



USA  
FENCING

# CULTURAL COMMUNITY RECAP

2023

# CREATING SPACE FOR OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

In an effort to bridge the gap between the national office and members of underrepresented groups within the fencing community, USA Fencing developed cultural community councils. Each council is composed of individuals who identify as members of each prospective community. Members of the councils serve in different capacities - coaches, athletes, parents, referees, legal counsel, and even national office staff.

## WHAT WE CAPTURED

Each council shared their thoughts, perceptions and experiences as minoritized individuals. Our goal was to gather information on the experiences of these groups and identify recommendations for USA Fencing to foster inclusion, belonging, and better support members of these communities.

Below is an overview of emergent themes that arose from our initial conversation. Each council was asked to give their thoughts and perspectives on how they are perceived in different societal spaces. The prompts asked were the following:

- *To the World, this community is...*
- *To the Fencing community, this community is...*
- *To us as individuals, this community is...*
- *Authenticity vs Inauthenticity...*
- *Recommendations for USA Fencing...*



## WHAT WE ARE DOING

We recognize that creating safe spaces for all members of the fencing community will be a continuous journey that we are excited to embark on, together with our membership. Based on the recommendations presented by our cultural councils, we are collaborating with members of the community to develop programming and accountability measures to better support the growth of everyone in the sport of fencing.

Since our initial meetings USA Fencing has released a number of action items to start building relationships and foster a more inclusive culture:

- **USA Fencing Transgender policy**
- Developed the **Women Coaches Mentoring Program**
- Announced new **DEIB Awards** to honor the work members are doing to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in the sport.
- **National Poster Challenge** to create a culture of inclusivity and belonging at tournaments
- **DEIB Resources**
- Supported the Referee's Commission to distribute and analyze DEIB data
- Veteran Voices to highlight the experiences of our veteran fencers. Click **HERE** to be featured!
- Nuestras Historias to highlight the experiences and stories of our Hispanic and Latino members. Click **HERE** to be featured!
- Developed a partnership with **All Kids Play** to increase access to the sport of fencing to youth of Color and youth girls
- Developed a partnership with **Chicago Park District** for local clubs to educate, engage and grow the sport of fencing within Chicago communities.
- Released the "Fencing the Gap" Initiative

## WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO

As USA fencing continues the work to make the sport of fencing inclusive and safe for everyone to enjoy, we will continue to center the voices of our community members. We acknowledge that there are areas of opportunity to continue advancing the sport, and we welcome the feedback of membership to hold us accountable along the way! **TOGETHER, WE RISE!**

### **\*Things To Consider While Reviewing This Report\***

- How can we better show up for **all** of the diverse communities that we serve?
- How are we being conscious of the language we use to describe various cultural groups in media and other communications?
- How can we be intentional in welcoming diverse audiences to our sport?
- How do we reinforce transparency throughout all segments of the sport?

# HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL

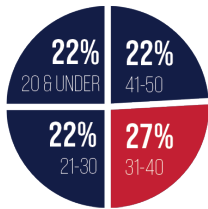


## ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS

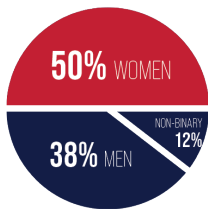
The council is made up of a diverse group of hispanic and latino people who identify their ethnic background in a number of ways.

AFRO **INDIAN** BIRACIAL  
WHITE **LATINA** **RICO**  
**HISPANIC** CARRIBBEAN  
**LATINO** **LATINX**  
CHICANO **LATINO** PUERTO  
AMERICA MEXICO APPEAR

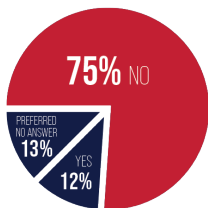
## AGE



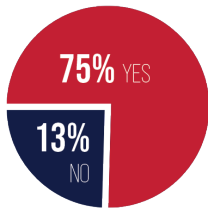
## GENDER



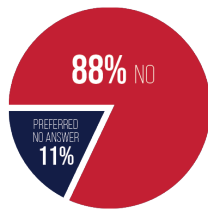
## LGBTQ



## BORN IN U.S.



## DISABILITIES



## MILITARY VET



# TO THE WORLD, THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY IS...

## STEREOTYPED

- “To the world, the hispanic community is just mexican. We’re more than mexican!”
- “I prepare myself for questions that are going to be asked - where are you from?”
- To the world there’s an assumption that we all speak or should at least know some level of spanish.
- “People often assume I’m going to automatically be the spanish translator.”
- Sport wise- the world thinks we only play soccer or baseball, but there are larger contributions besides those two sports.
- The world generally sees us all as immigrants.

