Inclusive Cities Community Feedback Results
September 13, 2018
Holland Youth Advisory Council

Q1: What does an inclusive community feel and look like for you?

An inclusive community would feel and look like a committee that strives to involve everyone and respects everyone's differences.

An inclusive community would look and feel like being accepting, nice, kind.

A community surrounded by people that are all the same.

An inclusive city to me is a community that accepts everyone, no matter race, religion, sexual orientation, age, and gender.

An inclusive community to me feels like everyone, regardless of gender, race, age, etc., has a say in matters and is "in the loop" of what the community is doing. A person should feel like they are respected well even when they share their opinion.

It is a community that supports each other and does not discriminate. It does its best to include everyone and makes everyone feel welcomed.

An inclusive community is one that accepts all views, cultures, and doesn't value one particular over others.

A community where people, regardless of race, sexuality, gender, and socioeconomic background, feel comfortable outwardly expressing these parts of their identity.

To me, an inclusive community is where everyone feels welcome. An inclusive community provides opportunities for people of all kinds to participate and grow closer to one another.

I like how our downtown adds a cozy and inclusive feel where people can just go hang out with friends and family.

Having activities for all groups and including all ideas.

When there are multiple cultures supported.

This term means to me that a community includes all of its inhabitants in decisions and in different events they host. It feels like the community is unified and can hold civil debates to make sure both sides feel happy.

An inclusive community needs to fill the mix of different cultures and backgrounds. The elements of many cultures can be represented someway here instead of just one culture, there would be diversity for people. People in an inclusive community are loving each other and appreciating each other's differences well. To understand and appreciate each other's differences is really important because it would lead to less misunderstanding among people in the community and they would be more comfortable in the community.

All different people getting together and making them feel welcome.

A city that allows all of its citizens to participate in events and feel like they belong. A place where

everyone has the opportunity to connect and be part of something bigger than themselves.

An inclusive community is a community that is well rounded and involves and gets information out to all those within the community. They also stay away from making the community sheltered off. An inclusive community keeps all community members updated and in the loop.

I feel that judgement is what makes us un-inclusive. Instead of judging, we need to embrace. Embrace ideas, embrace culture, embrace people, embrace differences. Yes, we are no longer a segregated-by-law society. However, in my experience, we are segregated by choice. Why? People think that other groups don't want to integrate. Have they ever bothered to ask? An inclusive community is one where people bother to ask different people why they are different; hear their story.

Values diversity, respects citizens, equal access to resources.

An inclusive community is a place where I feel like my opinions and thoughts weigh the same as everyone around me, whether it be occupation, age, race, or gender.

Q.2: What other words best describe "inclusive" for our community? List as many as come to your mind.

Involved, include, everyone, unity

Involving, opportunity, welcoming

The diversity

Accepting, involvement

Together, included, opinionated, represented, respected, caring

Supportive, helpful, welcoming, non-discriminatory, including, kind

Our community is inclusive in my opinion because it does value minority and majority culture, opinion, socio-economic standing, etc.

Accepting, tolerant, loving, open-minded, friendly

Welcoming, loving, caring, fun, thoughtful

Family, friends, closeness

Welcoming, acceptive

Festivals, events

Together, helpful, understanding, welcoming

Cultures, respect, love, diversity, understanding, caring

Involving, accepting, inviting

Special needs, different cultures/races, people of all ages

Al together, general, comprehensive, opened, welcoming

Embracing, trusting, cooperative, curious, celebratory, interested

Respect, equality, fairness, opportunities

Accepting, culture, happiness, progression of ideas

Q.3: How can we achieve a more "inclusive" community for you?

Try to involve students from different schools to interact with each other.

More community events that appeal to all generations.

By doing more activities as a town.

Have more events that attract every community of Holland.

More events geared toward teens/young people.

Getting people to come together such as for festivals or community projects.

I think all communities can always benefit from teaching all stances, facts, etc., so that people can be educated; the root of non-inclusivity is ignorance.

I think that education is the only way that we can make our community members less ignorant, and therefore more aware and inclusive of minority groups.

We can achieve a more inclusive community by encouraging more people to participate. Also, we can have a more interconnected community between schools by having a greater presence.

I really like how inclusive our community is right now and our downtown plays a big role in that.

More events for teens that they would be interested in. Maybe college events, etc.

Do more to accept other cultures. Be more open minded.

We should include more events for everyone to attend such as the Community Day and also keep everyone more informed.

I think the idea of the MLK essay is a good way to make people aware of the famous figure who promoted egalitarianism. People can get the message of loving others from different backgrounds.

Activities like Tulip Time are good for people to get to know one culture, as they are all getting familiar with this culture, there will be more common beliefs and culture myth among people. One thing we could consider doing is to make posters for different cultures, I know that many people in Holland are a mixture of people from Germany, Britain, Dutch, or many other backgrounds. Those posters could be introducing cultures for different people, by doing so, people can know each other better.

Making sure all different people hear about an event that is going on.

In my opinion, one of the best ways we can achieve a more inclusive community would be by trying to make sure we are reaching out and providing opportunities for people of all ages.

Achieving a more inclusive community for me I would think just staying within the loop of things and information going on within the community, not just me but also my family. Other than that I think the achievement of an inclusive community is very much successful.

It all starts with the youth. If the youth become inclusive, within 10 years it will become normal.

Engage citizens – fun events, etc.

Spread awareness of how some people lower others' self-esteem and self-worth.

Q.3: What actionable items can we do today?

Set up activities/events for people to do/attend that can make the community members get to know each other better.

Have more events similar to Art in the Park because Art in the Park shows some insight on what the community offers.

Set up things to do.

Do more events, make everyone feel welcome.

We can have more opportunities for people to come together through activities.

N/A

For everyday people, it's important to simply recognize that there is beauty in the diversity of our community, and at the end of the day our differences make the Holland community stronger.

I think that there should be more connections between schools and the city/business world. I do not know of what could be done.

Try to market downtown because that in my mind is where people come together.

Be more open-minded.

Include others in what we do and make newcomers feel welcomed.

Making posters to transmit the idea of diversity and hang them in public places like schools. Maybe design more activities like Tulip Time but in a much smaller size, it could be in the Civic Center, to design some fun activities to attract more people. As they all go to one place, they would have a greater chance to meet each other and get to know each other instead if isolated themselves in their house.

I'm not entirely sure but we could put flyers in different churches, stores, restaurants, etc.

Organize events to bring us together, encourage, talk about what needs to be done or changed in order to bring us closer together and as accepting of a community that we can possibly be.

Just posting information on social media, sending stuff to local residents' homes through the postal service, broadening the committee or board that possibly deals with making the community inclusive.

Encourage people to talk. When people talk, they realize that we're all on the same boat, decreasing previous biases.

Smile more. Accept more. Love more.

City of Holland Human Relations Department