

# Portland's Neighborhood Associations

COMMUNITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE



## What are Portland Neighborhood Associations?

We are people in the places where we live, work, and play—inspired to come together to improve the physical, civic and social health of these community areas. Our unique system is nationally celebrated.

We support everyone's right to participate in the ways most meaningful to each person. We work to invite everyone to the table. We value everyone's contributions. Neighborhood associations are designed to give every willing volunteer a voice in local community and government.

## Volunteer Efforts

Volunteers join together with neighbors and businesses to care for the area where they live and work. Neighborhood associations and coalitions host community events—sometimes fun, sometimes hard-working—often both—which are as varied and diverse as the needs and imagination of the people in each, unique neighborhood.

## Services

Each of the seven Neighborhood/Coalition Offices offers a range of services based on the needs of their geographic area, providing assistance and advice to individual community members and the neighborhood associations within each area.

We serve as a hub for people and information. We help develop opportunities for communities to engage with each other and with government on a wide variety of issues—issues identified by volunteers and communities, who then act to address these concerns.

## What We Do

For over a quarter of a century, Portland Neighborhood Associations and Coalitions have provided a critical forum on local issues, successfully engaging neighborhood association and community members. (Membership in neighborhood associations is free and open to all residents and businesses.)

Volunteers work on many projects, events and issues, engaging the community in grassroots democracy. Our work includes environmental stewardship, neighborhood fairs, crime and safety efforts, building trails and neighborhood cleanups. We organize and support public policy input addressing community and social needs, transportation issues, and proposed development projects.

From July, 2009 to June, 2010, these groups and volunteers:

- Welcomed over 30,579 community members to neighborhood or coalition meetings
- Sponsored over 1,717 community involvement projects and events
- Participated in over 1,395 efforts to engage with people from groups previously underrepresented in the civic life of Portland.

The seven Portland area Neighborhood Offices not only provide assistance to the ninety-five Neighborhood Associations, but to individuals, organizations and businesses located in our areas of the city.

We help neighbors and community members to connect with each other and to government. We provide training, information, advice and support.

We provide public notices, support websites and host discussion groups online.

We offer small grants, fiscal sponsorship to neighborhoods and their partner organizations and accounting for neighborhood associations.

We are custodians of public records—together with our elder volunteers we provide an historical memory of the communities we serve.

From June 2009 to July 2010, these offices:

- Distributed 1,588,104 individual print newsletters and e-newsletters.
- Provided leadership and related trainings to 914 individuals.
- Provided staff support at 1,327 neighborhood meetings.

From June 2008 to July 2009, these offices:

- Awarded 92 community grants totaling \$192,552.