## UNDervalUED

- “Our community is more mixed than people assume it to be - we come in a vast array of colors, cultures and backgrounds.”
- “To the world, the hispanic community is thought to mostly be low income in society.”
- “We are more politically active than many understand us to be; We vote in many different ways (both conservative and liberal) across many different concerns.
- There is a lack of understanding between latino, hispanic, and latinx so instead people blend all the different histories together and say - you all speak spanish.

## ISOLATED AND IGNORED

- In certain regions, specifically in the U.S. where there is a lack of latino representation, more barriers exist for latinxs living in those areas.
- People’s ignorance is often revealed when they are not learning that there are differences within our culture.
- liberal vs conservative spaces matter - there are some spaces where people are generally afraid to speak spanish out of fear of judgement or harm.
- “Believe it or not, I’ve lived in the U.S. longer than I lived in Mexico”

# TO THE FENCING COMMUNITY...

## INVISIBLE

- “I haven’t seen any hispanic fencers. There are none in my club and none at my school.”
- “We are not seen!”
- “There aren’t alot of hispanic fencers who were born in the United States.”
- “When you see who the competitors are... we’re a minority. There are so many clubs in predominantly latino areas that aren’t representative of that community - There is an opportunity there.”

## DIMINISHED

- “There are assumptions that if we fence nationally we’re likely going to fence for our home country.”
- I was told “oh you’re Mexican American? You’re never going to be a high level referee!” For that reason, I make sure that I present myself authentically at all times...
- “We’re not expected to win.”

## VILANIZED

- “When I go to competitions, I tend to yell, and so do others, but I feel like we’re seen as aggressive in the sport.”
- “We’re generally noticed by our hair or flags on our uniforms, so we’re prepared for the looks and stares.”
- “I’ve seen people who chose to wear their flags during competition receive dirty looks... It’s not that serious.”

# TO US ...

## RESILIENCE

- “It’s nice to know people around me who look like me and people who don’t. I know I didn’t come from nothing. It took us a lot to get here.”
- There is a similar story across members of the community. You can have a conversation and there’s something you can relate to - hardship, language, etc.
- The complexity of playing two sides of a story (being both Hispanic and American).
- We’re a powerful community. We don’t let stereotypes stand in our way.

## DIVERSE

- Perceptions of what it means to be hispanic vary depending on where you live.
- The American community tries to divide us, but there will always be a connection through culture.
- The culture is so rich and different in every country. For example how a spanish dish is made in Columbia may be made totally different elsewhere.
- “I see myself as an advocate for my students. I try to show up with all of my identities.... Latina people come in a lot of different colors. I understand it may be easier for me because of my lighter skin.”

## HISTORY MAKERS

- I’ve seen a lot of firsts when it comes to the latino community in sports, politics, and various fields.
- We’re groundbreakers and we push ourselves- we’re all hard workers.
- “Many of us are first generation students - that makes me proud.”



## AUTHENTICITY

- Authentic means with intention and with a clear goal in mind.
- Consistent promotion of hispanic stories and the hispanic community throughout the year, not just during Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Considering how certain policies inadvertently impact all groups of people, not just the majority.
- In reference to Hispanic Heritage Month - there was an intention to outreach to the community, but there were groups who should've been involved early on. The leg work ahead of time will make a huge difference.
- Raising awareness about fencing in minority communities is important.

