housing needs and progress towards meeting those needs.

[Affordable Housing Dashboard](#)

[Development Tools](#)





August 17 – Cheekwood Black Arts Bash

Cheekwood Black Arts Bash highlights Black artists through a vibrant array of music, dance, spoken word, visual art, and food. The bash is an all-day event with different activities sprinkled throughout multiple venue spots with the estate and gardens. The main stage this year was occupied by artists from the Black Opry, an organization that focuses on amplification of Black artists, fans, and industry professionals working in country, Americana, blues, folk, or roots music. The Black Arts Bash Exhibition is housed in the Frist Learning Center Great Hall and runs through September 1st, check it out the next time you are at Cheekwood! The artist panel featured artists Higgins Bond, DaShawn Lewis, XPayne, Destiney Powell, and Sydel Petty who discussed themes of identity, empowerment, reflection, and celebration of cultural heritage each

grounded by the commonality of storytelling whether in the mundane or powerful.

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[®]