

NEWSLETTER

Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter



Fairfield Equity Coalition is a youth-led organization taking local action to reimagine Fairfield's definition of what constitutes a comprehensive education. Our goal is to push for equitable policy and curriculum changes within Fairfield Public Schools while raising awareness on injustices against marginalized populations within our community.

Welcome to our **thirtieth** newsletter! As a community newsletter, we encourage our readership to reach out with suggested items. Thank you for your continued interest in our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

Happy Black History Month! This month celebrates the achievement of Black Americans throughout our nation's history to the present day. Given the fact that Black history and perspectives are so often overlooked in American society - be it in our politics, education, or popular media, to name a few examples - it is important that we move beyond superficial displays of solidarity and deeply explore the true history of Black people in the United States. While it is important to acknowledge the nation's history of oppression and exploitation of Black people, it is equally important to learn about the totality of Black culture, its accomplishments, traditions, and perspectives with the understanding that being Black is not a monolith, but a shared identity with many beautiful facets and realities. To help with this goal of celebration, FEC will be posting content on our social media pages throughout Black History Month recognizing prominent Black figures and events of our past and present.

Once again, we encourage FPS students and alumni to fill out our [membership form](#) for induction into our new class of activists. Our coalition has a wide variety of roles - anyone interested in joining will surely find a spot right for them! If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our coalition, please fill out the above form and/or email any questions you may have to our email, fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com.

Finally, see our website for our recent [land acknowledgement](#), wherein FEC recognizes the Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded this land for thousands of years.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- **Monday, February 8th, 3:00 PM via Zoom:** "Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Connecticut: Why & How?" free webinar hosted by [Health Equity Solutions](#). Learn about why racism should be declared a public health crisis. Subsequent panel discussion on Tuesday 2/9 at 7 PM. Registration required for both events. Details [here](#).
- **Wednesday, February 10th, 7:30 PM via Zoom:** "How the House Was Built: Focus on Activism" free event hosted by [Fairfield Yabantu](#) in partnership with the [Fairfield Museum and History Center](#), [The Pequot Library](#), and [The Unquowa School's](#) IDEA Committee. Learn about how our past leaders fuel modern day activism. Details [here](#).

ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

One way to celebrate Black History is to support Black-owned businesses! Although it is important to shop locally and from a diversity of ownerships all year round, doing so this month is an excellent way to celebrate Black excellence. There are many Black-owned stores in Connecticut; we encourage our readership to visit [ShopBlackCT.com](#) and select your local area to find the Black-owned businesses closest to you. ShopBlackCT has over 1200 businesses listed, from beauty boutiques to artists to non-profits! If you are a Black-owned business not yet registered with this search engine, it is free to do so (details can be found on website).

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Reading "[Black History Month: Teaching the Complete History](#)" by [Coshandra Dillard](#) for [Learning For Justice](#) (formerly "Teaching Tolerance"). In order to appropriately celebrate Black History Month, as we mentioned at the beginning of the newsletter, Dillard calls on teachers - and the public at large - to "widen their exploration of Black lives while also providing historical context so [we] will make meaningful connections to current issues." Only learning about issues like slavery and Black subjugation narrows one's understanding of Black people and perpetuates a false sense of inferiority, writes Dillard. This article highlights many facets of Black life worth celebrating and provides dozens of hyperlinks to further readings. We hope Ms. Dillard's piece helps you fully engage in the celebration of this month.

GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new members and leaders! If you are a current student or alumni of FPS and are interested in further involvement, please [fill out this survey](#). If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at fairfeldequitycoalition@gmail.com to get involved.

FOLLOW US!



Fairfield Equity Coalition



<https://fairfeldequitycoa.wixsite.com/fecoalition>



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