## INAUTHENTICITY

- “USA Fencing dropped the ball - their profile picture was updated and that was it. They have not highlighted any hispanic fencers.”
- USA Fencing has not done a good job of representing any of its underrepresented cultures.
- Pushing the culture under the rug or checking a box.
- The world is watching USA Fencing. Everyone knows that the US is diverse.. when we post or provide information about the latino community and don't continue or follow up, we're just checking off the checklist.
- If there's no follow up, you don't really care. A lot of groups do performative action to shut groups up.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- “We need more representation.” There should be consistent and intentional coverage of hispanic athletes and the hispanic culture on all communications platforms.
- “In the 80's and 90s we had mexican fencers competing in local competitions.
  - Consider Inviting hispanic fencers from other countries to compete in our tournaments.
- “As a group, we're ready for USA Fencing to take a really hard stance on certain things so that it can be easier for other younger people coming up in the sport.”
- Intentionally promote the sport to other groups - college programs, clubs. Really consider what can we do as an organization, to have a better reach.
- Extending resources that help with costs/ funds associated with competing in the sport. This will increase representation.
- “I want to recruit diverse fencers. Help me find them. Help me identify the clubs. I'm willing to make the shot, but I can't do it myself.”

# EMPOWER HER

**12** PEOPLE  
MAKE UP THE  
WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT  
COUNCIL (Empower HER)

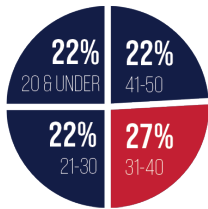
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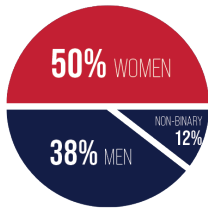
VIETNAMESE  
BIRACIAL **HISPANIC** AFRO **CAUCASIAN**  
WHITE **AMERICAN** ASIAN  
MIDDLE EUROPEAN **CARIBBEAN**  
EASTERN MULTIRACIAL



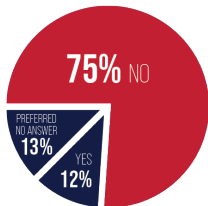
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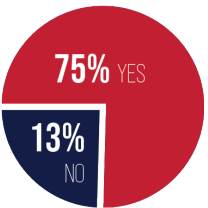
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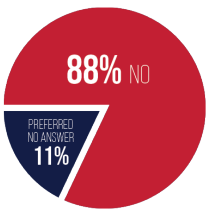
## LGBTQ



## BORN IN U.S.



## DISABILITIES



## MILITARY VET



# TO THE WORLD...

## SUBORDINATE

- ‘Globally, women are never the first person in language. “He” is the standard pronoun and typically used to describe leaders or people in power.’
- “Women are secondary.”
- Men are always stereotyped to be stronger.
- To the world, women are to be nurturing, domestic, and passive.

## OVERBURDENED

- Around the world, women are perceived to be fragile or emotional.
- Women negotiate more for others than themselves.
- Sometimes women are the most compassionate person in the room, but it can be seen as weak.
- The expectation for women are much higher than for men.
- I can go from being called beautiful to being a “B\*\*\*\*” just for saying no or standing my ground.”

## OBJECTIFIED

- To the world women are looked at as objects more than people at times.
- Around the world there are expectations for a woman’s appearance. Women have to juggle more to be heard.
- It’s hard to feel safe at night. Men don’t have to worry about that to the same degree.
- “I’ve been cat called and I’ve been yelled at, all because I’m a girl.”
- “I’m often objectified or sexualized just for existing.”

## DISREGARDED

- In the workplace women are viewed as a risk. Women are often not hired because of perceived risks (pregnancy, emotion-led, etc.).
- If I express myself I’m often viewed as being aggressive or a B\*\*\*\*.
- Women are often viewed as incompetent.
- The real issue is that the people who need to hear us don’t come to these types of sessions.
- Fencers should be allowed to wear uniforms with colors beyond white. Women athletes often have irregular menstrual cycles.

# TO THE FENCING COMMUNITY...

## UNEQUAL

- In fencing women are not treated the same when we question referees or show emotion on the piste.
- Typically male fencers/coaches can be as expressive as they want, however my daughter has been dismissed from the strip for doing the same.
- Male coaches often tell girls not to reach out via personal lines. However, boys can continue personal relationships with male coaches. I don't think that's fair.

## IGNORED

- Tournaments do not have women hygiene products available in the medic tents. I've seen a woman get red carded for taking too long changing her hygiene product.
- Large tournaments make for a less inviting place for women.
- "I'm the only competitive girl fencer in my club. By peers and sometimes parents, my accomplishments are undermined by men - "Yea you won, but it was women's fencing."
- "I'm often discouraged because when I do something it's not good enough, but when they do it its praised! I feel like I have to do 10x more to be given the same level of respect."

