



COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

As Pride Month comes to a close, we share a passionate reminder that showing up for the LGBTQ+ community is a year-round commitment. This month, in celebratory fashion, we honored the warmth, brilliance, and ongoing activism of LGBTQ+ New Yorkers.

Together, across our agency, we lifted up those who have fought – and continue to fight – for justice and equality. Pride began as a protest, and that legacy calls us to keep pushing for a more inclusive society where everyone can live freely and fully.

At the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice, we are proud to invest in LGBTQ+ communities – especially those facing the greatest barriers, trans and non-binary people, youth, elders, and LGBTQ+ people of color – through the NYC Unity Project.

Pride is not just a moment of celebration; it's a movement, and as the LGBTQ+ community faces new threats, we are reminded that our work is not done.

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EQUITY IN ACTION – A JUNETEENTH REFLECTION



L to R: Sideya Sherman, Ahmed Tigani, Mali Trilla, Padmore John

NYC Chief Equity Officer and Commissioner Sideya Sherman joined NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) for the 2025 HealthyNYC data release, highlighting both promising progress and persistent disparities in life expectancy, particularly among Black New Yorkers. Framed around Juneteenth, the event underscored the continued urgency of advancing health equity across all communities.

The panel featured powerful insights from Ahmed Tigani, Acting Commissioner of NYC HPD; Mali Trilla, CEO of Settlement Health; and moderator Padmore John, Assistant Commissioner at the NYC Health Department. Together, panelists explored how data, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration can drive lasting change toward a healthier, more equitable New York City.

EQUITY IN ACTION – A JUNETEENTH REFLECTION

The NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice joined Mayor Eric Adams to celebrate Juneteenth at Gracie Mansion. During the event, senior officials delivered remarks, and citations were awarded to honor outstanding community leaders.

Honorees included Tonya Ores of Neighborhood Housing Services of New York; Ben Harney, Tony Award-winning actor and educator; and Joy Williams, Brooklyn NAACP member and host of the #SundayCivics podcast. In a special tribute, a posthumous award was presented in honor of Congressman Charlie B. Rangel, recognizing his lifetime of service and unwavering commitment to justice and equity for the people of New York City and beyond.



Commissioner Sherman giving remarks



NYC Her Future Founding Executive Director Nathifa Forde + NYC Young Men's Initiative Executive Director James Stratford pose for a photo



Attendees at Gracie Mansion

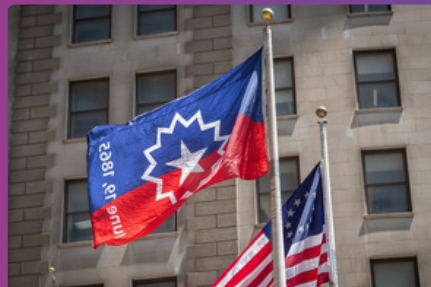
MOERJ Commissioner Sideya Sherman joined Mayor Eric Adams and fellow city officials at Bowling Green for the annual Juneteenth flag raising ceremony. As the Juneteenth flag was raised over New York City, we honored the enduring legacy of those who paved the way toward freedom and justice.

This moment serves not only as a tribute to the past but an impassioned call to action, recommitting to building a future rooted in equity, liberation, and unity for all New Yorkers. Let us continue the work, together.

[Read the Commissioner's full remarks here.](#)



Mayor Adams, Commissioner Sherman, and community members raise the Juneteenth flag



The Juneteenth and American flags flying high



L to R: Linda Tigani, Tyrik Washington, Sideya Sherman



Onscreen presentation at the Citywide Gathering on Reparations

MOERJ Commissioner Sideya Sherman attended the first "Citywide Gathering on Reparations," in partnership with our agency, the NYC Commission on Racial Equity and the NYC Commission on Human Rights.

This community event brought New Yorkers together to share stories, ideas, and visions for a more just future. The attendees helped shape the guiding principles for the city's reparations study and inform broader efforts around truth, healing, and reconciliation.



Participants discussed what reparations meant to them

CELEBRATING PRIDE: UPLIFTING LGBTQ+ VOICES ACROSS NYC

This Pride Month, the NYC Unity Project showed up (and out) across all five boroughs, participating in a number of events to stand with and serve LGBTQ+ New Yorkers with #Pride, purpose, and community. From resource sharing to community building, the NYC Unity Project ensured that all LGBTQ+ individuals felt seen, supported, and empowered across all generations. Learn more about their ongoing work at [NYC.Gov/Unity](https://www.nyc.gov/unity).



