**Missoula’s 7th Annual Diversity Day Celebration**

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**

**6pm - 10pm at Missoula Senior Center**

Free and open to everyone to attend

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NCBI's Youth Advisory Council invites Missoula to the 7th Annual Diversity Day Celebration on Saturday, April 16, from 6:00pm – 10:00pm at the Missoula Senior Center. This showcase of youth talent will feature song, dance, and spoken word centered on the theme “Diverse City” and will include performances from a diverse cross-section of Missoula youth.

Performances will be intergenerational, yet primarily youth-led – including NCBI's EPIC (Empowering People Inspiring Change) and B-Rad (Boys Respecting All Diversity) programs, Big Sky Improv Troupe, Deegz, dance performances, open mic, and much more. The evening will also feature headliners MC Rhetorik and Yaz Like Jaws. These MC’s respectively represent the Pueblo of Kewa and Blackfeet Nation, and use their music to bring the struggle for social and environmental justice to the forefront of our consciousness.

NCBI’s transforms the Missoula community through programs that empower youth to make positive change. A Washington Middle School 7th Grader and member of EPIC (Empowering People, Inspiring Change), one of NCBI’s after-school clubs, recently said, "EPIC has changed me for the better, and I'm not afraid to stick up for what I feel or what I believe in." Along with the after-school clubs NCBI coordinates peer led trainings for every 5th, 7th and 9th grader in the Missoula County Schools that build self-esteem, reduces prejudice, prevents bullying and violence, and resolves conflict. During this past school year NCBI has worked with over 4000 youth and educators in Missoula and across Montana.

On April 12, 2010, NCBI’s youth leaders launched the Diversity Day Celebration in response to rising controversy and homophobia surrounding the City's then-proposed anti-discrimination ordinance. Mayor John Engen officially declared April 12 as Diversity Day in Missoula, and the event was credited for playing a key role in influencing the following day's landmark City Council vote to extend non-discrimination protection to Missoula’s LGBT community. Missoula continues to celebrate Diversity Day, a youth-led event, each year in recognition of all that makes our community unique.

For more information contact NCBI at 406-541-6891 or visit [ncbimissoula.org/community/events/diversity-day](http://www.ncbimissoula.org/community/events/diversity-day)