



ENGAGE RALEIGH EXPO 2024 Summary Report

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

raleighnc.gov/engage-city



Raleigh

Event Highlights

In 2023, the Office of Community Engagement proposed the idea of a City of Raleigh expo at the City Council retreat. The goal of the event would be to have departments hosting information tables, display services, and share opportunities for residents to participate.

Over time, that idea transformed into the **Engage Raleigh: Community and Neighborhood Expo** – a beautiful partnership between community groups and the City of Raleigh.

We designed the Engage Raleigh Expo with three goals in mind:

- To include and encourage all residents to participate in local decision-making;
- To celebrate and collaborate with Raleigh's diverse community; and,
- To connect residents with City departments, community organizations, and other resources in their communities.

The City of Raleigh extends its gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our first Engage Raleigh Expo. The success of the Engage Raleigh Expo is a testament to the Raleigh community, its inclusivity, and its willingness to embrace big ideas.





*“Excelente trabajo de todos, [muchas] gracias por la invitación. Espero [que] se repita cada año. Es [sumamente] importante establecer estas conexiones.”
(Excellent job y’all! Thanks for the invitation, hope it is repeated yearly because it’s important to establish these connections)*



“As a new resident of Raleigh (been here only 2 months), this was SUCH a great way to get to know my new city.”

“I enjoyed the Expo so much... I moved to Raleigh in 1981 and I have always been impressed with the City’s efforts to [engage] residents.”



“Thank you for the highly organized, informative, and enjoyable Engage Raleigh Expo. As a new Raleighite, I learned a lot about our city’s positives and challenges, as well as the people directly involved with trying to make Raleigh an even better place to live and thrive.”

Attendees



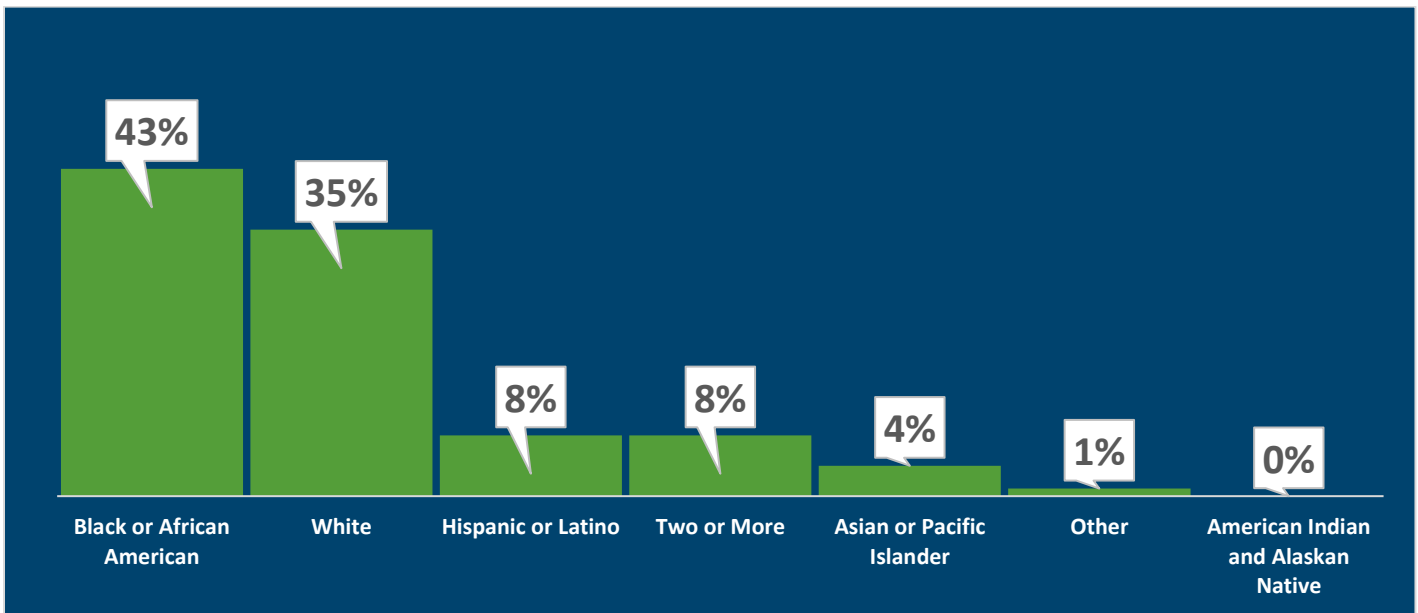
90 Exhibitors



323 Attendees

Racial Demographics

According to the 2020 Data Book, about 53% of Raleigh’s population identifies as White, while the remaining 47% identifies as people of color. At our Engage Raleigh Expo, **65%** of registrants were people of color, reflecting a greater diversity than the city's overall demographic.



