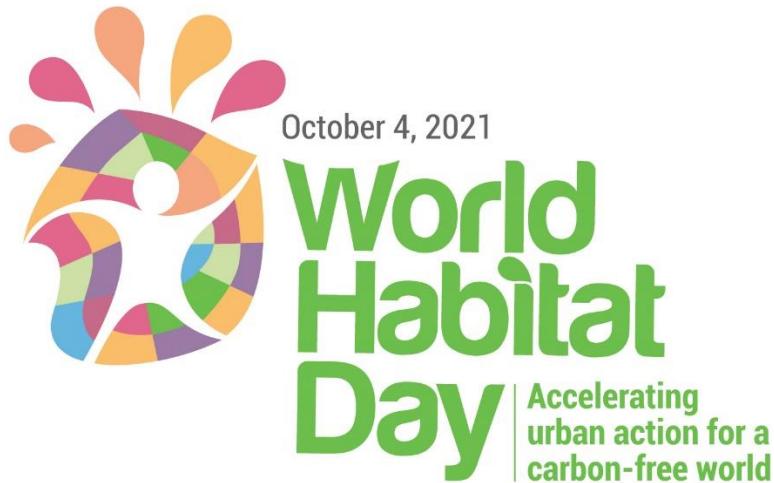




October Happenings

2021 NEWSLETTER





Every October, UN-Habitat and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions on urban sustainability. This year, Urban October opens with **World Habitat Day on 4 October**.

The purpose of World Habitat Day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 40/202, and was first celebrated in 1986. It takes place on the first Monday of October.

The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world. Cities are responsible for some 70 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions with transport, buildings, energy, and waste management accounting for the bulk of urban greenhouse gas emissions.

The future of our planet depends on national, regional and local governments and organizations, communities, academic institutions, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders working together to create sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns. World Habitat Day will amplify the global Race to Zero Campaign and UN-Habitat's ClimateAction4Cities and encourage local governments to develop actionable zero-carbon plans in the run up to the international climate change summit COP26 in November.

CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the **second Monday in October**, and is an

official city and state holiday in various localities. It began as a counter-celebration held on the same day as the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus Day, which honors Italian explorer Christopher Columbus. Many reject celebrating him, saying that he represents "the violent history of the colonization in the Western Hemisphere", and that Columbus Day is a sanitization or covering-up of Christopher Columbus' actions such as enslaving Native Americans. It was instituted in Berkeley, California, in 1992, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Two years later, Santa Cruz, California, instituted the holiday. Starting in 2014, many other cities and states adopted the holiday.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY (History)

In 1990, the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, sponsored by the [United Nations](#) in [Geneva, Switzerland](#), began to discuss replacing Columbus Day in the United States with a celebration to be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Similarly, Native American groups staged a sort of protest in [Boston](#) instead of [Thanksgiving](#), which has been celebrated there to mark collaboration between [Massachusetts](#) colonists and Native Americans in the first years. In July 1990, at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance in [Quito](#), Ecuador, representatives of indigenous people throughout the Americas agreed that they would mark 1992, the 500th anniversary of the first of the [voyages of Christopher Columbus](#), as a year to promote "continental unity" and "liberation".

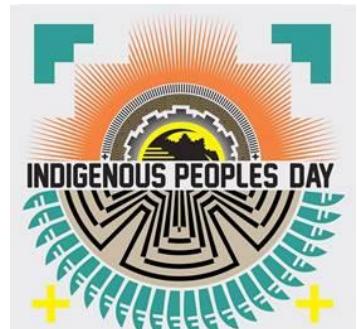
After the conference, attendees from [Northern California](#) organized protests against the "[Quincentennial](#) Jubilee" that had been organized by the [United States Congress for the San Francisco Bay Area](#) on Columbus Day in 1992. It was to include replicas of Columbus's ships sailing under the [Golden Gate Bridge](#) and reenacting their "discovery" of America. The delegates formed the Bay Area Indian Alliance and in turn, the "Resistance 500" task force. It promoted the idea that Columbus's "discovery" of inhabited lands and the subsequent European colonization of them had resulted in the [genocide](#) of indigenous peoples because of the decisions which were made by colonial and national governments.

In 1992, the group convinced the city council of [Berkeley](#), California, to declare October 12 as a "Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People" and 1992 as the "Year of Indigenous People". The city implemented related programs in schools, libraries, and museums. The city symbolically renamed Columbus Day as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" beginning in 1992 to protest the historical conquest of [North America](#) by Europeans, and to call attention to the losses suffered by the [Native American](#) peoples and their cultures through diseases, warfare, massacres, and [forced assimilation](#). *Get Lost*

(Again) Columbus, an opera by a Native American composer, White Cloud Wolfhawk, was produced that day. Berkeley has celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day ever since. Beginning in 1993, Berkeley has also held an annual [pow wow](#) and festival on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

In the years following Berkeley's action, other local governments and institutions have either renamed or canceled Columbus Day, either to celebrate Native American history and cultures, to avoid celebrating Columbus and the European colonization of the Americas, or due to raised controversy over the legacy of Columbus. Several other California cities, including [Richmond](#), [Santa Cruz](#), and [Sebastopol](#), now celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day and encourage people to donate to a neighboring tribe and recognize the trauma and pain indigenous peoples have been subjected to by colonizers.

