Hello!

As the VPA Executive Committee we would like to take this opportunity to share information about some of the Vanderbilt Identity Center resources available to you. On the following page you’ll find descriptions of the centers along with links to their websites and how to stay informed on programs and events put together by the various centers. As in the previous Postdoc Letters, we not only want to inform you about campus resources available to postdocs, but we also love to share places to go and things to do around Nashville. In this letter we’ve focused on Black-owned restaurants and bars around the Nashville area for you to check out.

Make sure to watch for emails from VPA, check out our website for news and events, and join the VPA Slack channel. Please reach out to us with any questions you may have about being a postdoc here or getting involved with VPA.

Website: vanderbilt.edu/vpa
To join VPA slack go to: vandypostdoc.slack.com/signup

--VPA Executive Committee
Vanderbilt Identity Centers
https://www.vanderbilt.edu/hub/category/identity-centers/

- **Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center**
  - The mission of the BCC focuses on enhancing the Vanderbilt experience for Black students, faculty, and staff through programming and resources available to address the academic, cultural, well-being, and social needs of the community.
  - The BCC website (linked above) details not only the initiatives and programs spearheaded by the BCC but also provides information about further resources available not only on campus but in the greater Nashville area as well.
  - You can check here or the BCC website for information about upcoming events.

- **Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center**
  - The mission of the MC Women’s Center is to provide an affirming space for women and for all members of the Vanderbilt community that actively resist sexism and all forms of oppression through programming and resources.
  - Programs for postdocs include: Women in the Academy, Work-Life Workshops, Parenting Groups, AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops
    - Further program details including scheduled events within those specific programs can be found on the Women’s Center website (linked above)
  - For information on events sign up for the Women’s Center mailing list here or check out their website for more information about upcoming events, available resources, and how to get involved.

- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Life Center**
  - LGBTQI Life is a center of affirmation for individuals of all identities whose mission is to serve as a resource for information and support regarding gender and sexuality for all students, faculty, and staff at Vanderbilt through educational, cultural, and social opportunities.
  - The LGBTQI website includes information on how to get involved, available resources for students, faculty/staff, and alumni, information on workshops and trainings, and much more.
  - Event information is included on the LGBTQI Life calendar here and you can also follow the center on social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook)

- **The Provost's Office for Inclusive Excellence**
  - The OIE works to create and assess progress towards inclusive excellence by embracing diversity and achieving a more equitable Vanderbilt in order to serve all students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty
  - The OIE office centers around four foundational themes: A culture of inclusion, cultivating awareness, research in action, and social responsibility through community engagement
  - Check out Inclusion at Vanderbilt on Twitter
• **The Office of the University Chaplain and Religious Life**
  o The mission of the Office of Religious Life is to build a community of diverse religious and spiritual perspectives, wisdom traditions and worldviews where all students, faculty, staff, and postdocs can experience belonging, support, care, and reflective engagement
  o Vanderbilt has a number of [religious and spiritual life groups](#) to explore
  o Learn more about programs and events [here](#)

• In addition to the identity centers listed above there is also the [Student Center for Social Justice & Identity](#) and [Vanderbilt Hillel](#). While these centers are more targeted towards student groups, we encourage you to look at the many event and service opportunities described on their websites as well as ways to get involved and help these centers achieve their goals.

---

**Nashville Recommendations**

**Eat/Drink:** The Eat/Drink section of this letter is focused on Black-owned business recommendations

- City Farm Company – farm to soul, scratch made Southern food
- Coneheads – located in East Nashville, enjoy a twist on classic chicken and waffles
- 8th & Roast – open for dine-in, take out, and online ordering, locations on 8th Ave and Charlotte Ave
- Tacos With A Twist – fast, casual Tex-Mex in Melrose/8th Ave S area
- Swett’s – family owned, historic cafeteria with great soul food
- Shugga Hi Bakery and Cafe – family owned, make sure to try the chicken and waffles
- Dandgure’s Classic Southern Cooking – cafeteria-style, Southern lunch staples
- Vege-licious – specializes in hearty, home-style 100% vegan and gluten-free dishes
- Kernels Gourmet Popcorn – family-owned, offering up 14+ flavors
- Prince’s Hot Chicken Shack – location on Nolensville Pike and food truck in SoBro
- Lafayette Soup Company – vendor at Richland Park Farmer’s Market, facebook.com/souplady68
- HiFi Cookies – East Nashville bakery offering up dozens of unique flavors and cookie cakes
- Big Al’s Deli – specializes in Southern comfort food with daily breakfast and lunch specials
- The Cupcake Collection – specialty cupcakes and cakes in a variety of flavors
- Ed’s Fish & Pizza House – open for takeout, cash only
- Germantown Pub – American pub fare, tap brews and cocktails, patio seating available
- Helen’s Hot Chicken – Nashville locations include Scarritt PI and Jefferson St.
- The Local Distro – groceries, dine-in meals, grab and go options, walk-up window, dog den, and patio
- Minerva Avenue – craft cocktail house in the Buchanan Arts District, check out their website for Happy Hour and dress attire info
- Jamaicaway – traditional Caribbean fare with vegetarian options, locations in midtown and downtown
- Ooh Wee Bar-B-Q – wings, sandwiches, burgers and more
- Riddim N Spice – North Nashville Caribbean restaurant
• Rocky’s Wing Shack – unique, made from scratch flavors, serving up wings, soul food, fried fish, and more
• Radical Rabbit – grab and go packaged vegan soul food meals; found daily at Citizen Market, and on Saturdays at Richland Park Farmer’s Market
• Slim & Husky’s Pizza Beeria – amazing custom-built pizzas
• The Southern V – family-owned restaurant serving vegan Southern fare
• Sweet Creations – pie shop located on Jefferson St
• Seafood Sensation – small seafood restaurant serving up lunch and dinner
• pH Craft Cocktails – offering up craft cocktails made with quality ingredients and small plate food options to enjoy
• Gojo Ethiopian Café and Restaurant – traditional Ethiopian cuisine with vegetarian options