

RESORT REPORTER

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FEATURE

THE CORE OF THE MAGIC



MORE THAN 1,000 DISNEYLAND RESORT CAST MEMBERS KICKED OFF THE MORNING OF INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY WITH A SESSION IN FRONT OF SLEEPING BEAUTY CASTLE. CAST MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO FIND A MOMENT TO SLOW DOWN, BREATHE AND BALANCE WITH THEIR NEW YOGA BLOCKS PROVIDED AS A GIVEAWAY FOR THIS EVENT. CAST MEMBERS HAVE ENJOYED THE RETURN OF CAST-EXCLUSIVE EVENTS LIKE THIS.

An interview with Kris Theiler, VP, Disneyland Park, About the Cast Member Experience

By Dani Decena

As the Disneyland Resort continues the momentum from reopening over a year ago, its prioritization of cast members and their experience is stronger than ever. Based upon dialogue with cast members, resort leaders are making intentional changes to enhance the overall experience and environment for the more than 30,000 cast members who work here.

VP, Disneyland Park, Kris Theiler is among the group of leaders working to ensure that cast members feel proud of where they work and know that they are the “core” of the magic. We recently sat down with Kris to get her perspective on why these changes are important and what she hopes the overall impact will be for cast members.

We have seen the excitement for cast-exclusive events to return. Why are these such an important part of the cast member culture?

KT: It's so important for cast members to experience the product so that they can be great advocates. But there's something more now with these cast events; there's a great sense of community and camaraderie. They're able to experience the park in a way that's different from when they visit with family or as a guest themselves — it's real community building. For example, we had the “Fantasmic!” cast preview, the “Main Street Electrical Parade” disco party, yoga in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle, and much more coming this summer including the return of our long tradition of canoe races. Cast members get up early to race in teams around the Rivers of America before guests enter the park for the day; it's a blast!

Can you tell us about some of the other work you are part of and why it's important?

KT: The core of our experience is our cast members. They are the ones who deliver the magic on a daily basis. What our guests remember is how they were treated by our cast.

We have a unique opportunity with our employees more than any other company does. If we can make sure that they're having a great experience, that they feel good about where they work and feel deep pride in what they do, we can unlock a key to success with the guests. That's why I'm so passionate about the cast... they are the keys to success.

We are trying to ensure that we are creating environments that make the cast proud of where they work, especially in back-of-house areas, including office spaces, break rooms, meeting areas, etc.



KRIS THEILER, VP, DISNEYLAND PARK

Talk a little about the benefit of complimentary admission for cast members.

KT: Cast visitation is an important

+ STORY CONTINUED ON P.4

DISNEY CAST LIFE

The Force was Strong with Cast Members at Star Wars Celebration Anaheim



DISNEY AMBASSADOR NATALY GUZMAN (BACK LEFT) AND CAST MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD USED THE FORCE AT STAR WARS CELEBRATION 2022 AT THE ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER.

By Nataly Guzman,
2022–23 Disneyland Ambassador

If you saw lightsabers aplenty throughout Anaheim at the end of May you weren't imagining it: *Star Wars* Celebration was back, bringing fans of the stories from a galaxy far, far away back together again. Because the celebration took place at the Anaheim Convention Center near Disneyland Resort, the presence of cast members throughout the weekend was just as strong as the Force itself.

“I just feel so much love and positive energy here, being both a *Star Wars* fan and a cast member,” said Joe Palmer, a main gate receptionist at the Disneyland Resort, who was dressed as Finn from the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy.

I myself am a huge fan of *Star Wars*, and was excited for the opportunity to meet fellow cast members who use

their skills creating magic for guests to showcase a personal passion for *Star Wars*. David Annetta, an electrician at the resort, even built a full-functioning astromech droid!

The Disneyland Resort has a unique connection to *Star Wars*, as a young George Lucas visited the park during opening week in 1955. It was here that guests first stepped into a *Star Wars* experience in 1987 with the debut of *Star Tours*, where I was first introduced to the films as child!

