

# CITY OF STAMFORD

## MAYOR'S MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL



Presented by,  
Eva Weller, Chair MMC

Carmen Hughes, Director  
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



## *Alignment with Mayor Simmons' Pledge for Unity*

We, city officials, the residents of Stamford, and community and religious partners in Stamford, pledge to work together to ensure the City of Stamford is equitable, inclusive, accessible, and a place where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

We pledge to uphold the principles of respect, dignity, and inclusiveness. We commit to fostering an environment where all individuals are valued, and where differences are celebrated as strengths. We affirm that our differences make us stronger, smarter, and more innovative.

We have zero tolerance for and condemn acts of racism, bigotry, xenophobia, and expressions of discrimination stemming from one's race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religious belief, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, sex, age, national origin, or any legally protected class under federal, state, or local laws.

We commit to holding ourselves and others accountable, creating a safe space where everyone is treated with the fairness and respect, they deserve. In this spirit, we will speak out against injustice and work together to build a community rooted in kindness, integrity, compassion, and understanding.

As one of the most diverse cities in the nation, Stamford is proud to be a place where people from all backgrounds and faiths feel welcome and safe. We will continue to prioritize dialogue as a community to ensure that hard conversations are held, education is at the forefront of discussions, and quiet prejudice does not linger beneath the surface.

We sign this pledge today as a call to action to elevate the importance of these principles that form the foundation of a healthy and inclusive community.

# ABOUT THE MMC

## **Mission:**

To inform, celebrate, promote, understand, appreciate and respect the many diverse cultures that enrich our City

## **Make Up:**

The Council is made up of a diverse group of 23 members

## **Governance Structure:**

Eva Weller, Chair

Malinda Polite, Vice Chair

Ana Gallegos, Secretary

Shobna Bhatnagar, Treasurer

Carmen Hughes, Ex-Officio



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR FY25-26

- As 19<sup>th</sup> most diverse city in this nation, we can take tremendous steps when we walk together in unity.  
*(source: WalletHub)*
- Our greatest source of pride and strength as a city comes from the diversity of our residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Celebrating the diversity of Stamford fosters unity, inclusivity, promotes understanding, and enriches community.
- With hate crimes on the rise in this country, events of the MMC strive to bring people together in unity through social activities to create a more harmonious and vibrant environment for everyone.

## A collage of various flags and symbols surrounding a central image. The central image shows the Stamford University logo, which consists of the word "STAMFORD" in large, colorful, 3D block letters. The letters are arranged in two rows: "STAM" on top and "FORD" on the bottom. The colors of the letters are: S (yellow), T (blue), A (red), M (green), F (purple), O (orange), R (pink), and D (light blue). The logo is set against a background of a modern building with a glass facade and a clear blue sky. The collage includes flags from various countries and regions, such as the United States, Canada, Mexico, and several European countries. It also features symbols like the Star of David, the rainbow flag, and the flag of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

- 30+ Flag Raising Ceremonies
- Heritage Celebrations & Festivals
- Community Empowerment
- Awareness & Acceptance Rallies



# EVENTS 6/02/24 -7/13/24

## **\* MMC 4th Annual Stamford Day 2024**

**6/02/24**

Co-sponsored  
with  
Mill River Park  
Collaborative:  
Celebrates  
Stamford's  
history and  
diversity through,  
music, dance,  
Non-profit  
organizations &  
presentations

## **Ecuadorian Civic Community Drawing Contest**

**6/9/2024**

MMC attended  
Drawing Contest  
"Knowing  
Ecuador" event  
co-sponsored with  
Commission of  
Arts and Culture

## **Juneteenth**

**6/15/24**

MMC co-  
sponsored a  
family festival in  
Mill River Park  
with the City of  
Stamford

Flag Raising  
Ceremony at  
Government  
Center (6/15)

## **Dance of Ukraine**

**6/30/24**

MMC co-  
sponsored with  
Ferguson Library  
"Dance of  
Ukraine" event,  
an Arts and  
Cultural Program

## **Argentina's Independence Day**

**7/13/24**

Flag Raising  
Ceremony at  
Government  
Center. Special  
recognition given  
to MMC & Chair

