



Claire Shares Her Experience Attending “Juneteenth: The Galveston Story”

By: Claire Bozzano, Human Resources Manager

On June 15 I attended a special film screening at Newfields of “Juneteenth: The Galveston Story”. The 2021 film is the creation of Sam Collins III. He was joined after the screening in a panel discussion with Dr. Olon Dotson, Associate Professor of Architecture, Ball State; and a board member of the Indiana Landmarks. Unplanned as a panel member, but pleasantly accepted from the audience, was Izola Ethel Fedford Collins, author of the book the “Island of Color: Where Juneteenth Started.”

The film was well done and full of historical facts, but most of my learning experience actually came from the panel discussion afterwards. As a half-century resident of Texas, I learned so many things about the state and the history surrounding Galveston and its rich history that I never really knew. Following are some tidbits from that discussion:

- Sam Collins identified himself as a BOI – Born on Island (Galveston). To those who are descendants of those enslaved when Order #3 was released, BOI is a special status.
- Ms. Collins was also a BOI, hearing stories passed down from her grandfather. It was important to her to verify things that he told her to be sure they were true. This has spurred her to dig deeply into the Galveston story.
- Juneteenth occurred June 19, 1865 – well beyond January 1, 1863, when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived by ship in the Galveston harbor with several thousand USCT – US Colored Troops.
- Order #3 was read announcing that slaves were free – although the wording encouraged them to stay where they were and work for wages. Interestingly, many of the slaves had heard about the Emancipation Proclamation prior while overhearing conversations between plantation owners. For those states who were not part of the Union (i.e. were part of the Confederacy), the slave owners chose to ignore the Proclamation because they did not consider themselves part of the Union or subject to anything that Lincoln would have enacted.
- Many of the slaves who heard Order #3 chose to migrate to other places.
- Sam Collins was instrumental in getting a historical marker set at the corner of 22nd and Strand (ground zero where Order #3 was read).
- He noticed many people stopping to read the marker – which was right next to a blank wall of an adjoining building – and saw it as an educational opportunity. Sam solicited funds to paint the entire building façade with a mural called Absolute Equality – depicting events surrounding the Proclamation, Order #3, and the arrival of the US Colored Troops arriving in Galveston. The wall draws many visitors to learn the story.

I encourage you to read “Island of Color” or many of the other stories online and books about Juneteenth and the history of Galveston in ending slavery.

Have you gone to an event or had an experience you’d like to share about in a future issue of the ABIDE Newsletter? Let [Keion](#) or [Jen](#) know!



Observances & Celebrations

Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month is celebrated in July to honor the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, which aims to protect people with disabilities from discrimination in employment, transportation, and more. Disability Pride Month has been celebrated with parades in cities across the United States.

Disability Pride does not insist that people with disabilities do not encounter challenges and societal barriers. Instead, this month celebrates people embracing their disability as a part of who they are and reclaiming their visibility in public. It also serves as a reminder that although progress has been made, we still need to work towards a fully inclusive world. Read an [article from Human Rights Watch](#) to learn more.

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, also known as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, was developed to honor the efforts of Bebe Moore Campbell (1950 – 2006), an American author, journalist, teacher, and mental health advocate. Since May 2008, National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States. Visit the [US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health website](#) to learn more.



Subcommittee Updates

Education

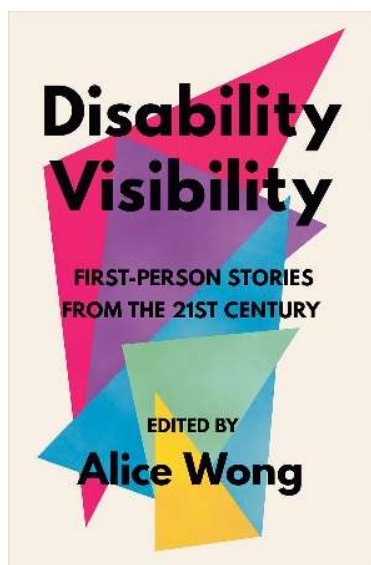
We've added a whiteboard next to the ABIDE library with a "question of the day" to prompt interaction – add your thoughts! We've started translating this newsletter into Spanish and are posting it in the Flex Space as well as emailing it to staff.