Keynote Program

Breaking the Barrier: The Value of Collaboration

Attendees began the day with a live panel hosted by Dan Bagley and the Big Ideas Raleigh podcast. The panel, featuring City staff and community leaders, emphasized the importance of collaboration. Panelists discussed the need for historical awareness, engaging local leaders, and the value of personal experiences, concluding with practical ways for Raleigh residents to get involved today.



Didn't attend the keynote program? Listen now by searching for “[Big Ideas Raleigh](#)” wherever you get your podcasts.

Meet our Speakers

Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway

Assistant Professor of African American History and Public History

Born and raised in Southeast Raleigh, Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway is proud to be an Assistant Professor of African American History and Public History at NC State University. His research is on twentieth century African American history with a focus on the U.S. South, labor, environmental justice, and the Black Freedom Struggle. At present, he is the co-leader of The Communiversity, a community based archive and educational institution that houses the records of Black Workers for Justice. He is also a board member of the Interreligious Foundation of Community Organizations (IFCO), the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN), and Democracy North Carolina. In 2023, Dillahunt-Holloway was appointed to the City of Raleigh's Historic Resources and Museums Advisory Board.



Dillahunt-Holloway has served as an Interinstitutional Scholar for Diversity and Inclusion in the Department of History at East Carolina University, an Assistant Editor with the award winning blog Black Perspectives, an intern with the SNCC Digital Gateway Project at Duke University, a research Assistant for Charlie Cobb, a “Book Acquisition” student worker at Duke University Press, and an Editorial Assistant for The Journal of African American History, the oldest and leading scholarly journal in its field.

Dillahunt-Holloway earned his Ph.D. in History from Michigan State University in 2023. He holds a B.A. in History and a B.A. in Political Science from North Carolina Central University.

Kori Hennessey

Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Raleigh

As the first nonbinary Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Raleigh and one of the very few transgender leaders within Triangle area nonprofits, Kori has been dedicated to creating equitable and affirming opportunities for all. In their role, Kori works alongside a diverse and passionate team to implement programs that include youth and young adult leadership skill building, education and understanding on LGBTQ+ identities, transgender community and resource connections, health equity and access, and so much more.



Kori recently became a Goodmon Fellow with Leadership Triangle and completed the Nonprofit Management Program at Duke University in 2022. Previous to their involvement with the LGBT Center of Raleigh, they spent time both exploring their artistic side and working at different agencies focused on education and life skills with children and young adults that live with developmental disabilities. Kori enjoys spending time with their partner, dogs, and friends, finding new foods to try, and putting together a challenging puzzle.

Iliana Santillan

Executive Director, El Pueblo

Iliana Santillan, a native of Mexico City and Michoacán, has been organizing in North Carolina for over 20 years. She began her career as an educator in Sanford, NC, where she developed a passion for working with youth and amplifying the voices of Latine communities throughout the state. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of both El Pueblo and La Fuerza NC. In this role, she strives to empower rural communities, elevate Latine leadership, and increase civic engagement across North Carolina. Iliana holds a Bachelor's degree from Meredith College and a Master's degree from North Carolina State University.



Tiesha Mosley

Community Engagement Manager

City of Raleigh - Office of Community Engagement

As a native of Southeast Raleigh, Tiesha has over ten years of local government experience. Her public sector career has spanned several operational, business development, DEI, and community building roles. She is a first-generation college graduate holding a bachelor's degree in Business Management from North Carolina A&T State University (AGGIE PRIDE) and a Masters of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University. Tiesha is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and graduate of the UNC School of Government's Municipal & County Administration Program. She currently serves as the inaugural Community Engagement Manager for the City of Raleigh where she leads people focused processes and works to improve the city's overall community engagement efforts. In her free time Tiesha enjoys taking care of her house plants, creating physical photo albums, and taking "joy walks" in Target.



Dan Bagley

Neighborhood Enrichment Administrator

City of Raleigh - Housing & Neighborhoods Department

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Dan earned his Bachelor's in Recreation Education and Master's in Recreation Administration (Go Huskers!). He and his wife, Kate, an NC State employee (Go Wolfpack!), moved to Raleigh in 2006, where Dan began his illustrious career with the City of Raleigh. After eight years with the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department, Dan now leads the Neighborhood Enrichment Services team in the Housing and Neighborhoods Department, all while hosting the City of Raleigh's Big Ideas Podcast. Dan is passionate about the city and constantly inspired by the talent around him.



