



COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

As 'Celebrate Diversity Month' closed, we've reflected on the many cultures, identities, perspectives, and experiences that enrich our city. Through various events, conversations, and shared learning opportunities, we came together to connect, grow, and honor what makes us unique.

When we embrace diversity, we unlock the full potential of our society. We hope April served as a powerful reminder of the importance of valuing every individual and ensuring that everyone feels seen and heard —not just in April but all year long.

TAKE ACTION • 5 MINUTES OR LESS


[LISTEN](#)

[WATCH](#)

[READ](#)

[APPLY](#)

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH!

April was Celebrate Diversity Month, and we highlighted all of our agency's hard work and dedication to fostering environments where diverse voices are heard, respected, and celebrated.



EQUITY IN ACTION

MOERJ Commissioner Sideya Sherman participated in the closing panel of the NYC Department of Transportation's annual *Equity in Motion Summit*, a gathering of transportation and urban planning leaders focused on advancing equity across systems. MOERJ Deputy Commissioner Dabash Negash also participated on a panel about New York City's ongoing efforts to embed racial equity into government operations and service delivery.



Commissioner Sherman giving remarks



Deputy Commissioner Negash participating on a panel



DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez welcoming attendees



Deputy Commissioner Negash with fellow panelists
(L-R, Warren Whitlock, Anya Pintak, Linda Tigani, & Tiffany Fuller)

The NYC Commission on Gender Equity (GCE) joined the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and New Yorkers came together in solidarity for Denim Day NYC — a powerful annual event that underscores the message: there is never an excuse or invitation for sexual assault, harassment, or abuse. Marchers crossed the Brooklyn Bridge and rallied at Foley Square, united in purpose and denim, to raise awareness and call for a future where all New Yorkers can live safely and with dignity.



ENDGBV Commissioner Saloni Sethi gave opening remarks to the crowd after the march



ENDGBV and CGE provided health & safety resources and information to New Yorkers



Participants wrote messages of solidarity on pieces of denim

JOIN OUR TEAM

Our agency is expanding, and we have several exciting opportunities available.

Communications Director

Help manage media relations, pitch stories and write Op-Eds in alignment with agency goals.

NYC Young Men's Initiative

External Communications Special Assistant

Assist with communications efforts, while ensuring brand consistency.

NYC Young Men's Initiative

Events Manager Special Assistant

Assist in planning and executing events, while providing on-site support and handling administrative tasks.



EQUITY IN ACTION

NYC Chief Equity Officer and NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice Commissioner Sideya Sherman participated in a panel hosted by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, speaking about how we can achieve racial equity in city government.

The event highlighted the global dimensions of racial injustice, the importance of cross-sector collaboration and community-informed solutions. It underscored the urgent need to reimagine justice systems that serve everyone equitably, regardless of race or background.



L to R: Sideya Sherman, Catherine S. Namakula, Alexis Hoag-Fordjour, & Afua Adoo



Panelists participating in a robust discussion



MOERJ staffers pose for a picture

This spring, the NYC Young Men's Initiative and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development proudly continued their partnership with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to support the HBCU College Tour Experience.

This initiative gave students a valuable opportunity to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country — campuses they might not have otherwise had the chance to explore before applying to college.



Students pose for a photo at Morgan State University



At Howard University, students visited the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts



Students toured multiple HBCUs, getting the opportunity to experience campus life

NYC Her Future Chief of Staff Natalia Diaz joined the Neurodivergent Alliance for Learn Different Day — a dynamic celebration of neurodiversity, creativity, and community at Baruch College!

The free, family-friendly event welcomed students, parents, and educators for a day filled with hands-on activities, interactive workshops, and joyful exploration of the many ways we learn.

Natalia shared powerful reflections on how learning can look different for young women and girls of color, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive, affirming spaces where all learners are seen, supported, and celebrated.



NYC Her Future Chief of Staff Natalia Diaz speaking on a panel