Kissimmee Reaffirms Commitment to Welcome All Meetings and Conventions

Experience Kissimmee recognizes the fundamental equality of all individuals and does not support discriminatory or prejudicial treatment of any person, whether a resident or visitor to our destination.

Planners looking to Kissimmee to host their events can be assured that the Kissimmee community fully welcomes and embraces anyone regardless of religion, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ability, socioeconomic status, and any other factor. We want planners of meetings and conventions to be assured of the following:

- **We at Experience Kissimmee are committed to championing diversity, equity and inclusion within our hospitality and tourism community.** For any event or meeting planners looking for a welcoming place to convene, know that our destination is enthusiastic about working with your attendees – no matter who they are.

- **Experience Kissimmee operates in a neutral space while maintaining unbiased support for meeting planners and their delegates.** Our venues and facilities are a blank canvas, and we are eager to invite all different types of conference and event attendees to bring their own color and technique to the easel.

- **Kissimmee embraces individuals from all backgrounds, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment.** Within the meetings industry, we extend a warm invitation to all types of meetings, providing a diverse range of hotels and spaces to accommodate any group's needs. Our partners are committed to welcoming visitors from all sorts of backgrounds and identities.

- **We understand that legislation at the state level may create an unwelcoming image of Florida, but Experience Kissimmee wants to remind meeting and events planners that a city is not its state, and Kissimmee is committed to maintaining an inviting and welcoming space no matter how legislation at higher levels is conceived or perceived.**

- **We invite meeting and event planners to speak directly with the Experience Kissimmee team to understand why holding an event in our city is a powerful way to support our local and diverse communities while meeting in a safe, engaging, and welcoming environment.** Our bottom line is to serve our diverse communities, and only working with like-minded planners can we continue to do so.
Stats and Recognitions

We maintain a zero-tolerance position on discrimination and the reality is that Kissimmee is, itself, extremely diverse. Event participants will see themselves reflected in its local communities. Among recent statistics:

- More than 40% of Osceola County’s population is Hispanic, while around 35% is non-Hispanic white, 9% are Black, almost 3% are Asian, among other racial identities.
- Niche.com gives Kissimmee an A- for diversity
- Orlando-Kissimmee region ranked 7th in top LGBTQ+ friendly places to live, with 5% of the population identifying openly as LGBTQ+
- Kissimmee scored 93/100 on the BestNeighborhood.org diversity rating

DEI in Action

Kissimmee is central to hosting local events and organizations that contribute to elevating its diverse voices throughout the year. Among notable events already taking place in Kissimmee this year:

- Pride Fest Kissimmee takes place each June, a massive celebration of the LGBTQ+ community
- A growing Black Business Coalition in Osceola County meets regularly in Kissimmee, supporting the growing number of Black-owned businesses in central Florida

Policies and Protection

Experience Kissimmee continues to work with local officials to implement strategies that will safeguard and elevate the visitor experience for all. Our local policies protect and celebrate diversity for community members and visitors alike. Not least among these policies:

- The Osceola County Civil Rights Program, the Osceola Human Rights Ordinance, and the Kissimmee Civil Rights Program are both in place to provide citizens and visitors with equal access to discrimination-free experiences when in Kissimmee.
- The Kissimmee Police Department currently has 29% of its workforce identifying as female and is actively working to achieve 50% representation of women in the police force.
- The Kissimmee Police Department also launched its Safe Space Program in 2022 to provide training to participating locations to create more openness and safer environments for LGBTQ+ visitors and locals.
Leadership in Kissimmee is also foregrounding diverse voices and making sure the city’s policies reflect the needs of its community. Our leadership knows what it’s like to be part of a minority or underrepresented segment of the population, so meeting planners can trust us to do the work and be the ally that they need when organizing events in Kissimmee:

- Experience Kissimmee reports that 73% of staff identifies as female, with Black, white, Hispanic, Asian, and mixed-race backgrounds, while 27% of staff identifies as male, with white, Hispanic, and Asian backgrounds represented.
- Among the five Osceola County commissioners, three are female and one is openly gay.
- The Experience Kissimmee director of tourism is an openly gay man.

Again, we at Experience Kissimmee want to make it clear that we are fully committed to elevating diverse voices in everything we do for our locals – and that includes hosting groups who will be part of our community even if just for a few days. Regardless of what policies make headlines each week, Experience Kissimmee is unwavering in its commitment to maintaining a welcoming and engaging environment for any and all events who choose us.

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