

DM-M: There are a few different options, but I think, probably the one that jumps out to me wasn't really anything as glamorous as a trip to a National Park, but it was a meeting in Washington D.C. at the main interior building. Right there on the mall, it's the headquarters of the whole Department of the Interior, including the Park Service. A number of us, probably about 20 or so folks from across the agency, came together to discuss a kick-off for interpreting and recognizing the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which is coming up here in just a couple of years. That group was brought together, specifically for its representative demographic diversity. There are people from all across the parks, there were small parks, big parks, people brand new to their careers, people who'd been in the Park Service for 20 years, people of all colors, gender identities, national origins, backgrounds. It was an incredible group to be a part of, to hear all of the various narratives and what the Declaration of Independence means, beyond just the typical story that we always tell, that sort of dominant narrative that exists.

But it's like, what do all of the other stories, and how does that create an opportunity for us to do things differently? To tell a different story, to tell a different variety of stories. The passion and the wisdom and energy within that group was really powerful and palpable. And something that I was just profoundly honored to be a part of and representative too, of the way we can do things.