



Cambridge Citizens' Committee on Civic Unity

September 2017

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. The committee meets monthly, and all committee meetings are open to the public.

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. In May 2016, we hosted the community presentation and discussion "Cambridge: Who We Are & How We Got Here," which drew over 100 participants. In December 2016, we hosted a community discussion regarding a widely publicized exchange between a police officer and a resident, to explore how to create spaces for constructive dialogue and community responses. In June 2017, we are excited to host an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the *Loving v. Virginia* Supreme Court decision, and sparking dialogue through Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni's performance and discussion of "One Drop of Love."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

We are excited 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