



TO: Friends of Diversity
FROM: Committee Chairperson
The Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award Committee
SUBJECT: **The Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award**

On behalf of the **Racial Harmony and Cultural Awareness Task Force**, enclosed is the nomination form and the criteria for the distinguished Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award to share with your colleagues and friends.

Each year the Racial Harmony and Cultural Awareness Task Force seeks to identify individuals, organizations and local businesses for the Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award. These awards are given to those who have distinguished themselves by promoting racial harmony and equity; raising cultural awareness; and/or celebrating diversity in the Ocala/Marion County community. Honorees are recognized at the annual Unity Breakfast each October.

The award committee would like you to take this opportunity to assist us in identifying candidates who meet the criteria for this honorable award. Please use the attached forms to indicate how your nominees have actively promoted the concept of racial harmony, cultural awareness and diversity in the city of Ocala and throughout Marion County.

We encourage you to talk to your colleagues, friends, family, church members and community leaders about this significant award. **Nominations are accepted from July 1st through August 15th each year.** Please join with us in completing this important task.



The Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award

Purpose

The Racial Harmony and Cultural Awareness Task Force annually recognizes an individual, an unsung hero, an organization and a business that has demonstrated an appreciation and respect for racial and cultural differences by honoring them with the Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award. Recipients must have actively and positively promoted the concept of racial harmony and cultural awareness within the City of Ocala and throughout Marion County.

Criteria

The recipients will have shown a high regard for racial harmony, cultural awareness and diversity by having demonstrated one or more of the following:

- A commitment to the spirit of diversity
- Leadership through positive interaction between persons of different cultural backgrounds
- Commitment to inclusion of persons of traditionally under-represented groups
- A supportive role resolving challenges and extending services to persons of diverse cultural backgrounds

Eligibility

All residents, organizations and businesses of Marion County are eligible for nominations. Four awards are given annually, one in each of the following categories:

- An individual – may or may not be affiliated with any business or organization
- An individual working behind the scenes – may or may not be affiliated with business/organization
- An organization – a not-for-profit entity that engages in business or services
- A business – a for-profit entity that engages in business or services

Nomination Process

Nomination forms may be picked up at the Recreation & Parks Administration Office, 828 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34470. Phone: (352) 368-5517. They also can be downloaded from the City website.

- An individual may submit more than one nomination to each category.
- The nomination cycle begins on July 1st each year.
- Nominations (and all related forms) must be received by August 15th.
- **The attached accompanying summary must be completed and returned with the nomination form.**
- Award recipients will be selected by members of the Diversity Awards Committee.
- The winners will be honored during the annual Unity Breakfast in October.
- Submit nominations and any accompanying documentation to:

Deliver or Mail to:	City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department 828 NE 8 th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34470
Email to:	ReachOcalaMarion@gmail.com
Fax to:	(352) 368-5514

The Mary Sue Rich Diversity Award

Racial Harmony and Cultural Awareness Task Force

NOMINATION FORM

(Please choose only one category per page.)

NOMINEE: **INDIVIDUAL** or **UNSUNG HERO**

Name of Individual:

Address:

Phone: E-mail:

NOMINEE: (select a category) **ORGANIZATION (Non-Profit)** or **BUSINESS**

Name of Organization/Business:

Name of Contact:

Title: Department:

Address:

Phone: E-mail:

NOMINATOR:

Name:

Address:

Phone: E-mail:

Please check the specific actions that demonstrate the nominee's regard for racial harmony and cultural awareness:

- A demonstrated commitment to the spirit of diversity
- Leadership through positive interaction with persons of different cultural backgrounds
- Commitment to inclusion of persons of traditionally under-represented groups
- A supportive role extending services to persons of diverse cultural backgrounds

Please attach the completed typed summary explaining how the nominee has demonstrated the criteria checked above and why he or she should be considered for the Diversity Award.

Completed nomination forms may be submitted as early as July 1st and must be received by August 15th.
Submit nominations as shown below:

Deliver or Mail to: City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department
828 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34470

Email to: ReachOcalaMarion@gmail.com

Fax to: (352) 368-5514

Accompanying Summary

NOMINEE: _____

Please indicate how nominee has demonstrated a commitment to diversity by providing specific examples for each section listed below:

Leadership through positive interactions between persons of different cultural backgrounds

Commendable Behaviors by resolving challenges and extending services to persons of diverse cultural backgrounds

Please provide examples of how the community has benefited from the nominee's contributions: