

July 2025 Newsletter



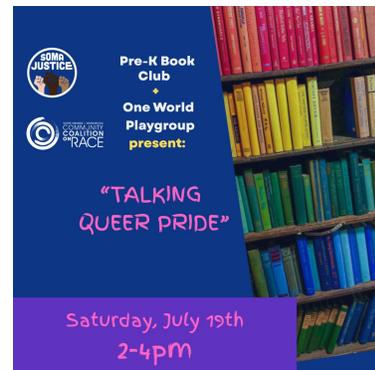
We Are Hiring!

We're seeking a full-time Program & Volunteer Coordinator who shares our passion for advancing racial diversity, equity, and inclusion in SOMA. The Program Coordinator plays a key role in designing and implementing programs that advance the organization's mission and acts as an ambassador for our mission when interacting with partners and the community. The coordinator will work closely with the Executive Director and board-led committees to manage operations, partnerships, and volunteer coordination across a broad range of initiatives. [For the full job description, salary, and application process, click here.](#)



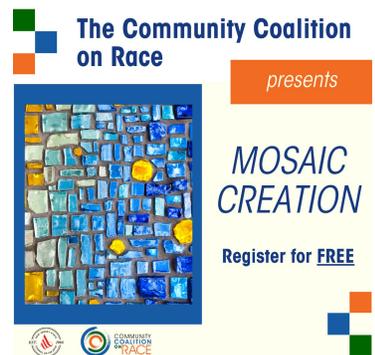
One World Play Group and Pre-K Book Club Saturday, July 19th 2 – 4 pm

Mark your calendars! The Community Coalition on Race's Schools Committee is bringing back the integrated playgroup, now called One World Playgroup. The first gathering is a collaboration with SOMA Justice's Pre-K Book Club. [Get more details and pre-register here.](#)



Integrated Art Circle: Mosaics

Led by teaching and exhibiting artist, Sandra Charlap, this circle will explore the art of mosaic design, and participants will create a mosaic for a public installation. Meet new people and learn a new art form together. All ages and experience levels are welcome! [Register for free here.](#)



Join the Board of Trustees – Make a Difference in Your Community

Are you passionate about racial equity, inclusion, and building a truly integrated community? The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race is seeking new members to join our Board of Trustees. This is a meaningful opportunity to give back by working with a diverse group of neighbors to advance racial integration and equity in every facet of community life. [Let us know you're interested in joining the board here.](#)



Calling All Artists & Arts Lovers!

Join our Integration through the Arts Committee and help us plan and support powerful programs that use the arts to bridge racial and cultural divides in SOMA. This is a great opportunity for those passionate about equity, inclusion, and community building through creative expression. [Click here to learn more and get involved.](#)



Read the Reparation's Council's Report

This is a comprehensive and enlightening report on New Jersey's history as "the slave state of the North" and the persistence of racial disparities and inequities. The report emphasizes the need to acknowledge New Jersey's deep history of slavery and its ongoing impact on Black residents. It calls for transformative economic, social, and political policies to address the racial wealth gap. [Read the full report here.](#) Also, have a look at our forum with Dr. Kahlil Muhammad, one of the writers of the report, [Taking a Closer Look at Reparations](#)



We Celebrated Juneteenth in SOMA!

Set on the beautiful grounds of the Durand-Hedden House and Garden, this year's Juneteenth was filled with live musical performances, spoken word, West African drumming and line dance led by Yahaya Kamate and Kamate Traders African Drummers, historical reenactments, arts and crafts for kids, family-friendly activities, and meaningful community connection. Plus, the powerful exhibit on the history of enslaved people in New Jersey provided context for why we need to share our true history. [For more information and pictures of the day, click here.](#)



July Events of Interest in SOMA

Maplewood Library Grand Opening

A grand opening event for the newly renovated and expanded Maplewood Memorial Library will take place on Saturday, July 5. An opening ceremony and ribbon cutting is scheduled for 11 a.m. at 51 Baker Street. Family-friendly events and programs will take place



throughout the day until 5 pm. [More info here.](#)

Music and More...

South Orange will host its [Summer Nights concert series](#), including a performance by Whiskey and Sugar on July 2nd. The series features live music and local food trucks in Meadowland Park, and it's free. There will be more concerts in the Summer Nights series on Flood's Hill, Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

July 4th will be celebrated in Maplewood with a 5K race, bike parade, and fireworks.

The [Maplewoodstock Music & Art Festival](#) is July 12-13, featuring live music and art vendors.

Additionally, there are [Gazebo Summer Concert Series](#) performances on July 18 and 25.



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Visit our website

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