

City of Pembroke Pines

Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board

Annual Report | 2025 – 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2025–2026 reporting period, the Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board continued to advance its mission of celebrating the cultural diversity of Pembroke Pines and fostering an inclusive and engaged community.

This year marked significant progress, as several Board recommendations from prior years were successfully implemented. Most notably, the City hosted its first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and Celebration, introduced its first Juneteenth Celebration, and advanced Autism Awareness initiatives, contributing to Pembroke Pines being designated an Autism Friendly City through the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD).

The Board remained actively engaged in reviewing cultural programming, providing input on community events, and identifying opportunities to strengthen outreach and participation across the City.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and Celebration

The City’s inaugural MLK Day Parade and Celebration represented a major milestone and the realization of a long-standing Board recommendation. The event brought together residents, community organizations, and schools in a meaningful celebration of Dr. King’s legacy.

Following the event, the Board provided feedback to enhance future celebrations, including expanded youth activities, increased participation from school bands, and improved event logistics.

Juneteenth Celebration

The Board supported the continued development of the City’s Juneteenth Celebration, reinforcing its importance as both a cultural and historical observance.

The event continues to evolve with expanded programming that includes educational components, cultural activities, and increased community engagement, establishing it as a key annual event within the City.

Autism Awareness and Inclusion Initiatives

The Board recommended the inclusion of Autism Awareness Month and related initiatives within the City’s programming calendar.

Through collaboration with staff and community partners, these efforts contributed to:

- Increased awareness and inclusive programming
- Sensory-friendly considerations in City events
- The designation of Pembroke Pines as an Autism Friendly City through CARD

This milestone reflects the City’s commitment to accessibility and inclusion for individuals of all abilities.

Dream Park Community Center Grand Opening

The Board recognized the grand opening of the Dream Park Community Center at William B. Armstrong Dream Park as an important investment in community gathering space and neighborhood engagement. The facility was envisioned as a location that could support future cultural programming, community activities, and inclusive events that reflect the diversity of Pembroke Pines. The Board previously recommended naming the facility the “Dream Park Community Center” and acknowledged the opening of the center as a meaningful addition to the City’s community resources

PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board provided input on a variety of City events and cultural initiatives, including heritage celebrations, arts programming, and community festivals.

Key areas of focus included:

- Expanding multicultural representation across City events
- Enhancing marketing and outreach efforts
- Increasing youth and family-oriented activities
- Exploring opportunities for new cultural experiences

The Board also emphasized the importance of strengthening communication strategies through social media, digital platforms, and targeted outreach to ensure residents are aware of and engaged in City programming.

ADVISORY ROLE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In its advisory capacity, the Board contributed to several initiatives, including:

- Recommending the renaming of a portion of SW 71st Avenue in honor of Imam Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed

- Providing input on the City’s cultural events calendar
- Reviewing cultural programming and budget considerations
- Discussing potential impacts of State legislation related to diversity and inclusion

These efforts reflect the Board’s continued role in supporting policy direction and community-focused initiatives.

LOOKING AHEAD

For the 2026–2027 year, the Board will focus on:

- Enhancing and expanding existing cultural events
 - Advancing inclusive and sensory-friendly programming
 - Exploring new initiatives that celebrate the City’s diversity
 - Continuing to improve communication and outreach strategies
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CONCLUSION

The 2025–2026 year was defined by implementation and progress. Several key Board recommendations were successfully brought to life, resulting in meaningful community events and initiatives that reflect the diversity of Pembroke Pines.

The Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board remains committed to supporting the City Commission in fostering a community that is inclusive, welcoming, and reflective of the residents it serves.