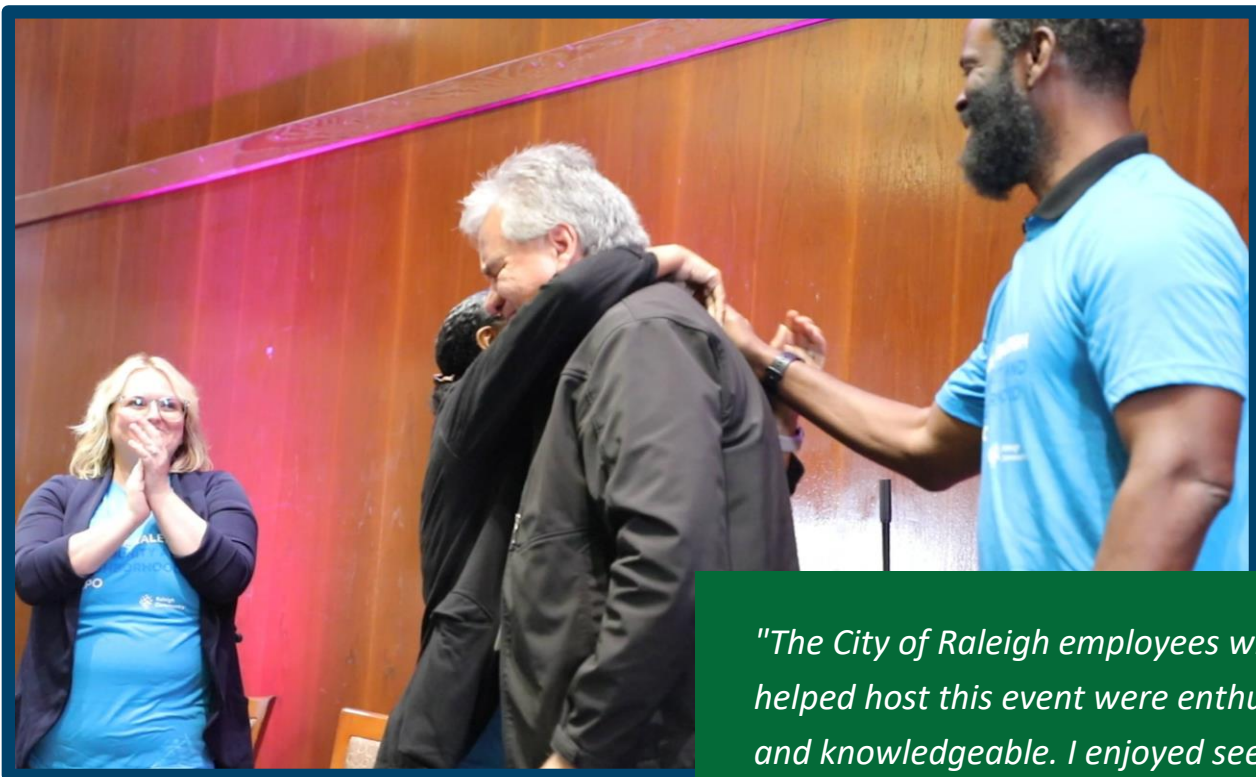
Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange Luncheon

Celebrating 20 years of Neighborhood Enrichment

The Neighborhood Enrichment team delivered a presentation highlighting the rich history and ongoing impact of the Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange (RNEX), which marked its **20th anniversary** in 2024. This celebration reflected on the evolution of the event and coincided with the debut of the Engage Raleigh Expo. The presentation underscored the collaborative efforts driving a new chapter for RNEX.

Additionally, staff premiered the “Neighborhood Navigators” web series, featuring residents of the Brentwood neighborhood as they shared the unique stories that weave together the fabric of where they live.

The team concluded the luncheon with a recognition ceremony for **Dr. Luis Olivieri-Fernando**, who has dedicated **23 years of service** to the City of Raleigh, as the only present staff member who initiated the inaugural RNEX in 2004 and celebrated his commitment to community engagement.



"The City of Raleigh employees who helped host this event were enthusiastic and knowledgeable. I enjoyed seeing and hearing Dan, Grady, Sheila and Luis, who continue to serve with passion after many years of working for the City."

Breakout Sessions

We were proud to host **seven breakout sessions** centered around key city initiatives, public resources and services, and community storytelling. 8 city departments and 3 community leaders participated in hosting breakout sessions for the 300+ attendees. The sessions offered included:

- Climate Action, Resilience, and Emergency Preparedness in Raleigh
- A Responsive Raleigh: Enhancing the Customer Experience
- Neighborhood History Harvests: Collect, Preserve, and Share Community Stories
- Smart Raleigh: How do we strategize and plan for the best use of new technology?
- Honoring Southeast Raleigh: Shaping Our Community's Future
- Riding Around Raleigh: A Smart Way to Get Around
- A Place Called Home: The State of Housing in Raleigh

The Expo Hall

The Expo Hall was the heart of the Engage Raleigh Expo. City departments and community organizations worked together to create an engaging and resource-rich environment. Each exhibitor offered valuable information, showcasing services and opportunities for residents to get involved.

