



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Greater Tulsa Area African American Affairs Commission 2024 Annual Report

Commission's Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Mayor and the City Council as advocates for the African American people of the Greater Tulsa Area on matters, facilitating unity and understanding, within communities and with local, state, and federal governments. With the goal of creating a strong, prosperous, self-sustaining African American community, the Commission will advise and advocate for the use of city resources for the development of matters of importance to the African- American community.

Three committees provided Commission work to achieve annual goals: (I) The Community Engagement, Culture, and Promotion Committee, (II) The Policy Recommendations Committee, and (III) The Education & Skill Building Committee:

1. Active engagement
2. Aligning actions taken by the commission with shared values
3. Strategic activism for the group
4. Collaborative approaches
5. Trust building in being in a consulting role with the Mayor

Commission's Work to Achieve Yearly Goals

Defining Committee Work:

- I. Community Engagement Culture and Promotion:** This committee focuses on the areas of Culture, Health (Opportunities), and Communications
- II. Policy Recommendations:** This committee focuses on the areas of Accountable Policing, Housing (Recommendations), Economic Development, Transportation, and
- III. Education & Skill Building:** This committee focuses on the areas of Education, Housing (Informational), Health (Informational), and Economics

Activities to Note:

- Goal 1. Active engagement
 - a. Developed a monthly newsletter to share Commission planning, accomplishments, and notifications with the community.
 - b. Presented an Education Award for area educators, naming it after Dr. LaVerne Wimberly; presented by Mayor G.T. Bynum, acknowledging four Tulsa educators.



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- c. Worked with Mayor's Office to secure a *Go Green for Greenwood Proclamation* to help build unity and commemorate *the 1921 Race Massacre*.
 - d. Supported Tulsa City-County Library's KWANZAA Celebration through attendance or participation in the event.
 - e. Commissioners have active roles in other commissions and councils within the City, along with being active community members who search out best ways to represent the African American community in Tulsa—with its myriad perspectives and experiences.
- Goal 2. Aligning actions taken by the commission with shared values
- a. Hosted several committee meetings after monthly commission meetings to address the heavy commitments of committee members who serve on multiple commissions and other committees.
 - b. During a midyear planning session, through a joint committee session, the Commission identified ongoing goals for 2024 that will carry forward to 2025 to further develop the 2025 activities for the committees within the Commission, using the Committee Recommendation Process.
- Goal 3. Strategic activism for the group
- a. Continued Beyond Apology support of the survey of Tulsans on Greenwood Reparations Report, leading to the direct result of an Executive Order from the GT Bynum to create a City of Tulsa Commission, one that the African American Affairs Commission will continue to partner with to provide recommendations for reparations and other remedies related to *the 1921 Race Massacre* and its descendants.
 - b. Continued practice in recognizing the individual activism of each commissioner that establishes collective credibility within the community.
- Goal 4. Collaborative approaches
- a. Along with collaborating on calendar dates within committees, the commissioners continue supporting other organizations to promote their work (e.g., 360 Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska and Urban League in Louisville, Kentucky) to search out models to apply within Tulsa.
 - b. Both the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and Black Wall Street Chamber of Commerce seats have been invited to the Commission, with a Commissioner for the Greenwood Chamber having begun in 2024, and a Commissioner for the Black Wall Street Chamber to be added in 2025.
 - c. Collaborated with the Tulsa City-County Library to promote education and skill building among the elderly through technology classes and volunteer recruitment or service.
 - d. The African American Affairs Commission continues to support the work of the Human Rights Commission, with an identified commissioner for each meeting who provides feedback and serves as a liaison to HRC.
- Goal 5. Trust building in being in a consulting role with the mayor



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- a. The Chair and Vice Chair continued meeting with the mayor to open communications and establish a framework for recommendations for commissioners and joint events to support of GTAAAC work.
- b. Ongoing work with the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity have helped establish consistent communications between the mayor and chairs on behalf of the Commission's work.

Major Achievements for 2024

- Inaugural Year for GTAAAC Monthly Newsletter from the Culture & Engagement Committee.
- Inaugural Black Educator Excellence Award Ceremony from the Education and Skill Building Committee, awarding the Dr. LaVerne Wimberly Award to four educators.
- Highlighting inaugural GTAAAC Commissioners Maybelle Wallace and Margaret Love.
- Addition of four (4) commissioners: Patricia Carter-Breeckner, Tracye Love Chandler, Jon Paul Ray, and Juddie Williams, along with adding Black Wall Street Chamber as an organizational seat for the Commission (with a seat to be filled in 2025).

Goals for 2025

- Fill six of the vacant Commissioner seats to have a full commission of 23 active commissioners.
- Complete the 2025 calendar by February 2025.
- Survey needs of African American throughout the community through each district, and work with City Council, mayor, and local agencies to address needs.