

From the Nashville Business Journal:

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Expand 2016

# Expand: The new Nashville can inspire progress

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As a Northerner about to move to Nashville, I admit that I had reservations about local race relations. Unbeknownst to me, however, I would soon be participating in a surprisingly diverse Nashville business community.



Alon Diamant-Cohen

As an anthropologist by training, I was happy to observe that Nashvillians celebrate different cultures, rather than imposing the traditional demands for cultural conformity. My participation in NBJ's recent Expand event made it clear to me that while vestiges of a less tolerant and inclusive community may remain, change for inclusion is being pursued with a dogged determination and urgency.

During the NBJ event, I had the privilege of contributing to conversations that were honest, direct, essential and incredibly difficult to have. These discussions highlighted challenges that others confront on a daily basis, increasing their levels of difficulty in an already hyper-competitive world. I learned that although life is still neither easy nor fair for individuals from cultural minorities, there is a real sense of progress when comparing life today to life 20 years ago.

As a member of the privileged majority, working for a minority-owned-and-operated company, I am humbled to be a member of this new inclusive and diverse Nashville workforce that is working to inspire social progress.

I left the panel inspired to have witnessed such passion and excited to get to work promoting social justice via the conduit of business.

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