“I was born and raised on *Star Wars*,” said Christopher Sean McCormick, an attractions host at *Star Tours – The Adventures Continue*. He chose to work at the Disneyland Resort to immerse guests in their own *Star Wars* experiences. “To see guests come to the park and experience things the way I did growing up and be a part of that story... it's really awesome.”

+ STORY CONTINUED ON P.4

DISNEY CAST LIFE

Miles Separate Disney Tour Guides, but Love of Storytelling Bridges 'Aspiring' Education Goals

By Lisa Greathouse

As a Disneyland park tour guide, storytelling is part of J'Amy Pacheco's DNA. So when she neared completion of her bachelor's degree requirements through Disney Aspire, J'Amy asked her professor for permission to design her own elective that fused her passion for storytelling with its application at work. Even better, she built the independent-study class with her Walt Disney World counterpart, Tour Guide Haylee van Dalen, whom she met in online classes as they pursued the same communication degree.

"We had so much in common; we were both Guest Relations VIP tour guides and we were both facilitators in Traditions," J'Amy said, referring to their roles in orientation classes for new Disney hires. Taking many of the same online classes since 2019 through the University of Denver, the two women first became "study buddies" and then friends.

In the elective class they designed together called "Leadership and Storytelling," they explored the anatomy of storytelling and developed techniques to help

leaders strengthen communication and teamwork. While it was designed to be applicable to a variety of industries, they focused on their work at Disney with the hopes that the course could eventually be adapted for cast training. "Our goal is to encourage others to use storytelling in leadership as a way to enrapture their audience," said Haylee, who proposed the topic.

Haylee recently graduated in June and hopes to one day work in training and development at Disney, while J'Amy is set to graduate in August and has already started coursework toward a master's degree in professional creative writing, also through Disney Aspire, which pays full tuition up front and reimburses fees for eligible hourly cast. They hope to celebrate together in person soon and plan to keep in touch when school is over.

"It's hard for me to explain how much Disney Aspire has meant to me," J'Amy said.

She had always wanted to go back to school, but marriage, work and family always seemed to move it to the back burner. When she first heard about Disney Aspire, J'Amy was in her late 50s and initially felt it was too late for her. But she couldn't be happier she took the



J'AMY PACHECO FROM DISNEYLAND RESORT (LEFT) AND HAYLEE VAN DALEN FROM WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT (RIGHT) ACHIEVED THEIR DREAMS THROUGH DISNEY ASPIRE.

leap, becoming one of the first students at Disneyland Resort to enroll.

J'Amy has dreams of using her degree to write tours or classes, entertainment content or books, but she can already see how her schooling is making her better at her job, from improving her communication skills to creating effective presentations. And she loves being able

to share her Aspire story with incoming cast in Traditions classes.

"I let them know that no matter where they are in their lives, dreams really are within reach with Disney Aspire," she said. "And you can immediately see the energy in the room change when you suggest that they think about going back to school. It's beautiful to see."

DISNEY CAST LIFE

A Long-Awaited Celebration: 2019 Walt Disney Legacy Award Recipients Honored at Disneyland Resort

By Krystal Rhaburn

The Walt Disney Legacy Award is the highest honor any cast member, Disney Imagineer, crew member or employee can receive. A finite number of recipients are nominated and selected annually for their incredible abilities to "Dream, Create & Inspire," as Walt Disney himself did, in their respective roles across various company segments.

Over two years after being selected, more than 100 West Coast 2019 Walt Disney Legacy Award recipients were able to be honored in a night of celebration on May 25 at Disneyland Hotel.

"Legacy recipients are among the elite of the elite in our company," Disneyland Resort President Ken Potrock stated in his onstage welcome to guests. "Less than 1% of our workforce is a Legacy Award winner."