Community Engagement

We will be collecting bottled water for Horizon House in July. Anyone can drop off water at the collection box in the lobby. At the end of the month, we'll set up a time for any staff interested and available to take a tour and volunteer there.

We have created an anonymous feedback form for attendees to complete at our monthly discussions around resources related to our three priority identities of race, socioeconomic status, and mental & physical ability, and invite you to join our July conversation around Disability Visibility on July 31.

Upcoming Events



Disability Visibility Staff Discussion

July 31 | 3:00 PM
Location: Board Room

Join the ABIDE/Education committee as we cap off Disability Pride Month with our July discussion resource, *Disability Visibility*, edited by Alice Wong.

You are welcome to join for all or part of the conversation, and you do not need to have read/watched/listened to a resource to come.

We'll watch and/or listen to an excerpt or two during the meeting and discuss, using the discussion guide below. Here are some optional resources in case you're interested:

- Check out the book's [discussion guide](#) and [plain language summary](#)
- Listen to [an excerpt](#) from the book (6 mins)
- Read an interview with Alice Wong [here](#) and [here](#)

Alice Wong has a podcast called Disability Visibility – you can browse episodes [here](#).

If you are interested, we have a copy of this book available in our ABIDE Library, located between Julie's and Claire's offices. Some essays are as short as 3 pages, so feel free to check it out or give it a quick glance!

Staff Insights



[The Diversity Pivot Podcast: Episode 206 - Let the Room Come to You with Brett Heising](#)

Staff Insight By: Jen Tornatta, Special Events Manager

Brett Heising is a speaker who educates and inspires people around the world about living life with a physical disability.

I stumbled upon this podcast episode awhile back and while it's geared towards employers, I gained insights on how to be a better ally for people with disabilities and to think about my intentions. Specifically, at the 19:48 mark, they are talking about asking to help people with disabilities and Brett shares his experience with people offering to help him. He shares how he responds to these requests to make the asker feel better and not because he actually needs help.

It made me check myself and make sure when I offer to help someone, it's to actually help and not for me to just feel good about helping. Like his example, if a person with disability doesn't need my help, that's their choice (and great for them) and my reaction shouldn't be based on if I get to help or not. We all want to help or be an ally but the point isn't about us and our feelings, it's about respecting the other person.

I recommend listening to this podcast, even if you just hear the story I mentioned at the 19:48 mark.

Resources

Articles:

[The Diversity Issue Nobody Talks About—and Why It's Time to Break the Taboo](#) (socioeconomic status)

[The Toxic Danger of those viral 'Zero Talent' Requirements: Perpetuating Discrimination in the Workplace](#) (ability)

Info Sheets:

[OSHA: Helping Your Coworkers and Yourself Address Mental Health](#)

[OSHA: Support One Another - How to Talk to Your Coworkers About Mental Health](#)

[OSHA: Working Together to Address Workplace Stress and Mental Health](#)

Mobile App:

[MVMT10K App - An Anti-Racist Movement of 10,000](#)

Join the movement - and commit to your personal racial equity journey. The Movement of 10,000 (MVMT10K) is a digital platform created by Central Indiana Community Foundation to inform, inspire & ignite equitable change and justice in our community. MVMT10K features include access to curated learning pathways with articles, videos and podcasts.

A dark purple horizontal banner with the text "A.B.I.D.E. News" in white. The banner is decorated with faint, light purple handprints of various sizes and orientations scattered across the background.

A.B.I.D.E. News

Have an idea for the newsletter? Let Heather know by [emailing](#) her or using this [form](#)