

# A Multicultural Community

**Vision:** To become an inclusive environment with a reputation as a community that welcomes and celebrates diversity.

A key component of the Multicultural Initiative is the Mayor's Multicultural Affairs Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of a citizens who can help represent an array of nationalities and ethnicities.

**Members:**

- Ms. Atieno Asiyó
- Ms. Barbara Carper
- Dr. Jitendra Desai
- Mr. Lapthe Flora
- Ms. Pearl Fu
- Ms. Roxana Navab-Boushehri
- Ms. Natasha Petersen
- Dr. Robert F. Roth
- Ms. Vivian Sanchez-Jones
- Dr. Henrick Fortune

As a city and as a region, we must continue to adapt to the evolving needs of our fellow citizens. It has become increasingly apparent that our population is changing and becoming much more diverse. Our city is dedicated to making sure we represent and serve all our citizens - regardless of nationality. Commitment and dedication by city leaders launched the City of Roanoke's Multicultural Initiative.

The overarching goals of the initiative are:

- To engage various cultural groups represented within the City of Roanoke in municipal efforts.
- To help city employees and citizen who speak multiple languages find the opportunities to meet the needs of our non-English speaking citizens.
- To develop partnerships with local business organizations, schools and neighborhood groups to provide educational opportunities for language and cultural enrichment.
- To employ a variety of ways to make city government information available to diverse cultural groups.

The Committee designed the Mi Casa es Su Casa Program to promote greater awareness and understanding of City operations and services. Mi Casa es Su Casa served as the City of Roanoke's first multicultural citizens' academy. The academy was attended by 18 participants representing 10 countries.

As citizens gain greater awareness of Roanoke and its diverse community, the Committee hopes that individuals will add their support to the City of Roanoke by contributing their many gifts and talents. The Committee welcomes all citizens to join them in improving the quality of life in Roanoke's multicultural community.



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