In a night of entertainment, elegance, food and fun that was years in the making, recipients and their guests were treated to a red carpet, live band, four-course meal and several performances including a surprise medley by Disney on Broadway artists Josh Strickland and Kissy Simmons along with Disney Legend Jodi Benson (original Ariel of "The Little Mermaid") on a stage set for a true awards show.

Along with overseeing the set design of that very stage and creating something unlike this event has ever seen before, Disneyland Resort Senior Art Director Scott Shaffer led the coordination of a new element for this year's event: mid-century-inspired art pieces that portrayed different facets of Walt Disney's legacy. "I wanted to focus on the golden age, which encompassed an explosion of all of his ideas, and showcase his legacy in a fun, artistic way," Scott said. "We decided to opt for color - rather than the typical black and white theme usually seen in Legacy imagery - because Walt was really one of the first people to bring color to life in animation."

To design the pieces, the art team

brought in local consultant Ashley Taylor who recently worked with Shaffer and the company on the newest float in the "Main Street Electrical Parade" that includes stylized Disney characters.

Walt's love for nature and animation, his worldwide impact on entertainment (specifically in television, films and live theater) and the significance of Disneyland park in the tourism and entertainment industries were all displayed across the eight large art pieces that brought color, life and wonder to the event ballroom on a night celebrating passion, innovation and excellence.

Disney cast members, Imagineers, crew members and employees nominated by their peers for 2022 Walt Disney Legacy Awards will be chosen and recognized later this year. Keep an eye out for those updates soon!



2019 LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS AND THEIR GUESTS ENJOYED THE NIGHT'S FESTIVITIES.



SPECIAL GUEST JODI BENSON, ACTRESS AND SINGER WHO VOICED ARIEL FROM "THE LITTLE MERMAID," PERFORMED THAT EVENING.



DISNEYLAND RESORT PRESIDENT KEN POTROCK CONGRATULATES THE LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS.

+ FEATURE STORY CONTINUED FROM P.1

benefit, so we've been busy working on our new reservation system, which is allowing us to provide many more days for Cast to visit with their family and friends than we previously had available. We are continually improving the system, since we know it's such a popular perk for the cast.

Many of these improvements were based on dialogue with leaders and cast members. How important is it for you as a leader to have a communicative relationship with the cast?

KT: It's critical. It is important for me that cast members know that I'm somebody that they can come up to and have a relationship with. I'm very open to feedback. That's how we solve problems: being good listeners and getting to the core of the issue and then figuring out how we might address it.

I also want our cast to know that

although our jobs are different, they're necessary for different reasons. Disneyland Resort does not work if every single person at the resort doesn't fundamentally believe their job is important.

What are you hoping the cast will feel from these changes?

KT: Pride is an important emotion and such a valuable motivator that helps us give our best effort. I hope that with these continued changes, cast will feel proud and excited to work at Disneyland Resort, and I hope they understand the importance of their roles. They are part of a bigger family here that cares about them. When you have that sense of family and community, you have to be open and transparent with them. You must tell them the "why" behind decisions to help them understand and feel that sense of belonging and inclusion. It's a great relationship that we have with our cast, and we want to continue to make it better and better.

DISNEY CAST LIFE

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS WITH GIRL SCOUTS OF ORANGE COUNTY

By Sasha Azoqa

An incredible collaboration between the Disneyland Resort and the Girl Scouts of Orange County is bringing unique career exploration events, mentorship and guidance opportunities to local scouts made magical by our cast members.

Girl Scouts of Orange County CEO Vikki Shepp considers herself a life-long Girl Scout, having been part of the organization for almost 30 years. “We’re providing essential professional skills training like business ethics, customer service, goal setting and people skills through this workforce development initiative,” said Vikki. “We are so grateful for the resort’s support in providing fantastic opportunities for Girl Scouts of Orange County.”

As part of “Dreams to Reality” event this month, Disney VoluntEARS from across the resort spent their day connecting with scouts.