At least thirteen states do not celebrate Columbus Day (Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, DC; Wisconsin); [South Dakota](#) officially celebrates Native American Day instead. Various [tribal governments](#) in [Oklahoma](#) designate the day as "Native American Day", or have renamed the day after their own tribes. In 2013, the California state legislature considered a bill, AB55, to formally replace Columbus Day with Native American Day but did not pass it. On August 30, 2017, following similar affirmative votes in [Oberlin, Ohio](#), followed later by [Bangor, Maine](#), in the earlier weeks of the same month, the Los Angeles City Council voted in favor of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. On October 10, 2019, just a few days before Columbus Day would be celebrated in Washington, D.C., the D.C. Council voted to temporarily replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. This bill was led by Councilmember David Grosso (I-At Large) and must undergo congressional approval to become permanent.



CELEBRATE POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

*During October We Salute Our
Friends and Neighbors Celebrating*

Polish American Heritage Month



A National Celebration of Polish History, Culture and Pride in Cooperation
with the Polish American Congress and Polonia Across America

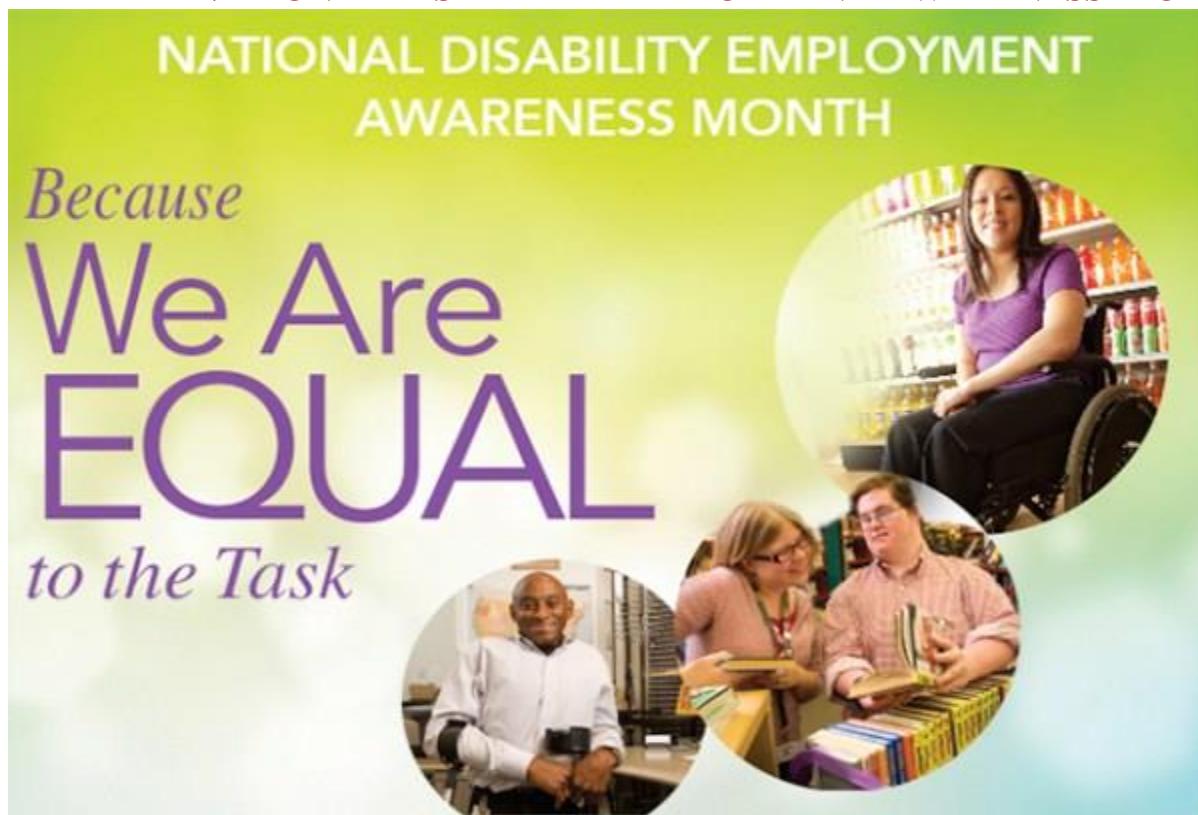


Polish American Heritage Month is an annual event celebrated **in October** by Polish American communities. It was first celebrated in 1981 after organization by Michael Blichasz, President of the Polish American Cultural Center in Philadelphia.

We celebrate Polish American Heritage Month in October, but it wasn't always

that way. Congress first deemed August as Polish American Heritage Month in 1981. Later, it moved to October to commemorate the first Polish settlers — as well as the deaths of General Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko (military leaders who fought in the American Revolution). The switch also enabled schools to participate in celebrations. Whether you're Polish American or not, it's important to mark the culture of a people who helped shape this country.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



The history of [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Developmental disabilities include disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and affect a person's growth and/or cognition. The figures show as of 2017, about 1 in 6 children are identified to have some type of developmental disability. But people shouldn't have to be worried or alarmed if someone has a developmental disability. They can usually live normal lives as long as they have the proper supports. The Division of Equity and Inclusion is committed to providing support to faculty, staff, students and community members with disabilities.