

Jasmine Nelson-Olivieri, 2024 EDI Fellow for Fort Collins, Colorado

Project Overview and Role (1-2 Paragraphs):



In my role with the City of Fort Collins, I was primarily tasked with the role of helping with the development and growth of the city's Climate Equity Committee as well as helping with the EPA supported Air Quality Monitoring and Engagement Committee. As a member of the Climate Equity Committee, I helped to develop new tools and modes of communication between the committee and the project managers seeking assistance by developing introductory guides and fliers for the committee as well as developing a triple bottom line activity to aid project managers in finding their project's negative impacts. Further, I helped orchestrate interviews and select new community members to join the committee, ensuring that they felt comfortable and integrated as they joined.

For the Air Quality Monitoring and Engagement Committee, I was predominantly responsible for helping with some of our community engagement planning and materials. I helped to plan a community engagement event partnered with the Old Town library on the topic of digital literacy and local air quality data. This came from a community member expressing thawt while there is an enormous amount of local air quality data available to the general public, not everyone has the skills to understand that data and then use it in daily decision making.

Lastly, I was also tasked with reviewing and making updates to a Triple Bottom Line tool that was previously used by the City of Fort Collins to assess equity in Social, Economic, and Environmental health before projects came before city council. I put in work to gamify this tool into an interactive activity, allowing it to be used easily by project managers to improve project outcomes even if they are newer to equity.

What did you learn from the project?

One thing I learned is the intricacy of how local government functions, especially in the sustainability realm. I learned so much about city process, from how projects are funded to where the funded project ideas even stem from or how the public can

influence local decision making. This was my first view into local government, and it really showed me the powerful and impactful work that can be done for your local community at that level. It exposed me to the amazing projects that are happening behind the scenes locally that the general public may even be unaware of. There are so many passionate individuals that I had the opportunity to work with who really want to improve everyone's lived experiences in the city. I also learned that while many may hear the word "government" and think rigid and structured, there is also such a space and need for fun and engagement, both within government departments and in interactions with the community. The creativity I was able to express while working on these projects was not only welcomed, but also encouraged. I now know and feel encouraged that there is a want for more innovative and outside of the box solutions in local government and that they are constantly looking for new ways of thinking. Overall, I took away a new appreciation and knowledge of how sustainability work is implemented at the local level.

What was the impact of your work?

There were many exciting impacts from my work! For the climate equity committee, I was able to help the committee alter the process by which they engage with project managers. I helped create materials to prepare to discuss equity in their projects with the community that the committee is free to alter and continue using how they see fit. I also helped to select and help bring in 2 new community members to support the committee. For the Air Quality Monitoring and Engagement team, I was able to make some new event resources to engage with audiences of all ages. These activities included craftable air particle pollution collectors as well as an online air quality game that is fun for all ages and teaches about different types of air pollution and how to protect yourself from it. Lastly, the triple bottom line activity is being considered to be implemented across the Environmental Services Department and potentially beyond. There was a lot of interest in the tool and it will continue to be developed for further use and reach!

Any links to project deliverables?

Yes! The triple bottom line activity that I created is available to see [here!](#)