90 Exhibitors Registered

65 Community organizations

25 City Departments and Divisions





ENGAGE RALEIGH COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD EXPO

VENDOR LIST

1. Livable Raleigh
2. A Place at the Table
3. Activate Good
4. Advance Community Health
5. Alignment Health
6. Amir Institute
7. Aspire2Higher Personal & Professional Development, INC
8. Be Enlightened, LLC
9. Carolina Aging Alliance
10. Choices In Wellness PLLC
11. City of Raleigh - City Manager's Office
12. City of Raleigh - Code Enforcement
13. City of Raleigh - Communications
14. City of Raleigh - Community & Small Business
15. City of Raleigh - Community Development
16. City of Raleigh - Convention & Performing Arts Complex
17. City of Raleigh - Emergency Communications
18. City of Raleigh - Engineering Services
19. City of Raleigh - Fire Department
20. Raleigh Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
21. City of Raleigh - Equity and Inclusion
22. City of Raleigh - Finance Department
23. City of Raleigh - Housing & Neighborhoods
24. City of Raleigh - Human Resources
25. City of Raleigh - Office of Community Engagement
26. City of Raleigh - Office of Sustainability
27. City of Raleigh - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
28. City of Raleigh - Planning and Development
29. City of Raleigh - Police Department
30. City of Raleigh - Solid Waste Services
31. City of Raleigh - Special Events Office
32. City of Raleigh - Stormwater
33. City of Raleigh - Strategy & Innovation
34. City of Raleigh - Transportation Department
35. City of Raleigh - Water
36. CWS Durham
37. Darkness RISING Project Inc.
38. Designed for Joy
39. DHIC
40. Diamante Arts & Cultural Center
41. Dominican Association NC
42. Eatwell Exchange, Inc.
43. Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina
44. El Centro Hispano
45. El Pueblo
46. Emancipate NC
47. Fifth Third Bank - Financial Empowerment Services
48. Habitat for Humanity of Wake County
49. Harmony: NC LGBT+ Allied Chamber of Commerce
50. Historic Turner House Foundation, Inc
51. Housing Options for Students Today (HOST)
52. L.U.V. Enterprises Presents LLC
53. Let's Be Well Inc.
54. LGBT Center of Raleigh
55. Lutheran Services Carolinas - New Americans Program
56. Meals on Wheels of Wake County
57. National Alliance on Mental Illness, North Carolina (NAMI NC)
58. NC Cooperative Extension - Wake County Center
59. NC Council of the Blind
60. NC Museum of Natural Sciences - Community Programs
61. Note in the Pocket
62. Oaks and Spokes
63. Power The Vote NC
64. Pruitt Health
65. Raleigh Citizen Advisory Council (RCAC)
66. Rebuilding Together of the Triangle
67. Refugee Hope Partners
68. Refund Raleigh
69. ReNew Mobile Showers
70. Southeast Raleigh Promise
71. The Great Raleigh Cleanup
72. The Patient Story
73. Transitions LifeCare
74. Triangle Disability Autism Services
75. Triangle Land Conservancy
76. Triangle Social Media, LLC
77. Ukrainians in the Carolinas
78. United Arts Wake County
79. USCRI - North Carolina Field Office
80. Voices Together
81. Wake County Public School System - Child Nutrition Services
82. Wake County Public School System - Supplier Diversity and Inclusion Program
83. Wake County Smart Start
84. WakeMed Center for Community Health
85. Welcome House Raleigh
86. Women's Business Center of North Carolina
87. Yocasta Bianconi, LLC
88. Youth Villages
89. Rotary Clubs of Raleigh
90. Mi Familia en Accion





"I want to thank the whole team for putting together such a great event! I hope I'm invited to attend again next year as a vendor.. great to see all the [people] that turned out to support."

"The event was very organized and filled with so many great resources. I am thankful to have been a vendor."



"I thought it was a very well thought out event, it was a nice and different experience. As an organization in the community, I enjoyed learning about what other organizations/small businesses had to share! Thank you all for the opportunity and for providing lunch! It was very well organized. Kudos to you all."



"I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful opportunity for us to have a table at the Community Expo! We had a good number of people at our table and talked to quite a few people who had no idea we existed, so I would say it was a success. I would love to table at more of these kinds of community events, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you are looking for people!"

"I really appreciated the variety of exhibitors; I talked with four organizations I had never heard of before!"

"Thank you so much! Y'all were awesome. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to attend and learn about so many resources."

As part of our post-event survey, we asked residents to share topics they'd like us to cover in the future. Their answers included:

- **Intergenerational Approaches to Engagement**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Growth and Natural Resources**
- **Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs)**
- **Public Safety**