

GREATER TULSA AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

August 2025

Next Meeting
8/12/25

6 p.m.

City Hall

Room 10 North

TITLE V COMMISSIONS RETREAT

On July 25, members of GTAAAC, along with commissioners of all of the Title V Commissions (Asian Affairs, Hispanic / Latinx Affairs, Human Rights, Indian Affairs, & Tulsa Women's) gathered for the first ever Title V Commissions Retreat. Commissioners attended sessions about different organizations doing civic work in Tulsa. They also determined ways to collaborate to continue the work of making Tulsa a great city.

Pictured left to right: Commissioners Juddie Williams, Tracye Love Chandler (bottom), Margaret Love, Tamecca Rogers (Human Rights), Maybelle Wallace, Dion'trae Hayes (top, Chief Resilience Officer), Donald Rose (below), and Larissa McNeil (far right).



COMMITTEE UPDATES - A RECAP

In the past year, but especially in the last seven months, members of GTAAAC have worked diligently to grow the goals and purpose of the commission. Here's a recap of committee accomplishments so far and what's next on the horizon.

CHAIR

Current Chair, Dr. Dickens, created a five year plan for the commission, the purpose of which is to offer some guidance over the next few years. Some of those Year 1 action items that have been accomplished are:

- Hard name badges for commissioners
- "Go Green for Greenwood" proclamation, spearheaded by Commissioner Tony Williams
- Informative guest speakers at meetings each month
- **Create committees to drive the work of this commission**

This last achievement - creating committees to drive the work of the commission - is the greatest accomplishment thus far, providing members with targeted spheres to work within to drive change and provide resources for the community. For the remainder of his tenure, Chair Dickens will ensure the commission is on track to accomplish year 2 goals.

POLICY

The policy committee determined their current focus - housing and infrastructure.

After a meeting with D.R. Horton earlier this year, the committee determined that this was an area in which they could align with Mayor Nichols' housing goals. Additionally, the committee has begun writing op-eds to share information with the community.

EDUCATION

The education committee hit the ground running. They have partnered with other education committees from Title V commissions to find greater ways to collaborate. Their goals focus on working with Tulsa Public Schools to understand and provide support for issues concerning literacy, chronic absenteeism, and family engagement.

Perhaps their greatest achievement is creating the Dr. LaVerne F. Wimberly Black Educators Excellence Awards, an award to celebrate Black teachers doing excellent work with schools and students.

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

The culture and engagement committee has worked to create this monthly newsletter consistently to share what the committee is doing as well as events that are marketed towards members of the community.

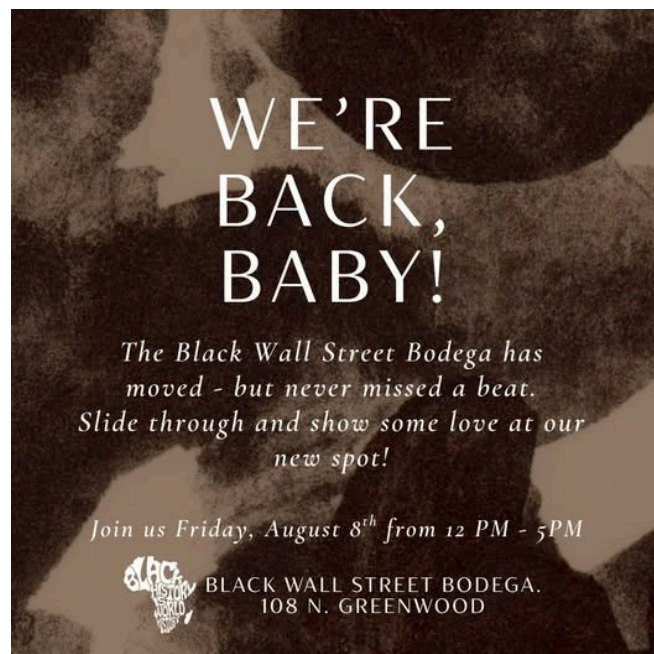
Coming up, the committee is working to create a shared calendar that features local/community events and then use that as a guide to attend in order to table and share more information about the commission (outreach).

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The human rights commission has officially determined their goals for the foreseeable future and the committees that will support reaching those goals. The goals (and committees of similar names) include: 1) Improve access to the Department of Resilience and Equity's resources for community members and 2) Improve representation on authorities, board, and commissions.

AUGUST EVENTS

- 1: August First Friday - 6 p.m., Greenwood Ave., Living Arts District
- 2: Denim and Boots Event - 9:00 p.m., Greenwood Cultural Center
- 5: Community Back to School Bash - 5-7 p.m., OSU-Tulsa
- 8: Black Wall Street Bodega - 12-5 p.m., 108 N Greenwood Ave
- 9: Back to School Splash - 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tulsa Dream Center West Campus
- 9: Back to School Lacy Park Block Party - 11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Lacy Park
- 9: Coffee, Cocoa, Cookies and Coloring - 1-2:30 p.m., Suburban Acres Library
- 9: Jazz on the Green - 6 p.m., Guthrie Green
- 11-14: Greenwood Film Festival
- 16: Bikers, Book Bags, & Back 2 School Supply Drive - 10 a.m. - Under I-244 Bridge on Greenwood
- 18: Back to School Hair - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 7226 E 41st. S (Free hairstyles for kids)
- 22: Ego Tripping Performance - 8 p.m., Living Arts
- 23: End-of-Summer Sista' Chat Book Club - 1-2:30 p.m., Suburban Acres Library
- 31: Kids Cooking Master Class - 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mother Road Market



HISTORY CORNER

BLACK AUGUST



photo from Detroit Justice Center

From the *National Equity Project* article, written by Joseph Edelin:

"The birth of Black August was both intentional and organic, brought to life by incarcerated members of the Black power organization, the Black Guerilla Family, in San Quentin State Prison in August of 1979, following the killing of their founder and leader, George Jackson. Originally, Black August was used as time to reflect on, and honor the lives of incarcerated Black activists. Practitioners would celebrate during the month by studying revolutionary texts, fasting, exercising, and abstaining from drugs, alcohol, and mainstream media. Over time, the celebration has expanded to not only studying and bringing awareness to works by revolutionary authors, but to also engage in activism on behalf of incarcerated Black political prisoners and oppressed Black people around the world."

To read more about the history of Black August, read the entire article [here](#).