



Cambridge Citizens' Committee on Civic Unity

October 2021

MISSION AND WORK:

The mission of the City of Cambridge Citizens' Committee on Civic Unity is to foster fairness, equity, unity, appreciation, and mutual understanding across all people and entities in Cambridge. We do this by recognizing and raising awareness of historic, existing and potential civic issues; by providing opportunities for honest dialogue and engagement; and by building bridges across communities to better understand and connect with one another.

MEMBERSHIP:

The committee is made up of members, appointed by the City Manager, that live and/or work in Cambridge, and represent a diverse range of experiences, perspectives, and knowledge from various communities and backgrounds across the city.

BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES:

The present day Citizens' Committee on Civic Unity began meeting in 2015. The current committee builds on the history and work of Cambridge's prior Civic Unity Committee, which existed until 1992, and was formed to address racial discrimination faced by returning World War II veterans. Committee meetings frequently include a range of discussion topics including current events, specific city issues, guest speakers, goal setting, as well as brainstorming and organizing for community events and forums.

EXAMPLE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- Hosted community presentation "Cambridge: Who We Are & How We Got Here" (2016)
- Hosted community discussion on a publicized Cambridge Police Dept. incident (2016)
- Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Loving v. Virginia Supreme Court decision (2017)
- Performance and discussion of "One Drop of Love" by Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni (2017)
- Discussion on Implicit Bias with Mahzarin R. Banaji, author of "Blindspot: The Hidden Biases of Good People" (2018)
- Hosted a virtual performance and discussion with Dr. Billie Jean Young on Fannie Lou Hammer's life and work "This Little Light of Mine" (2020)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Citizens Civic Unity Committee looks for opportunities to connect and partner with individuals and groups focusing on these issues. For information on the committee's work, current goals, meeting schedule, and events, please visit:

www.cambridgema.gov/civicunity