

Sept. 27, 2019

The Mankato Free Press continues to show tremendous willingness to lead on diversity and inclusion efforts in greater Mankato. The Free Press' editors and staff have partnered with the Greater Mankato Diversity Council in numerous ways to advance inclusion and equity in our community. The most significant partnership for advancing inclusion and equity was our collaboration on the Greater Mankato Diversity Council's WRITE on RACE to be RIGHT on RACE™ community journaling initiative.

This two-year initiative challenged us to critically WRITE about RACE and its impact upon our individual and collective lives. We asked participants to honestly dialogue with one another in attempt to be RIGHT on RACE in our community. Through writing and discussing RACE honestly and courageously, we formed active relationships on RACE that will assist us in responding to RACE and racial incidents as ONE cohesive community!

The Free Press and the Greater Mankato Diversity Council will partner on another critical effort here in Mankato regarding uncovering racial housing covenants and its impact on the early formation of the Mankato community. Our community will collaborate with the Mapping Prejudice project from the University of Minnesota Extension aiming to replicate what this project has uncovered in Hennepin County and displayed in the documentary, *Jim Crow of the North*. This effort will provide much needed light on how race has shaped our community's foundations and continues to shape our current reality.

Bukata Hayes

Executive Director, Greater Mankato Diversity Council