“I was pretty excited to be part of the



LABOR RELATIONS MANAGER BRI FOSTER WAS GIVEN THE “SPOTLIGHT AWARD.”



DISNEYLAND RESORT AND GIRL SCOUTS COLLABORATED ON DESIGNING A SPECIAL PATCH FEATURING JUDY HOPPS FROM “ZOOTOPIA.”

group of women sharing their careers with Girl Scouts of Orange County,” said Senior Security Manager Kim Sims. “I kept thinking, ‘What a great opportunity for them, and I wish I had that type of exposure when I was at their stage in life.’ There was proof in the room that you can be anything when you grow up — you just have to work for it.”

“When I was in fifth grade, a microbiologist came to my class and let us grow bacteria in a petri dish,” said Environmental Integration Manager Lotus Thai. “From then on, I knew that I wanted to have a career in STEM. I hope sharing my experience inspires Girl Scouts interested in STEM to go for their dreams.”

Along with events like “Dreams to Reality,” the Disneyland Resort also connects with Girl Scouts of Orange County through other programs.

In fact, Girl Scouts of Orange County recently recognized Labor Relations Senior Manager Bri Foster with the Spotlight Award for her impact as co-chair of the resort’s Women’s Inclusion Network

Business Employee Resource Group, or WIN BERG. The award focuses on women in both corporate and nonprofit environments who work toward the ongoing support of equity and eleva-

tion of women in the workplace. “The Spotlight Award was particularly around ways that I’ve continued to reinforce and help women at the Disneyland Resort and The Walt Disney Company,” said Bri, who started her journey as a Daisy in kindergarten.

Bri carried her passion for community engagement and advocating for women throughout her career. “In my role at the Disneyland Resort, a passion point for me is highlighting what women and allies are already doing, rather than focus on what women need to do. We need to shift the narrative from what we think it is to what it really is.”

“The community workforce development initiative is not just important for business, but it’s fundamental for how we think about ourselves as a greater community in Orange County, Southern California and in the world,” said Bri. “The more we recognize the importance of community, the more we see the impact that we have on each other and the better we do. What I’m excited to see through this workforce development initiative is that we continue to recognize within each other how much we have to give to one another, no matter how big or small.”



WOMEN LEADERS FROM DIFFERENT LINES OF BUSINESS RECENTLY INSPIRED GIRL SCOUTS BY SHARING ABOUT THEIR CAREER JOURNEYS WITH DISNEY.

FOODIE FEATURE

Troubadour Tavern Chef Curates ‘Tale of the Lion King’ Menu Inspired by African Cuisine

By Krystal Rhabum

While you may know that “Tale of the Lion King” recently made its debut at Fantasyland Theatre, you may not know that the adjacent Troubadour Tavern is offering a completely revamped menu in honor of the show! Disneyland park Chef Natalie Willingham led the charge in bringing this African cuisine-inspired menu to life.

“I wasn’t very familiar with African cuisine, but I did a lot of research online, looking at various African menus, and bought a few African books to do comparisons between everything,” Chef Natalie said.

For feedback and learnings upon the start of the project earlier this year, she began working with her culinary leadership team, the entertainment



PRIDE ROCK PUNCH

team producing and directing “Tale of the Lion King” and the leadership team of PULSE (People United to Lead, Serve and Excel), one of the Disneyland Resort Business Employee Resource Groups advocating for the development and well-being of Black cast members.

“I looked at food around the continent [of Africa],” shared Natalie. “I was very interested in what kind of crops and staples they had readily available. From there, I just tried to make sure that the items that I utilized were concepts that could be easily understood in the U.S. while still telling the proper story.”

Along with African culture, Chef Natalie and her team were heavily influenced by the story and imagery of “The Lion King,” from elements such as the texture of the Chicken-Coconut Curry Sweet Potato to the print and colors of the Hakuna Matata Sweets and the

orange and yellow signature sunrise depicted in the Pride Rock Punch. Though it was a challenge to start all dishes from scratch, she enjoyed incorporating these elements with an authentic lens and purpose for guests.

