



CITY OF

---

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

---

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

**AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER**  
Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director  
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110  
Portland, Oregon 97204

---

*Promoting a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Portlanders working together and with government to build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities.*

---

## Memorandum

**To:** Office of Neighborhood Involvement Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC) Members  
Coalition Directors and Chairs  
Diversity and Civic Leadership Participants  
ONI Staff  
Neighborhood and Community Partners  
General Public

**From:** Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director  
Christina Albo, BAC Co-chair  
Michael Boyer, BAC Co-chair

**Date:** October 17, 2012

**Re:** Invitation to Participate in ONI's Budget Development for Fiscal Year 2013-14 (FY14) – Budget Orientation online, First meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm.

---

It is budgeting time again! The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) is starting our annual community process to review our programs and to develop our budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. We would like to take this opportunity to:

- Extend an invitation to our staff, community partners and the general public to participate in this very important process. Please attend our first budget meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, Portland Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Room C, 1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland OR 97201.
- Extend an invitation to anybody that may be interested to view our budget orientation presentation online. This is an opportunity to learn the basics of our budgeting process and what it means to participate.
- Provide information about how to get involved.
- Provide an overview of current budget challenges and opportunities;
- Outline the expectations of budget work group members; and
- Provide an overview of the budget meetings and timeline.

### **All are welcome to participate**

While our ONI Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC) will be at the core of this budgeting effort, we are looking to expand participation to include as many diverse stakeholders as possible to help inform our decisions. *Please consider this memo an invitation to join ONI's FY14 Budget Advisory Committee, and please forward it to any others you believe may be interested.* This is an important opportunity to serve your community and we need and welcome your involvement.

**Note that a general [budget orientation is available online](#).** Whether you know you want to participate or are not sure and want to learn more, this orientation is intended to give people a general overview of budgeting at the City and what it means to participate in ONI's budget process.

The first full budget kickoff meeting is on Monday November 19th from 5:30-8:30pm in The Portland Building Room C (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave).

All ONI BAC meetings are public meetings and anyone is welcomed to attend. However, if you want to go a step further and become an official working member of this Budget Advisory Committee please let Amy Archer, ONI Business Operations Supervisor know as soon as possible. This will help ensure we have materials available for you at the meetings and that you are on the list of participants for building access on late arrivals. Amy can be reached at [Amy.Archer@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Amy.Archer@portlandoregon.gov) or via phone at 503-823-2294.

**As the bureau supporting the City of Portland's neighborhood and community involvement system, ONI faces challenges and opportunities this year, particularly related to the budget.**

- The City continues to face a number of financial issues that impact the budget process, including recession, increased inflation and reduced revenues. In addition, some of ONI and other bureaus' programs have been intended as ongoing services but have been funded with "one-time" dollars. This created an expectation of a service or program without any directly associated source of funding.
- Although Council has committed to restoring ongoing funding to Graffiti and Mediation/Facilitation programs in FY14, the Neighborhood Small Grants funds were also shifted to one-time funding in prior years and are at risk of being eliminated.
- The bureaus have not yet received preliminary budget instructions from Council and the Office of Management and Finance (OMF), however ONI anticipates another year of budget cuts. The past several years bureaus faced 1% to 6% cuts.
- For the past several budgets ONI prioritized programs and reallocated funding to maintain programs that were most core to ONI's mission and community priorities.
- ONI's base budget for all programs is about \$7 million. ONI has already taken significant cuts over the past several years so there are no "easy cuts" to take in the remaining budget.
- The BAC will need to re-evaluate program priorities, determine how to effectively maintain critical programs, and determine program cuts.
- The ONI BAC makes decisions by a modified consensus model. All participants have the opportunity to ask questions, share information and contribute to the decisions.

**The following are the expectations of ONI Budget Advisory Committee members:**

- Must be committed to attending and participating in all or most meetings, which typically occur downtown in the Portland Building but may be located in the community as well. Parking vouchers can be provided for SmartPark locations or TriMet tickets can be supplied to committee members preferring to use public transportation. Food will be served when appropriate (budget permitting).

- Must be willing to communicate to ONI staff and partners what materials and information they need to best understand ONI's budget and to make the most informed decisions;
- Must be willing to go back to their constituency group (coalition, neighborhood, community-based organization, staff, contractor, etc.) and hold one or more focus group discussions as necessary to incorporate a broader point of view into ONI priorities, and;
- Must be willing and able to put the interests of their constituency group(s) in a larger context and first and foremost represent the best interests of neighborhoods and communities citywide.

### **Expected Timeline:**

- ONI Budget Orientation available online October 2012. This presentation can be viewed at your convenience prior to the budget kickoff and will provide an important overview for anybody considering participation. View the presentation at <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/budget> ;
- ONI Budget Advisory Committee kicks off on Monday November 19th, 2012 at 5:30pm.
- The City budget season goes from the kick-off date through the end of June of 2013. The bureau's requested budget is typically due at the end of January or beginning of February, therefore the most intensive meeting schedule is between November and January;
- The workgroup will generally meet on scheduled evenings from 5:30 – 8:30pm as well as additional dates to be identified by the group. **Meetings located at the Portland Building Room C (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave).** Following are the currently scheduled meetings:
  - Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm (Budget Kick-off)
  - Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm
  - Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm
  - Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm (tentative, if needed)
  - Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm
  - Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm
  - Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm
  - Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:30pm (tentative, if needed)
- **There may be additional meetings scheduled as needed, most likely between November and January.** These may be daytime or evening meetings as determined by the group and could possibly include half or full day budget retreats. This would be discussed by the group based on identified needs.
- Through this process participants will: gain understanding of ONI's programs and budget; review program prioritization; generate budget ideas that could result in cutting programs/services or shifting funds from one program to another; present ONI's final budget to the Commissioner-in-Charge (along with ONI staff); testify about the budget decisions before Council throughout the budget process, both at City Hall and at community budget forums.
- After the Requested Budget is submitted in February, the Bureau Advisory Committee will likely return to meeting on the second Monday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm from February through June 2013. However, there may be a need for additional budget focused meetings.

**Special Needs and Accommodations:**

- To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-2294, or the City's TTY at 503-823-6868, or the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 no less than five (5) business days prior to the event.
- If you are unable to view the online orientation, please contact Amy Archer to make alternative arrangements for budget orientation.
- Language Interpretation services available upon request. Please contact Amy Archer at 503-823-2294 or [Amy.Archer@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Amy.Archer@portlandoregon.gov) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting to make arrangements.
- Although resources do not allow us to provide childcare for the meetings, the meeting room is large enough that your child(ren) may be able to play quietly in the room under your supervision if necessary. ONI maintains a box of toys and books that we can bring to the meeting upon request. Please contact Amy Archer at 503-823-2294 or [Amy.Archer@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Amy.Archer@portlandoregon.gov) at least 2 hours prior to the meeting to make arrangements.