



# PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

218 Madison Street  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
Phone: 708.725.2000  
Fax: 708.725.2301  
[www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org)

The Park District of Oak Park apologizes for the offensive language used to describe a camp offering which was included in our 2023 Summer Camp Guide.

We appreciate those who reached out to help us understand their concerns. Our commitment is to always look to offer programs that build awareness and bridges in our diverse community that values deeper cultural understanding. This specific program is the result of the Park District responding to requests by community members to provide more intentional culturally specific offerings. In this case, we unintentionally missed the mark on promoting the program.

For more background on this program, the instructor co-created the curriculum with Black women for an African American community in South Dallas to provide cultural education and a safe space for children to explore and learn. She has taught this program for seven years with the goal of creating a hands-on, educational class that included BIPOC dolls and stories, board games, and cooking with the students' culture and history at the forefront of their education. The instructor is a community member with a multicultural family, who is committed to helping youth and adults gain a better understanding of world cultures through food and art.

That said, the feedback we received has prompted the Park District to re-evaluate its processes and, more importantly, confirm the need to continue providing and participating in DEI trainings, identifying resources, and collaborating with the community as we continue this journey.

The Park District of Oak Park strives to unify and educate our community. We are always working to be better.



*In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.*