“I want to make sure that regardless of who you are and wherever you’re coming from, you’re enjoying the food and drinks and listening to the story or watching the show,” Natalie stated. “I want you to feel as though they both coincide, and I hope you feel like you are actually in the story or even that you are momentarily transported to Africa.”

Chef Natalie’s personal favorite item on the menu? The Cardamom Cold Brew! As a coffee lover at heart, introducing a cold brew — inspired by African coffee traditions — that was easy to consume and flavorful in taste was a true treat for Chef Natalie.



CHEF NATALIE PROUDLY DISPLAYS HER NEW MENU ITEMS.

SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THE FIVE DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO PICTURES

The Avengers Campus team of heroes struck an epic pose as they came together to celebrate the first anniversary since opening the land! Put your super spy skills to the test and see if you can spot all the differences between the two photos.



ANSWERS:

1. Two more palm trees to the left of Guardians of the Galaxy: Mission: BREAKOUT! 2. Vest is pink instead of yellow for female cast member, back left. 3. Missing window on the side of Avengers HQ. 4. Two fewer spires on top of the Guardians of the Galaxy: Mission: BREAKOUT! Fortress. 5. Two Captain Marvels on top of Avengers HQ.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Representation Matters: Muslim Cast Members Meet Ms. Marvel at Disney California Adventure Park

By Sasha Azoqa

Samina Kermalli, a business support manager for Disney, has dreamed of seeing a Super Hero who looks like her since she was a teenager. On June 8, that dream came true when Samina, a Pakistani American, met Ms. Marvel on her opening day at Avengers Campus in Disney California Adventure park.

"I can't wait to tell my granddaughters, 'I met Ms. Marvel, who is a Muslim just like you.' I can tell them they can be anything they want, and they will believe it because they see that representation on screen," said Samina, a member of Disney's SALAAM Business Employee Resource Group (BERG), which advocates for Muslim cast and employees.

Samina and fellow Muslim cast members Ahmed and Sana had a photo opportunity with Ms. Marvel on her first day in the land to celebrate the representation of a Muslim Super Hero, as well as the debut of the new Disney+ series

named for her.

"As a minority, we often accept that we don't have that representation, and I never related to anything I saw in media," said Samina. "I never even imagined that this [representation] would happen in my lifetime and while I'm here at Disney. I'm so happy."

Disneyland Resort Finance cast member Ahmed Shaikh who belongs to SALAAM and the Disneyland Resort COMPASS group representing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, shared Samina's sentiment. "Ms. Marvel is an amazing Super Hero and person, and for her to represent and embrace the Muslim culture speaks volumes."

Ahmed, an Indian Muslim, relates to all the little details throughout the "Ms. Marvel" series. "The language and activities like praying are all represented in the show and in my day-to-day life... To see this powerful woman figure be celebrated is an inspiration and really important."

"My parents and I are from Pakistan,



DISNEY LEADERS AHMED SHAIKH (LEFT), SANA SIDDIQ (SECOND FROM RIGHT), AND SAMINA KERMALLI (FAR RIGHT) ENJOYED MEETING MUSLIM SUPERHERO MS. MARVEL AT AVENGERS CAMPUS.

and it's amazing to see Ms. Marvel wearing a dupatta, or scarf," said SALAAM BERG member Sana Siddiq of Disney Consumer Products. "There are a lot of people whose lives would change to see Pakistani Muslim representation on

screen and in person."

"When I was younger, I didn't have this representation," said Sana. "It's a game-changer to have Ms. Marvel here, and it's important for our community to see her."

+ CELEBRATION STORY CONTINUED FROM P.1

One of the most popular exhibits of the weekend was The Mandalorian Experience, which displayed costumes, props and set pieces used in the Disney+ series "The Mandalorian" and "The Book of Boba Fett." The exhibit was staffed by cast known for their love of *Star Wars* and experience working in *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*.