**\* Signature event**

# EVENTS 8/18/24 - 9/20/24

Concert for Peace	Historically Black Colleges & Universities Tours "Movie Night"	Hispanic Heritage Festival	Senior Center Hispanic Heritage Month	* MMC Event to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month
8/18/24	8/23/24	9/22/24	9/27/24	9/20 /27
"En Vivo con Maricarmen", co-sponsored with the Ferguson Library presented the "Concert for Peace" honoring community arts and leaders	Movie Night in Jackie Robinson Park. Co-sponsored with William E. Edwards Academic College Tours: WEE-ACT & other organizations	MMC co-sponsored with Latino Foundation -- dance groups, SPEF book giveaway, art display: "I'm Frida" highlighting Mexican artist	MMC in partnership with Senior Center, provided raffle prize and traditional and cultural dance groups & performances	Rhythm & Rumba Salsa Nights (2 nights) co-sponsored with Mill River Park Collaborative. Free to public salsa dance lessons in Mill River Park

\* Signature event

# EVENTS 9/28/24 - 11/1/24

Family Health Fair	SPEF Fall Fest 2024	DIWALI: the Festival of Lights	Polish Heritage Month	Stamford Kindness Initiative
9/28/24	10/6 /24	10/31/24	10/27/24	11/1/-12/30/24
Promoted MMC with table at City of Stamford Health Fair at Yerwood Center	Promoted MMC with table and MMC coordinated & presented a cultural celebration with dance groups from different countries representing our diversity	Partnered with GOPIO-CT, and the City of Stamford, presented traditional event of music, dance and food, at the Stamford Police Station	Co-sponsored the Polish Heritage Month event at the Ferguson Library	Prepared and gave away at the Veterans Day Parade pre-printed flags with MMC logo and kindness words translated into different languages



# EVENTS 11/10/24 -3/16/25

<b>Veterans Day Parade</b>	<b>MMC members attended events</b>	<b>Participation in flag raising celebrations</b>	<b>MLK Event</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>
<b>11/10/24</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>1/20/2025</b>	<b>3/16/2025</b>
Participated in The Veterans Day Parade for first time. Hosted by the Stamford Patriotic Special Events Commission and Stamford Veterans	Attended celebrations such as: Kwanzaa a community celebration recognizing leaders. Ms. Guatemala, an annual pageant recognizing the beauty and community service of Guatemalan women	Participated in events, such as, individual country's flag-raising festivals & heritage month celebrations, (Uruguay, India, Ecuador, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru)	Participated in the MLK program at Yerwood Center celebrating legacy of MLK	Attended events highlighting the social, economic, & cultural contributions of Latinas to the Stamford community

# EVENTS 3/30/25 - 9/26/25

## \* 8<sup>th</sup> Annual MMC Jazz Concert

**3/30//25**

In partnership with Ferguson Library, MMC signature event: popular free jazz concert celebrates diversity through music

## Interfaith Community Seder

**4/2/25**

Co-sponsored for the second time with Interfaith Council, UJF, UCONN Hillel at UCONN. Council members were part of the program

## \* MMC 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Stamford Day 2025

**6/01/25**

Co-sponsor with Mill River Park Collaborative: celebrates Stamford's history and diversity through, music, dance, organization tables & presentations about Stamford's founding and today

## Juneteenth

**6/25**

Co-sponsored a family festival in Mill River Park with the City of Stamford

Flag Raising Ceremony at Government Center

## \* MMC Rhythm and Rumba Salsa

**9/19/ & 9/26/25**

Rhythm & Rumba Salsa Nights (2 nights) Co-sponsor with Mill River Park Collaborative. Free to public salsa dance lessons in Mill River Park

\* Signature event

# EVENTS for 2025-2026

Events of the MMC strive to bring people together in unity through social activities to create a more harmonious and vibrant environment for everyone.

* Signature Events	March *Jazz at the Ferguson	June *Stamford Day	September *Rhythm & Rumba Salsa	
Partner Events	Health Fairs	March in Parades	Cultural Holidays	Community Events
	Flag Raisings	Religious Holidays	Veteran Support	Kindness Project

# FUNDING REQUEST & RATIONALE FY 25-26

- Request: \$15,000 up from \$10,000
- Increase of funds needed to meet the increased demand for MMC programming
- All MMC Events are FREE and all are welcome
- MMC collaborates with other community organizations to keep costs low, but repeatedly MMC has needed aid from other departments and members to fill funding gaps
- Every year there is a reduction with “in-kind” donations

# BUDGET

Jazz at the Ferguson*	\$ 3,300
Stamford Day*	\$ 5,000
Rhythm & Rumba Salsa*	\$ 2,000
MMC Branded Reusable Bags	\$ 1,700
Partner Events	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total:	\$ 15,000

\* MMC Signature Events