

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is excited to share the heritage month newsletter to highlight diverse communities. We hope to increase our shared understanding and appreciation of the rich histories, cultures, and people from different heritages.

For more information on diverse holidays and celebrations, please visit the [NIH Diversity Calendar](#).

History and Significance

March is Women's History Month. Originating as a national celebration in 1981, Women's History Month expanded from a week-long observance to encompass the entire month of March in 1987. Since 1995, it has been officially designated as "Women's History Month" by presidential proclamation.

This month provides an opportunity to honor the diverse women who have championed gender equity and to recognize the contemporary leaders who continue to advocate for progress.

In 2024, Women's History Month embraces the theme "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." This theme underscores the importance of acknowledging and celebrating women who courageously speak out and lead transformative change in their respective fields, including the groundbreaking biomedical research sector.

As we contemplate the remarkable contributions of women in science, we encourage you to revisit the portrait "Five Trailblazing Women Scientists at The Rockefeller University," displayed in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall, and reflect on their enduring legacy and achievements.

Ways to Celebrate in NYC

Here are a few ways to celebrate Women's History Month locally:

- [Women's History Month events in NYC](#)
- [Manhattan Women's History Map of Milestones](#)
- [The New York Public Library celebrates women, past and present](#)

Community Spotlight



Dr. Leslie Diaz is a true advocate for her field and finds joy and fulfillment in the diversity of her work as the Director of CBC Veterinary Services.

From a young age, Leslie knew she wanted to be a veterinarian. Guided by a supportive mentor she met as a part of the Biomedical Science Career Program, she began her journey as an animal care technician at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she discovered her true calling in lab animal veterinary medicine—a dynamic field that captivated her with its constant challenges and pivotal role in medical advancements.

This opportunity led her to the Tri-Institutional Training Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine & Science and Rockefeller University where she further honed her skills and expertise.

As Director of Veterinary Services, Leslie thrives on the excitement of problem-solving and assisting others. She invites colleagues to leverage the expertise of her and her team when navigating complex projects.

She cherishes the opportunity to work with a variety of species, though she admits a particular fondness for pigs, albeit regrettably not present in our current facilities.

In offering guidance to the next generation of women in science, Leslie advocates for perseverance, recognizing that while the journey may present challenges, dedication and diligence only serve to refine one's skills and deepen their impact.

If you know anyone who may be interested in being featured in the Community Spotlight in our future newsletters, fill out a nomination form on bit.ly/RockefellerSpotlight

Intersectionality: Honoring the Diversity of Women's Experiences

Intersectionality, a concept coined by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, emphasizes the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, gender, class, and sexuality, and how they intersect to shape individual experiences and identities. In the context of Women's History Month, intersectionality reminds us that women's experiences are diverse and multifaceted, influenced not only by their gender but also by other aspects of their identity. Recognizing intersectionality is crucial for understanding the unique challenges faced by women from marginalized communities and for promoting inclusivity and equality for all women. By embracing intersectionality, we honor the complexity of women's lived experiences and strive for a more inclusive and equitable society.