"Disney has this reputation of great service and we were able to deliver that at the exhibit," said Dennis Gayoso, an attractions host in *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*. He noticed guests' excitement when they saw their Disneyland Resort nametags. "It was incredible - just to hear that praise from them was an honor."

The connection that many cast members have with *Star Wars* is a powerful one, and although *Star Wars* Celebration Anaheim 2022 ended, the Force is with fans. Always!



DISNEY AMBASSADORS MARK EVERETT KING JR. (LEFT) AND NATALY GUZMAN (FAR RIGHT) DRESSED IN THEIR MOST FASHIONABLE GALACTIC ATTIRE WITH WALT DISNEY WORLD AMBASSADOR RAEVON REDDING FOR STAR WARS NITE IN DISNEYLAND PARK.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Happy Pride Month!

This June, and throughout the year, Disneyland Resort is recognizing and celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community with charitable donations from the recently launched Pride Collection to special food and photo opportunities, guests and cast members alike have joined in the celebration.

Over at the Disneyland Hotel, guests can view a heart-shaped topiary displaying the colors of the progressive pride flag created by the Resort Enhancement team with input from the PRIDE Business Employee Resource Group (BERG), a group of cast members who advocate on behalf of the LGBTQIA+ community.

"Rainbows are the most readily identifiable symbol of inclusion and safety for many people in the LGBTQIA+ community," said Disneyland Resort PRIDE

BERG Co-Chair Edris Rodriguez Ritchie (they/he). "We are proud to display the progressive rainbow alongside Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse at the Disneyland Hotel as a symbol of our commitment to our cast members and guests that they are, and will always be, welcome here at the *Happiest Place on Earth*."

Cast members have been sharing their pride with cast meetups, special events and by joining in local community Pride celebrations and parades. Check out @disneylandcastandcommunity on Instagram to see more ways cast are showing their Pride this June and all year long.

Guests can find the new Disney Pride Collection throughout the resort this month and beyond, with apparel, accessories, pins and more from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, and Star Wars. June is a great time to purchase these items, too, as The Walt



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS OF THE PRIDE BERG POSE FOR A PHOTO BY THE RAINBOW HEART-SHAPED TOPIARY, CREATED BY THE DISNEYLAND RESORT ENHANCEMENT TEAM, AT THE DISNEYLAND HOTEL.

Disney Company will be donating all of our profits from the Disney Pride Collection sales now through June 30, 2022 to

support LGBTQIA+ youth and families. Learn more about organizations Disney is funding at [TWDCPrideCollection.com](https://www.twdcpridecollection.com).

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

'Encanto'-Inspired Floral Displays at Downtown Disney District Represent Inclusion at the Disneyland Resort

By Sasha Azoqa

At first glance, the 8- to 9-foot floral displays being installed in the Downtown Disney District add vibrant beauty to the shopping and dining experiences at the Disneyland Resort. But look a little deeper and you'll find diversity and inclusion — and a profound sense of community among Disneyland Resort cast members — at the heart of this summertime display.

"Every year for the Downtown Disney District, we try to bring new and exciting décor, and this year we wanted to do something spectacular for our cast and guests," said Resort Enhancement Design Team Lead Jeff Maloney.

The colorful displays tell the story of Isabela from Walt Disney Animation Studios' Academy Award-winning "Encanto" as she fills the district with vibrant silletas, floral displays inspired by Colombian culture. Each silleta rep-

resented a different Business Employee Resource Group (BERG) at the Disneyland Resort and across The Walt Disney Company.

been immensely gratifying. They hope guests can experience the silletas and learn a little bit more about the different communities and groups each represents. "There's also something really special about celebrating our cast members, who are at the core of this entire display, in the Downtown Disney District," said Jeff.

What is a Silleta?