## MARGINALIZED

- At fencing tournaments - girls and women have to get dressed and take off shirts, etc. in large spaces -there is no safe/private areas.
- "At competitions there is a gender disparity on the strips - men coaches/fencers intimidate women to forfeit strips."
- "There are many times where I have heard coaches tell girls they are not built for the sport. I've been used as an example for which aspects of my body are needed to make a great female fencer, which is very uncomfortable given the only coaches I've heard dictate whether your body is the right shape or not for fencing is from males."

## UNPROTECTED

- "There are some coaches that are intentional about creating safe spaces and others who don't give a crap."
- Inappropriate messages are very subliminal and nothing is done about it.
- A very important issue for competitive women fencers of all ages is women's only events at local levels. Mixed gender events do not benefit women.

## TO US ...

### ENOUGH

- Women are capable and worthy.
- We are equal to men, we're just not given the opportunity to exist as such.
- A sense of pride, we rally and support one another.

### UNDERESTIMATED

- We're assumed to not be as competitive as men
- We're often overlooked and underrepresented in sports media
- Women are just as powerful and fun

### BARRIER BREAKERS

- Women push the needle and often answer the call to evoke change.
- Women in all of our identities, bring something unique and different to everything!
- Trans women break the box of what women have to be. We encourage people to express themselves regardless of gender expression.

### AUTHENTICITY

- It is certainly hard, but vulnerability comes with authenticity.
- More ACTION, less words.
- Listening instead of hearing- hearing often happens when people hear your complaints and choose to do nothing.
- We move from performative to proactive action by recognizing the problems -implicit bias, micro-aggressions, and other structural issues that must be resolved.
- Acknowledging that there requires significant work to begin change.

### INAUTHENTICITY

- Specifically for USA Fencing, posting more women on your page isn't enough - it's not any real change.
- When a message is being advertised but the action does not match up.
- Lack of transparency.
- When you don't really know the true mission or message.
- Actions speak louder than words. Feminism/femininity used as a marketing tool can come off as performative.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage healthy relationships between coaches and all youth athletes.
- Allow fencers to wear uniforms with colors besides white.
- Develop programs that truly advance the progress of women in leadership roles.
- Create opportunities for more women to be national coaches.
- Center women voices in the media.

# BLACK HERITAGE COUNCIL

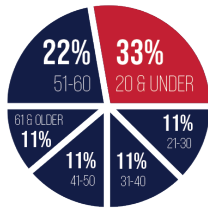
## 9 PEOPLE MAKE UP THE **BLACK** HERITAGE COUNCIL

### ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS

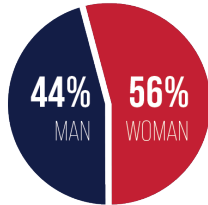
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AFRO **MULTIRACIAL**  
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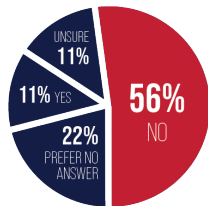
## AGE



## GENDER



## LGBTQ



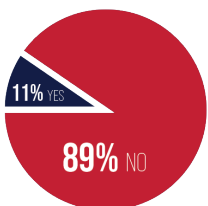
## BORN IN U.S.



## DISABILITIES



## MILITARY VET



# TO THE WORLD, THE BLACK COMMUNITY IS...

## GAINING AWARENESS

- The world has begun sharing and highlighting more black stories (history, arts, entertainment, etc.).
- Summer 2020 brought increased attention to the systemic and systematic racism and injustices black people endure.
- There is so much history that black people played a major role in that was erased and the world is just now tapping into those untold stories.

## TOKENIZED

- The world has shown that it is okay to accept black people when it's convenient or necessary.
- To the world, black people are simply tolerated but not necessarily valued.
- Aspects of black culture are trendy (fashion, hair, music, dance (tiktoks) language/slang).

