

Celebrating the Diversity of Our Community

The diverse cultures and communities within Canton are vibrant and engaging. Economic, cultural, and social diversity is encouraged throughout the City.

Measurable Goals:

- Improve communication pathways
- Increase diversity in elected positions and boards
- Growth in minority-owned businesses
- Add recreational programming inclusive of cultures
- Reduction in code violations as zoning codes change to meet cultural norms
- Increase participation in public meetings and events
- Increase in length of time utility accounts held by traditionally transitory non-English speaking customers
- Increase downloads of translated documents
- Increase participation in Citizens' Police Academy by diverse citizens
- Passage of ordinances and policies to promote diversity and inclusion
- Development participation in diversity and inclusion initiatives
- Increase use of incentives
- Completion of capital projects
- Greater Census participation in 2030

Major Partners:

- Residents
- City Officials & Staff
- Diversity & Inclusion Task Force
- Minority-Owned Businesses
- Faith-based Organization
- Social Service Providers
- Developers
- Recreation Program Managers
- Media
- Utility Providers
- Translation Services
- Education Sector
- Healthcare Providers
- Local Non-Profits

How We Will Get There

- Creation of Diversity & Inclusion Task Force
- Creation of CanTeen, a youth leadership program
- Meeting and working with faith-based organizations
- Hosting informational events with residents in communities
- Assist minority-owned businesses in gaining market reach within the region
- Hosting cultural celebrations and recognizing major holidays
- Providing access to documents in multiple languages
- Utilizing media to reach diverse populations
- Developing a strategy to attract diverse employment candidates
- Improving recreational offerings to better match cultural heritage of residents
- Exploring partnerships to improve community growth
- Celebrating culture through arts, food, and music
- Develop connectivity to parks
- Improve communication infrastructure, including the dissemination of information through minority businesses and non-profits
- Utilize overlays to accommodate specific zoning/code needs
- Assist diverse populations in promoting entrepreneurship
- Enact a Non-Discrimination Ordinance
- Actively promote diversity and inclusion through community marketing
- Creation of a newcomer packet and distribution plan
- Celebrate Diversity months
- Creation of a Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator position within the City
- Promote healthcare and social services assistance in low-to-moderate income areas, specifically non-English speaking communities
- Review and create policies to promote social justice

Specific Projects Underway

- New Diversity & Inclusion Task Force
- Public Safety Citizens Advisory Board
- New City Website
- Marietta Road Community Initiative/Sunnyside Campaign
- Public WiFi in parks program
- Atlanta United Mini-Pitch Project at Harmon Park
- CDBG Grant Upgrades at Harmon Park
- Canton Police Department Hispanic Citizenship Workshop
- Official Canton Documents in Translation
- Recruiting Incentives for Bilingual Employees
- Police Department Public Outreach Events

Materials/Supporting Documents:

- Rivermill Livable Centers Initiative
- Canton 2040 Plan
- City of Canton Housing Study
- Minutes of Diversity & Inclusion Task Force