"Silletas within Colombian culture are a celebration of flowers," said Jeff. These elaborate flower arrangements are typically built on wooden structures and carried on the backs of the silleteros, often flower farmers, from the small village of Saint Elena in the high mountains above Medellin. The Feria de Las Flores, or flower festival, is an annual celebration that represents the tradition and the silleteros' 16-mile journey as they travel on foot down the mountainside to carry their flowers to the city.

Inspired by this tradition, Jeff and his



THE RESORT ENHANCEMENT TEAM POSES ALONGSIDE THE SILLETA REPRESENTING PULSE, A DISNEYLAND RESORT BERG THAT ADVOCATES FOR CAST MEMBERS OF AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN DESCENT.

SHALOM

The SHALOM silleta represents The Walt Disney Company's SHALOM BERG, which celebrates the stories and identities of Jewish employees and cast members while fostering advocacy, education, inclusivity and allyship.

"The SHALOM silleta has very specific plants that are indigenous to Israel," said Jeff. "This includes flowers found in the springtime of Israel like poppies, cyclamen and narcissus." Also found on the silleta is an olive tree with six olives, representing the six pillars of the SHALOM BERG's mission - synergy, history, allyship, legacy, obligation and meaning. There is also a plaque that says SHALOM in Hebrew along with a simple, inspirational message of "Peace" translated below it.

colors or species of flowers, we wanted to make sure that each silleta is honoring the community that we are trying to celebrate."

"My hope is that guests and cast alike will not only appreciate the beauty of each silleta, but for the power of the meaning behind each one," said Resort Enhancement Area Manager Dawn Pipal-Keehne. "Thank you to the cast, the Business Employee Resource Groups (BERGs) and the Resort Enhancement Team. From the bottom of my heart, you inspire me every day!"

NAATV

The NAATV silleta represents The Walt Disney Company's NAATV BERG, which serves as a place of belonging for Native American and



SHALOM SILLETA

resents a different Business Employee Resource Group (BERG) at the Disneyland Resort and across The Walt Disney Company.

"Our story starts with Isabela at the Poppy Fountain and continues throughout the district," said Brett of Resort Enhancement. Adds Jeff, "It's Isabela who creates these massive floral displays that honor these different communities and groups."

Jeff and Brett share a passion for promoting inclusion and representation, and seeing their project come to life has

team worked alongside BERG cast members to make sure each silleta appropriately represented their communities.

"When we worked with each of the BERGs, we wanted to take the lovely floral piece from Colombian culture and combine it with the culture or group of folks we're celebrating to create something magical," said Jeff.

Continue reading for a snapshot of a few of the BERGs represented in this display and be sure to visit the rest in person at the Downtown Disney District this summer!



NAATV SILLETA

ENABLED

The ENABLED silleta represents the Disneyland Resort ENABLED BERG, which promotes respect, equality and appreciation of people with disabilities through community, awareness, education and inclusion.

"This silleta is representing a really diverse group of folks," said Jeff. The Resort Enhancement team was intentional behind every material used, specifically with the gold-colored flowers behind the cognitive symbol shown on the ENABLED silleta. "For example, gold has been embraced by the autistic community because in the periodic table of elements, gold is represented with the letters AU, which are the first letters of the word autism."

"The silletas have little hidden meanings in them," said Jeff. "Whether it's the

Indigenous colleagues and allies.

"The NAATV silleta has very specific symbolism in the plant material and color choices," said Jeff. "We worked with our NAATV BERG to make sure that the materials being used feel personal to the Indigenous and Native American community, as well as the Southern California community."

The silleta features a circle divided into four quadrants that represent the physical, spiritual, social and emotional balance in a person's life, as well as arrows from the north, south, east and west pointing toward the middle to represent coming together to form a community. Other elements in the NAATV silleta include medicinal plants like sage and indigenous flowers to Southern California like wildflowers and poppies.



ENABLED SILLETA



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up a little bit higher than
I ever have before.**

– Teddo Corbin

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