## A MONOLITH

- I don't believe the world recognizes how diverse black people are - you have African Americans, Jamaicans, Haitians, Africans, Afro latinos - we do not all look the same!
- We are more than athletes and entertainers. Black people are artists, poets, authors, scientists, engineers, doctors, inventors, and more. We contribute to the advancement of the world in many ways.
- "Before you make an assumption about black people, do the work -read articles/books, watch documentaries, listen to podcasts, then ask questions."

## STEREOTYPED

- "Black people are perceived to be naturally aggressive. Are we aggressive or are you culturally incompetent?"
- To the world I believe there is a correlation between black men and the prison pipeline (suspension/expulsion rates, lower academic performance, etc.).
- Black women are unfairly labeled "The Angry Black Woman" for standing our ground - we work three times as hard for the smallest percentage of the recognition.
- In sport - black people are only good in the sports that require physical prowess (football, basketball, track & field). While some black people thrive in those sports, if our communities were exposed to other sports, you'd see more of us thriving there as well.

# TO THE FENCING COMMUNITY...

## SEEN AS A THREAT

- When responding to calls from refs - black people can't have the same reactions other fencers have.
- When referring to black people, I often hear "they are so aggressive", "they hit so hard" - who is they?
- "As a parent of a child in this sport, my husband and I were committed to being present at every game and practice to ensure our child wasn't disrespected or treated unfairly. She is often the only black girl."
- After George Floyd, there is an expectation as a black person in America for racism. I am on guard and it is exhausting, but until we see things change, I can't change that expectation."

## DISRESPECTED

- I have seen parents threaten young black fencers for beating their children in bouts.
- At an NCAA event - my daughter had her hair braided - she was asked repeatedly to put her hair in her jacket. However other fencers with longer hair were able to let it drape. That is a prime example of racial bias and institutional racism.
- My mom is white. People will say horrible things about me to her as the black girl, not knowing she is my mom.
- I know a black referee who has shared their experiences being called terrible names such as the N\*\*\*\*\* word, spit at, and yelled at.

## OVERCOMPENSATES FOR LACK OF REPRESENTATION

- You have to prove yourself everyday on the PISTE to show you're worthy of being here.
- It's very difficult for black women coaches. We have to go through two layers - being black and being a woman.
- There is a particular type of survival that is needed if you're going to stay in the sport as a black person.
- I made sure to study the handbook inside and out because I know my child's best interest is not at heart. I have had to call out refs and coaches to hold them accountable.

## UNSUPPORTED

- The pipeline is being restricted and people have to go to regional competitions. For example, Iowa fencers have to travel far away to qualify for nationals, which creates an additional financial burden. There are very few fencers of color who fence Div I - with the elimination of Div II and Div III, you can expect to not see many black at all now - that troubles me.
- Highlight the black contributions to fencing history ( black stories, black communities, black clubs) - The Black Blades, which was an all African American club in Connecticut. No one talks about them, Ruth White, etc.
- Where is the support within the black community for fencing clubs - black people don't see them because USA Fencing doesn't give them a platform.
- There is no accountability system for referees in the sport. They can project their racial biases, we complain, and nothing is done.



# TO US ...

## RESILIENCE

- When you consider our history in America, black people have had to overcome so much adversity, and we're still fighting for equality.
- People like to think racism no longer exists because it doesn't impact them directly. We deal with it on a regular basis in a variety of ways.
- Black people are strong and not easily broken. This has been passed down through generations.
- We are bridge builders for those to come behind us, each generation has worked to create better lives for our children and children's children.

## PRIDE

- Specifically in fencing, I am always so proud when I see other black fencer. It swells up in me with joy.
- Black is powerful, black is courageous, black is beautiful - I'm so proud to black.
- Seeing us win is so satisfying! When we say we're rooting for us, it doesn't mean we're not rooting for other races - we've just overcome so much that a win for one of us is a win for all of us.

## PROTECTION

- There is an unspoken commitment to protect each other as black people. We are protective of our own family, but others too.
- We support one another until proven otherwise.

## SILOED

- We can sometimes operate in silos instead of joining forces for larger impact.
- There are segments of classism that exists within our community, this can perpetuate division.
- "Neyo says it best - We're a movement when we're by ourselves, but we're a force when we're together!"

