# Cully-Concordia Community Action Plan Report to City Council

#### INTRODUCTION

n late 2007, City planning staff and Portland Public Schools (PPS) joined together with diverse community stakeholders to study the existing conditions for families with children in the Cully-Concordia area. Three public school areas were included: Faubion, Rigler, and Harvey Scott. An assessment report was produced that looked at physical, social, and economic conditions of the area. Individuals and partner organizations came together to review report findings and develop a community action plan. The action plan covers four goal areas:

1) schools as multi-purpose centers of community;
2) expansion of local business and economic opportunities; 3) improvements to neighborhood amenities and infrastructure; and 4) community











building, connectedness and stability. The *Cully-Concordia Community Assessment* report (September 2008) and the *Cully-Concordia Community Action Plan* (November 2008) were approved by City Council on November 20, 2008. Since that time, City staff, PPS and community partners have been updating the

action plan to include specific steps and measures of success, and have begun implementing selected actions. Below is a list of accomplishments from this past two years and activities for the coming year.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS (NOVEMBER 2009-NOVEMBER 2011)

- Bureau of Transportation's (BOT) Safe Routes to Schools staff finished an engineering report for Scott School, began implementation of street improvements for Faubion and Scott Schools; and completed an engineering study at Rigler School with a Portland Public Schools (PPS) grant (Action 1.A)
- City funded Portland Community College's Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program (PCC VLTP) for \$15,000 for Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages classes for two years serving 167 individuals in 4218 student hours (July 2009–June 2011). City continued funding beginning July 2011 with classes held at Hacienda, formerly at Scott and now Rigler School, (Action 1.E)
- Hacienda received funds from PGE, Oregon Community Fund, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and the Ford Family Foundation to help begin operation of a Spanish-language adult education program known as *Plaza Comunitaria*. Since the start, over 70 Latino adults have graduated, completing a primary or secondary education; mostly Cully residents or from immediate area (Action 1.E)
- A group of diverse agency and community partners met regularly as an Early Childhood Development Working Group to assist BPS with completion of a *Cully-Concordia Early Childhood Needs Assessment* report with recommendations. Partners briefed the Multnomah County Early Childhood Council (MCECC) and the Portland Children's Levy Committee. The MCECC's Early Care and Education Committee adopted the report into their next year's work program (Actions 1.G–1.I)
- Childcare Resource and Referral of Multnomah County held a training in Cully for 25 early care providers (Action 1.H)
- Hacienda began pursuing a destination Latino public market (Mercado) in Cully or other central Portland area and is pursuing the "Sugar Shack" site for purchase. PSU Masters of Urban and Regional Planning students completed a feasibility study including preliminary site and market analyses. Hacienda received grants to support predevelopment activities and small business Individual Development Accounts. The latter provides 3:1 matched savings for entrepreneurs who wish to open their businesses at the Mercado; a huge step toward capitalizing the Mercado and giving momentum to the project among the mostly low-income Latino entrepreneurs who support the Mercado (Action 2.A)



### ACCOMPLISHMENTS (NOVEMBER 2009-NOVEMBER 2011)

- Hacienda, Verde, and NAYA economic development activities work toward preparing local residents for job readiness and small business development. Verde in partnership with the other organizations, formed Living Cully: A Cully Ecodistrict, reinterpreting the Ecodistrict concept as an antipoverty strategy, focused on safeguarding the natural environment and producing economic and environmental benefits for Cully's low-income people and people of color (Action 2.A)
- The Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good and partners (NAYA, Hacienda CDC, et al) created Changing the Climate in Cully, successfully applying to implement Clean Energy Works Portland neighborhood-phase. Over 200 Cully community members applied for the retrofits and a dozen new living wage jobs were created from the resulting work (Action 2.A)
- The 42nd Avenue Main Street Collaborative, comprised of area business and community representatives, came together and applied to be designated as a Main Street. Though not chosen for the program, the collaborative continued activities such as new murals at NE 42nd and Alberta Street to improve the 42nd Avenue business district (Action 2.E)
- Cully Blvd. main street and 42nd Avenue corridor qualified for PDC's Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative, and began community capacity building

- toward developing strategies for commercial corridor development and revitalization. They were awarded Community Building and Planning Grants to assist in moving towards Neighborhood Prosperity Area designation (Actions 2.D, 2.E and 3.J)
- Oregon Transportation and Growth Management Program funded Cully Main Street and Local Street Plans Project for \$100,000 to be completed by June 2012 (Actions 2.D, 3.B and 3.J)
- Community partners led by Verde received a two year grant in 2010 from Northwest Health Foundation for \$150,000 to build community capacity and develop a phased approach to development of Thomas Cully Park (Actions 3.D and 3.E)
- PPS identified Faubion and Rigler Schools as priority schools for physical improvements in its May bond measure that was narrowly defeated by the public (Actions 1.C, 3.H and 3.I)
- Conversations between Rigler and Scott School communities and PPS took place to address overcrowding conditions (Action 3.I)
- Cully Boulevard Green Street opened in May and was celebrated by a community-led multi-cultural Cully Community Fair (Actions 3.B and 4.B)
- City staff and partners continued to refine and monitor the CCCAP (Action 4.A)

## **ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER 2011-NOVEMBER 2012**

- BOT applies for grant funding to implement identified street improvement projects for Faubion, Scott and Rigler Schools. BOT provides Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety education at all three schools (Action 1.A)
- SUN Community School programs in cooperation with PPS and Multnomah County may expand activities at local schools with a focus on enhanced programming for families with very young children; to enhance early childhood development and preparedness for school (Action 1.B)
- City Council continues funding of Adult ESL classes in Cully-Concordia through a special allocation in its Fiscal Years 2011–2013 budgets (\$20,000). PCC VLTP continues classes in Cully at Hacienda and Rigler School with the goals of serving 200 individuals, obtaining sustainable future funding, and adapting materials to meet the needs of Micro Enterprise Program participants (Action 1.E)
- Multnomah County's Early Care and Education Committee engages with the Cully-Concordia Early Childhood Development Working Group and others to begin implementation of needs assessment recommendations (Actions 1.G–1.I)
- Hacienda continues seeking funding to complete a Mercado feasibility study and continues working with prospective Latino marketplace business people to prepare them for their businesses and for running the cooperative marketplace. Hacienda continues to support over 40 Latino entrepreneurs with mirco-enterprises development (Action 2.A)

- Community members from 42nd Avenue and Cully Main Street areas will organize and increase broad-based community involvement and apply to the Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative's program. Once accepted these groups will develop a vision for their area and begin implementation activities to benefit their local business districts (Action 2.D)
- The Bureaus of Planning and Sustainability and Transportation will bring forward zoning recommendations for the Cully Main Street, a local street plan, and new local street design and funding options, through a public hearing process at Planning and Sustainability Commission and City Council in spring 2012 (Action 2.D and 3.E)
- Portland Parks and Recreation will begin master planning with the Cully community for a future neighborhood park at NE Alberta Street and 52nd Avenue taking into account culturally-specific programming (Actions 3.D and 3.E)
- PPS will make a decision on how to ease overcrowding at Rigler and Scott Schools with changes to take place in the 2012–13 school year (Action 3.I)
- City staff and partners will continue to refine and monitor the CCCAP (Action 4.A)
- Mosaic Church will lead in activities with other faith-based, school and community groups to promote partnerships and leverage resources to implement identified needed projects in Cully-Concordia (Action 4.C)