

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Initiative Aims to Promote Inclusiveness Across All Sectors

Effort aims to ensure accessibility, access, and equal opportunities for all Springfield residents and visitors

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., (1/15/2025) – The Inclusive Springfield Advisory Board is proud to announce the launch of its new initiative, ***Inclusive Springfield***, which aims to create a more welcoming community where all people feel they belong and have value. This initiative is housed under the umbrella of Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) and will further the work established by the Mayor’s Commission on Equity and Equality and the **Five Pillars** that were adopted by Springfield City Council on April 18, 2022.

This groundbreaking new initiative will focus on ensuring that every sector – including education, business, healthcare, and government services – is truly inclusive and accessible to people of all backgrounds, abilities, and cultures. Inclusive Springfield will work to improve accessibility, cultural and global competence, and equal opportunity for all residents and visitors and represents our commitment to creating a more welcoming community where everyone can thrive and participate fully in civic life.

“Inclusive Springfield is a beacon of community strength and unity, where every individual is cherished and empowered to contribute their unique talents,” said **Inclusive Springfield Advisory Board Member, Gary Gibson**. “By embracing diversity and fostering a culture of respect and collaboration, the organization ensures that everyone feels a sense of belonging and purpose,” said Gibson.

The initiative will roll out over the next few weeks, with specific goals and actions that focus on:

- **Website:** To share the good work being done in our community and to showcase the mosaic of cultures and individuals that currently call Springfield home.
- **Workplace Support and Talent Retention:** Promoting Springfield as a great place to live and work, encouraging inclusive hiring practices, improving workforce culture.
- **Cultural Engagement:** Promoting cultural events, art initiatives, and public forums that highlight voices from underrepresented communities.

For more information, please visit our website at www.inclusivespringfield.org For media inquiries, please contact CPO’s Inclusive Springfield Director, Darline Mabins, at 417-888-2020 or at dmabins@cpozarks.org

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ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS: *The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.*