NYC Unity Project staff pose for a selfie



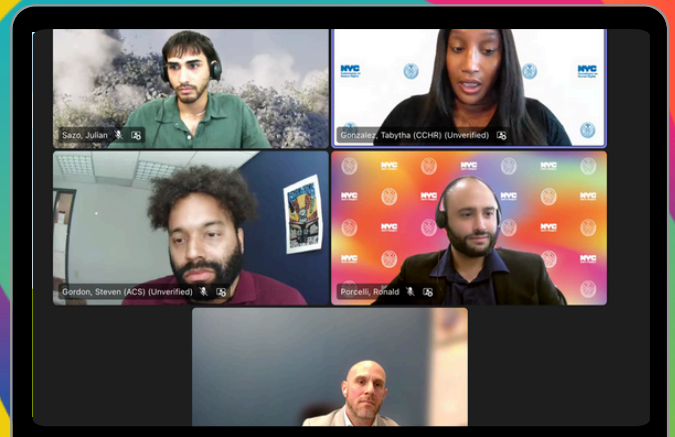
Attendees at The Center's pride event participated in a Best Dressed contest



NYC Unity Project staff tabling at The Center

Ronald Porcelli, Director of the NYC Unity Project at the MOERJ moderated a powerful DCAS CityTalk panel exploring LGBTQ+ identity and visibility within city government. The panel featured agency leaders including Steven Gordon of NYC Administration for Children's Services, Tabytha Gonzalez of NYC Commission on Human Rights, Dominick Martorelli of NYPD, and Julian Sazo, of the NYC Mayor's Office of Community Affairs.

Panelists shared their experiences navigating public service while advancing equity across city systems. The discussion served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing work to make New York City a place where all people, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, can live, work, and thrive with dignity.



NYC Unity Project staff connecting New Yorkers to vital resources

The NYC Unity Project joined the community at Harlem Pride to celebrate and support LGBTQ+ New Yorkers. Onsite the Unity team shared resources, connected with local residents, and uplifted the voices and experiences of LGBTQ+ youth and families across the city.

It was a day of joy, community, and unity as we continue working toward a more inclusive New York City for all.

EQUITY IN ACTION

Last month, the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) hosted its annual service day, bringing mentees, mentors, and coordinators together for a day of community service and connection. Participants volunteered at Seton Falls Park in the Bronx and Fresh Creek Nature Preserve in Brooklyn, where they focused on litter clean-up efforts.

In just one day, they contributed eight hours of service and collected more than (20) large bags of litter, helping to beautify public spaces while strengthening social-emotional skills and exploring neighborhoods beyond their own.

The YMI service day continues to be a powerful example of how service can build community, character, and pride across NYC.



Participants getting hyped up for the day



Participants posed for a group photo

The NYC Young Men's Initiative, in partnership with the NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD), hosted its Youth Leadership Summit to empower young men of color in grades 5-12.

With over (200) participants, the event offered leadership training, networking, and resources tied to the Social Determinants of Health. Through interactive workshops and activities, students explored how social and environmental factors impact their lives and gained tools to lead and engage in their communities.



NYC YMI Executive Director James Stratford giving remarks



Participants posed for a photo



NYC YMI Executive Director James Stratford posed with participants



NYC YMI and NYC DYCD hosting Spring Into Health 2025



City agencies and organizations connected New Yorkers to resources

The NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) partnered with Forestdale, Inc. and Youth Justice Network for Spring Into Health: 2025, a citywide event series offering holistic health resources to communities across the five boroughs.

From wellness screenings to health insurance enrollment, YMI continues to break down barriers and build pathways to healthier, more equitable futures for men and their families throughout New York City.



Attendees at a health and wellness workshop

EQUITY IN ACTION



NYC Her Future Founding Executive Director Nathifa Forde posed with attendees at a Rites of Passage event



NYC Her Future hosted Rites of Passage events focused on community, health, wellness, and self-esteem



My Sister's Keeper members participating in a debutante ball

Diverse communities are the lifeblood of New York City, vibrant, creative, and deeply rooted in resilience. Even in the face of systemic racism and repeated adversity, they continue to find joy, build families, deepen bonds, and rise.

NYC Her Future (NHF) understands that living a healthy, full life is not just a personal journey, but, a communal one. We recognize that too often, systemic barriers fracture the very networks meant to sustain us. That's why we're committed to creating spaces, moments, and milestones where young women and girls of color are reminded that they are seen, that they matter, and that their future is still worth fighting for because they are still worthy of being invested in.

Strong women are rooted in strong girls, and to reinforce this truth, NHF recently hosted, in partnership with NYC Public Schools, NYC Her Future's "Rites of Passage" debutante balls centered on creating supporting and affirming environments that allow young women and girls of color to experience an important milestone of growth and step into their authentic selves.



NYC CGE staff member giving a presentation on sexual harassment prevention



NYC CGE staff member tabling at an event

The NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) participated in two public engagement events, the Mixteca Street Harassment presentation and the Caribbean Equality Project Little Guyana Pride event, to connect directly with local residents and share vital city resources. These gatherings created space for community dialogue, raised awareness about gender equity initiatives, and helped ensure that New Yorkers are informed, supported, and heard.