

Lal Tluangi is a dedicated employee with the City of Kalamazoo in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She joined the city in 2021 as an Administrative Support Coordinator and quickly advanced to the position of DEI Coordinator. She was later promoted to DEI Specialist. Since taking office in 2023, Lal has worked closely with Director Tanya Hewitt-Smith to facilitate several training sessions on topics such as implicit bias, ableism, LGBTQIA+ issues, intergenerational workforce dynamics, and cultural agility. Through their collective efforts, the City of Kalamazoo has seen a steady improvement in its Municipal Equality Index score, culminating in a perfect score of 100 out of 100 in 2024.

Originally from Myanmar, Lal has made Michigan her home since 2005. She maintains a close bond with her three siblings, enjoys cooking with her mother, and delights in spoiling her nieces and nephews. In her spare time, Lal cherishes quiet evenings with her fiancée and enjoys researching simple nail designs to try out for herself.

Lal holds a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with a minor in History, as well as a Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Health Promotion from Grand Valley State University. She has continued her education by earning certificates in Cultural Agility from the Center for Cultural Agility, Applied Anthropology from GVSU's Anthropology Department, and Facilitating Meetings Around Community Conflict from the Department of Justice. Additionally, Lal is a certified Human Resource Specialist and holds a Professional Certificate in Organizational Inclusion and Diversity from Michigan State University's School of Human Resources and Labor Relations.

Lal is also committed to her professional growth, having completed the Leadership of Greater Kalamazoo program, a leadership initiative by Southwest Michigan First. She is currently participating in the Emerging Leaders Academy through the Kalamazoo Public Library. Lal is passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of those around her and beyond. Her primary goal is to ensure that education remains central to driving meaningful change.