

INCLUDE US: PORTRAIT OF AN INCLUSIVE CITY - OPPORTUNITIES

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESS THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



Artists paint portraits to commemorate, celebrate, and show us who we are in that moment. If we asked every city in America to paint a portrait of an inclusive city, we'd see some creativity; however, some similarities would rise to the top.

An inclusive city is a place where every individual feels welcomed, valued, and has equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of urban life. These cities celebrate diversity and promote equality by embracing people from various cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. They foster an environment where everyone can be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness.

Here are three key elements that contribute to creating an inclusive city.

Opportunities: Able to contribute to and share in rising prosperity via quality education and economic opportunities

Access: Access to affordable housing, accessible infrastructure, and healthcare.

Participation: Right to engage in community celebrations and civics while feeling safe and secure.

VOLUME 1
Opportunities

VOLUME 2
Access

VOLUME 3
Participation

CONNECT WITH US TODAY

REACH OUT TO SHERRICE THOMAS TO
LEARN MORE:

SHERRICETHOMAS@COLUMBUS.ORG

OPPORTUNITIES

An inclusive city is a place where every individual feels welcomed, valued, and has equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of urban life. Individuals must be able to contribute to and share in the rising prosperity via quality education and economic opportunities.

In an inclusive city, education is accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic status or cultural background. It promotes an inclusive education system that caters to diverse learning needs and fosters an inclusive and accepting student environment. Quality education produces more enlightened citizens who contribute to our city's growth and prosperity. According to the [Brookings Institution](#), education is a powerful force for advancing opportunity, prosperity, and growth, and educational attainment is a key determinant of economic success. To learn more, [click here](#).

A wide range of economic opportunities is a must for residents of an inclusive city. It supports entrepreneurship, small businesses, and job creation while combating discrimination and providing equal access to employment, job training, and advancement. To learn more about the Columbus Region's business-forward economy, [click here](#).

Opportunities is just one of the elements that contribute to the portrait of an inclusive city, where everyone feels a sense of belonging, has equal access to opportunities, and can participate fully in the city's social, economic, and cultural life.

The next Thought Leadership article will focus on the second element in a portrait of an inclusive city, Access.

CONTACT SHERRICE THOMAS



Sherrice Thomas
VP, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
SherriceThomas@Columbus.org



Key Points

- *Economic Opportunities = supports entrepreneurship, small businesses, and job creation while combating discrimination*
- *Quality Education = produces more enlightened citizens who contribute to our city's growth and prosperity*