## AUTHENTICITY

- Instead of highlighting negative images of popular people, use this time to highlight stories of others less highlighted - black stories; stories of black fencers who may not be elite.
- Being sincere
- Transparency
- Intentionally ensuring there is representation across levels of the sport
- Consider other ways to identify "elite" fencers that can be an inclusive way to bring other people in.
- Being able to show up as your true self without validation.

## INAUTHENTICITY

- Using the rules in the handbook to target certain communities. Hair is talked about a lot among black fencers FYI and there are no rules to protect us.
- Only celebrating groups during cultural months.
- Changing policies that are convenient for the majority without considering all parties involved.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct a comparison review on policies to see the impact on the # of black fencers pre- policy change vs post-policy change.
- Highlight more black stories throughout the year without exploiting them.
- Create more opportunities for people in black communities to engage with the sport of fencing.
- Create a scholarship fund that can help support black fencers with financial burdens.
- Develop a system of accountability for referees to ensure everyone is being treated fairly.

# PRIDE+ COUNCIL

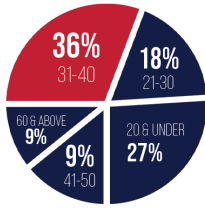
**11** PEOPLE  
MAKE UP THE  
**PRIDE+**  
**COUNCIL**

## **ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS**

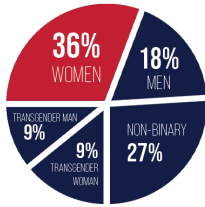
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HISPANIC

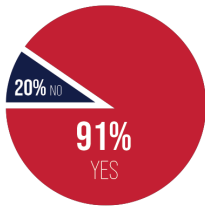
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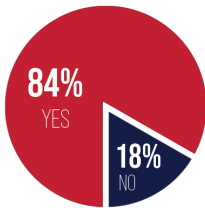
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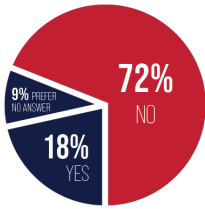
## LGBTQ



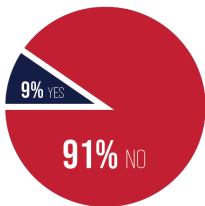
## BORN IN U.S.



## DISABILITIES



## MILITARY VET



# TO THE WORLD, THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IS...

## MISUNDERSTOOD

- “To the world, we’re misunderstood to the core.”
- People believe trans people are abusing the system. Especially trans women and sport specifically.
- People are afraid of anything that challenges their way of thinking. That oftentimes leaves us to create safe spaces for ourselves.

## GROWING

- I believe the world sees the LGBTQIA+ community as a trend, but we’ve always been present, people are just becoming more comfortable being themselves.
- Globally, LGBTQIA+ representation and awareness has increased. There’s representation in politics, in the media, and in film.
- As more safe spaces and platforms are being created for our community, the more recognition we receive.

## GENERALIZED

- The world disregards the existence of intersectionality within our community. We cannot be generalized.
- There is a preconceived notion of what a gay or lesbian person is supposed to look like or act like. We don’t all show up the same.
- There is a thought around the community being sensitive and demanding. People are afraid that what they say will be found offensive to all of us.
- Its important to know that all of our journeys are different. We are a very complex group and shouldn’t be boxed in based off assumptions.

# TO THE FENCING COMMUNITY...

## SILENCED

- It shouldn't be the responsibility of any minority to have the burden of asking for respect and inclusivity.
- It's hard to ask for things because I feel like I'm asking for too much.
- We are called upon to advocate for ourselves, which is exhausting to constantly do.

## IGNORED

- The higher you go in the sport, the more invisible the queer community becomes.
- Referees often use very gendered language and do not care who may be offended- "ladies, let's go!"
- The sport is very traditional so naturally anything different from the norm is ignored and silenced.

## PRESENT

- Collegiate fencing has the ability to build community and safe space, but its limited by referees.
- I do my best to always show up and create space for all of my athletes including those who are LGBTQIA+.
- You see more people from the community at competitions. As we continue to create safe environments hopefully more people will feel comfortable to be themselves.

# TO US ...

## INVITING

- The LGBTQIA+ community is wonderful! There's an immediate sense of community.
- We're vibrant and joyous - that's what connects everyone.
- We're galvanizing power.

