

**DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION**

WINNER

20,000 or Greater



POPULATION:

56,734

MAYOR:

Stephanie Orman

COUNTY:

Benton

REGION:

Northwest

DID YOU KNOW?

The community art project "Building Community One Piece at a Time" included puzzle pieces painted by the community and fitted together to form a mural.

**DRAWING
A CROWD**

More than 100 people applied to be on the Bentonville Together Community Task Force, with 20 chosen representatives of each residential section in the city. As of August there had been 40 city department listening sessions and more than 30 community listening sessions, with DEI training sessions for both groups.

BENTONVILLE



All-inclusive Effort

Bentonville Listens, Learns and Leads in its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

THE CHALLENGE

In its ongoing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts that include the 2020 Bentonville Together initiative, Bentonville aimed to improve understanding of local representation, background and cultures, identify ways inclusion and equitable approaches could support the city's community vision and provide guidance for meaningful and transformative actions with the goal of ensuring Bentonville is a city that is welcoming and inclusive to all. Bentonville wanted to better understand related issues, learn how to improve personal experiences in the community and to lead by example.

THE SOLUTION

Through the three-prong LISTEN, LEARN and LEAD approach, Bentonville has employed or will employ DEI task forces, advisory boards and committees. It has held numerous community listening sessions, established common DEI definitions, collected data with more than 100 action items, established a four-objective DEI roadmap and developed the multicultural festival Bentonville Together: A Celebration of Multicultural Community. The event drew more than 5,000 attendees to take part in food, arts, music, community arts project and T-shirt contest.