

**From:** Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 11/29/2018 8:40:54 AM  
**To:** Yashika Smith <ysmith@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: Electronic Intro

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Hi Yashika, thank you for reaching out. I'd love to do that too and look forward to talking further. Dec. 10 at noon works for me.

Best,

David

On 8:32am, Thu, Nov 29, 2018 Yashika Smith <[ysmith@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:ysmith@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

Hi David,  
Thank you so much for your response. As Paulina mentioned, I am the new Inclusive Engagement and Leadership Manager in the office of Equity and Inclusion for the city of Asheville. (mouthful) My primary role in this position is the connect community with City Government. I asked Paulina to connect me with some community members who are already deep into the work of community equity and inclusion and she led me to you.  
I'd love the opportunity to sit and chat with you about the amazing work you are doing in community and how we can connect. My schedule is quite hectic as I am sure is yours. What does the week of December 10th look like for you? I am free anytime after 11:30AM on 12/10 and anytime before noon on 12/11. If neither of those work for you, Let's take a look at the second week of January.  
I am really excited to make the connection and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warm Regards,

Yashika Smith

On Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 3:56 PM Asheville Blade <[ashevilleblade@gmail.com](mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you so much, Paulina. I'm honored. My regrets for not replying to this more quickly, it's been an incredibly busy week. Yashika, I'm very interested in this and look forward to meeting and talking further.

Best,

David

On Nov 26, 2018 12:48 PM, "Paulina Mendez" <[pmendez@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:pmendez@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

Hey you two,

I want to electronically introduce you.

David, Yashika is the Engagement and Leadership Manager for the Office of Equity and Inclusion here at the City and Yashika, David is the editor and founder of the Asheville Blade, as well as a passionate advocate for LGBTQ rights and gender equity. She's lived in Asheville for quite some time, is brilliant, and is incredibly knowledgeable about systems.

As I mentioned in my message, Yashika is working on creating a community outreach dream team and I would love for you to have an initial conversation around that and see if there's an opportunity for collaboration.

Let me know if there's anything else I can do to assist this process!

In solidarity,

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**Paulina Mendez**

Training Consultant, Office of Equity & Inclusion

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*Pronouns: She/Hers/Elle*

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**Yashika Smith**

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