## DIVERSE

- We're intersectional. Many of us carry multiple marginalized identities.
- The LGBTQIA+ community is huge and made up of many different cultures and demographics of people.
- You can't box the queer community in because we're all so different.

## AUTHENTICITY

- Transparency has to be present at every single level - coaches, refs, volunteers.
- Everyone has to take responsibility.
- Working together to make change - coaches will likely be the hardest group to reach.
- Intentionality - it can't just be for show, it has to be sustainable.
- Connecting people to resources (coaches need resources to better support athletes).
- Not just centering white queer voices.

## INAUTHENTICITY

- Only acknowledging groups during specific months
- Not being transparent with members.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- There should be ambassadors that can be present at every tournament to help ensure safe spaces are being created.
- Highlight more LGBTQIA+ stories and history throughout the year.
- There should be gender inclusion training for everyone.
- Develop a system of accountability for referees to ensure everyone is being treated fairly.

# ASIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

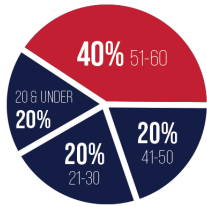
## **5** PEOPLE MAKE UP THE **ASIAN** HERITAGE COUNCIL

### **ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS**

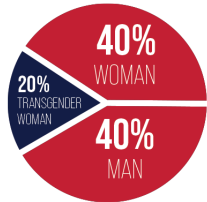
The council is made up of a diverse group of Asian American individuals.

ASIAN  
CHINESE **VIETNAMESE**  
**AMERICAN**  
INDIAN

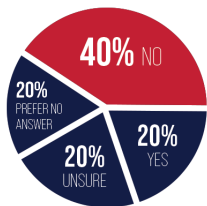
## AGE



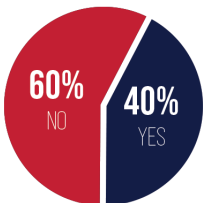
## GENDER



## LGBTQ



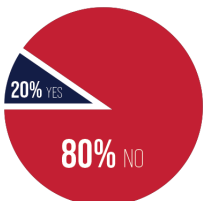
## BORN IN U.S.



## DISABILITIES



## MILITARY VET



## TO THE WORLD, THE ASIAN COMMUNITY IS...

### TOKEN MINORITY

- We're viewed as the immigrants who come to work in tech and are law abiding citizens (model minority myth).
- I was the first one to go to school in the U.S. My father comes from humble beginnings and that drives every Filipino.
- You have immigrants from Asia with different backgrounds. Some do not see themselves as middle class, but actually see themselves as coming from the bottom.

### EXPANSIVE

- The asian community is one of the fastest growing minority groups in the world.
- We're sometimes not considered to be a minority because there are a large number of us, but we are still a minority.
- Asian representation in the media, film, sport and entertainment has drastically increased.



# TO THE FENCING COMMUNITY...

## PRESENT

- Because we have a large presence in the sport, people do not assume we share the same experiences as other minority groups.
- “I was overwhelmed by the number of asians in tournaments. There is a lot of representation in numbers.
- Because there are so many of us, we need resources that tell us how we can donate our time to be more involved outside of just being athletes.

## OPPORTUNITY

- Many of the Olympians and World Champions are forgotten about - we all worked hard and can do more for the sport if allowed to.
- Involve coaches and parents in the donation process - we can donate time and funding to support local community programs.
- USA Fencing can build off of the large representation we have in the sport to bring even more diverse youth in.

# TO US ...

## HARDWORKING

- My parents were immigrants; they worked hard to overcome extreme poverty and create opportunities for me.
- A lot of resilience comes with being an immigrant. If you're from another country you give up essentially everything you come from to be here.
- When my parents came to the states we were viewed as the hard worker - the newer immigrants are seen as already having money.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Set up a venue to invite people off the street to see what fencing is about. We should do that more often.
- Influence policy to provide grants to support clubs with Asian American populations.
- Invite foreign athletes to come to the U.S. to fence to increase representation.
- Promote fencing in communities through apprenticeships, scholarships, etc.
- Utilize fencing alumnus to give back to the community.
- Market the sport as a martial art.



USA  
FENCING

[USAFENCING.ORG](http://USAFENCING.ORG)