

**Bureau Advisory Committee
Office of Neighborhood Involvement
City of Portland**

General Information

Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI)

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) was established in 1974 (originally as the Office of Neighborhood Associations ONA). ONI works in partnership with many organizations including neighborhood associations, their district coalition offices, business associations, other city bureaus, community organizations, cultural organizations and the general public. Through these partners and ONI's programs, the City supports opportunities for Portlanders to interact with one another and with City government to help build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities.

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Mission Statement

Promote 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.

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Goals:

Community Involvement

- Increase the number and diversity of people who are involved and volunteer in their communities and neighborhoods.

Capacity Building

- Strengthen neighborhood and community capacity to build identity, skills, relationships and partnerships.

Public Impact

- Increase community and neighborhood impact on public decisions.

Livability and Safety

- Provide tools and resources to improve neighborhood and community livability and safety.

Services

- Provide accurate information and responsive and effective services to community members and organizations.

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Values:

PREAMBLE

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) works towards a future where the community is a full and equal decision-making partner in all aspects of the City of Portland. We serve our increasingly diverse community through promoting collective civic engagement for all people in Portland, with a commitment to transparency, compassion, and relationship building. We strive to recognize and repair the disparities that exclude and harm the people of Portland. We strive to be authentic, accessible and accountable within government and the community. The values put forth here are intended as a guide and foundation for all our work.

VALUES

- **Inclusion - No one gets left out**

- We are committed to equal participation and the continuous development of organized and meaningful inter-cultural relationships.
 - Our neighborhood system strives to fully engage residents of Portland from all cultural, social and economic walks of life.
 - We aspire to understand and honor the diversity of ways in which our communities communicate and participate, and ensure that our processes and opportunities reflect that understanding.
- **Shared Power and Governance**
 - We continuously strive to level the playing field for those that want to participate.
 - We seek the most effective ways to include and respond to the community and eliminate attitudes and behaviors that exclude or isolate community voices.
 - We work for equal access, equal opportunity, and equity in our work, in ways that are culturally-diverse, culturally-specific, and multicultural.
 - We incorporate the flexibility to adjust whenever necessary in order to eliminate barriers to genuine collaboration with community.
 - There is always room for those who want to participate.
- **Relationships - the cornerstone of our work**
 - The foundation of our work is a belief in effective, equitable and collaborative relationships with government and community partners.
 - We seek to maintain the highest community trust through accountability and transparency in our processes and decisions.
 - We value our community relationships and show it by being flexible and listening - ensuring timely, accurate and helpful responses to those who work with us or seek our services.
 - We approach our work with humility and the understanding that we learn together. We embrace and encourage youth input and involvement.
- **Social Sustainability – people are our most important resource**
 - We use an equity lens to make decisions collaboratively with community partners.
 - We strive to provide more choices for people who may have fewer choices.
 - We recognize that involving and connecting people with government and with each other results in the most sustainable efforts for the City.

ONI's mission, goals and values above were adopted April 12, 2010. For more detailed information about the Bureau and our programs, please visit the web site: www.portlandonline.com/oni.

ONI Programs

ONI's budget for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 (fiscal year 2012-13), is approximately \$7 million. A review of past and current budget documents can be located online at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/budget>

ONI Programs include:

- Community and Neighborhood Involvement Center (formerly Neighborhood Resource Center) – promotes civic engagement and leadership development through a diverse network of neighborhood and community based non-profits engaging geographically defined neighborhoods, communities of color, immigrants and refugees, seniors and people with disabilities. Subprograms: Disability Program, Diversity and Civic Leadership Program, Elders in Action, Neighborhood Program, Youth Commission, Public Involvement Best Practices Program.

- Crime Prevention Program – Provides problem solving, community organizing, education and events on issues of crime and public safety. Services provided to support prevention of crime and the fear of crime.
- Information and Referral Program – City/County Information and Referral line 503-823-4000 is a central source for basic information and referral to city and county programs, services and employees.
- Livability Programs – Provides problem solving tools, resources and technical assistance to impact livability and nuisance issues. Programs include liquor licensing, graffiti abatement, noise control and mediation and facilitation.
- Operations –Budget, Human Resources, Grants/Contracts and general administrative oversight of ONI.
- Coalition Offices – two of the seven coalition offices (North Portland and East Portland) are currently city-run offices.

Bureau Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Schedule:

On the second Monday of each month

5:30 – 7:00 PM City Hall (expands to 5:30-8:30pm and relocates to Portland Building during budget season November-February)

Steering Committee: Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Christina Albo, Amy Archer, Michael Boyer, Duncan Hwang, Victor Salinas, Jane Netboy, Therese McClain and Leslie Foren.

NOTE: Co-Chairs and Steering Committee membership list as of November 2013 for FY2014-15 budget development process. Leadership participation may change. Interested parties should contact co-chairs or Amalia Alarcón de Morris if interested in participating in this group that assists with agenda setting and meeting planning.

General: See List for Current BAC Membership/Participation.

Parking: Validation at Smart Park locations, Bus tickets available for public transportation

Food: Currently provided at regular meetings, provided at subcommittee meetings when appropriate. Food availability contingent upon budget availability.

Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC) General Information:

The BAC is committed to providing a “highest and best-use” venue for the volunteer hours our membership contributes to the organization. BAC membership/participation is open to any stakeholders that are interested in participating in evaluation and decision making about ONI’s programs, policies, practices, priorities and budget. Current participation includes ONI management and staff; Coalition staff and board representatives; neighborhood representatives; diversity and civic leadership participants, staff and representatives; community partners, and general community members. The BAC meetings are open to the public and typically have attendance of 20-60 participants.

For the last few budget years a larger, more inclusive group of stakeholders has been convened by the ONI Director to work on developing the budget. During budget season the group meets more frequently and schedules subcommittee meetings as needed. The group meets approximately twice a month from November through February.

Structure and Decision-Making

Co-Chairs are nominated/elected for one year terms and serve to facilitate the BAC meetings. The co-chairs also convene a Steering Committee that meets prior to the full BAC meetings to confirm agenda and strategize about process.

The BAC uses a form of modified consensus for decision-making. All persons that attend a BAC meeting are eligible to participate fully in decision making including giving input, showing support and/or raising concerns. Issues that require additional work beyond the BAC discussions may be referred to a subcommittee. Subcommittees meet outside of the regular BAC meeting and typically develop recommendations for consideration by the full BAC. Particularly during the budget process, voting may be used to rank priorities and make decisions, often utilizing straw-polls before a more formal consensus is determined.

Current roles and goals

Following are the current BAC roles and responsibilities underpinning our work. It is the goal of the BAC that the committee will work creatively and productively to the benefit of both ONI and the underlying constituencies we all serve.

BAC Goal

- To increase community involvement in the management of the City's resources.
- To gain an understanding of ONI and the relationship between ONI and the needs of the individuals and organizations who access its services. Also to gain understanding of the other city bureaus – most importantly where those bureaus' needs and opportunities intersect with ONI.
- To provide recommendations to ONI regarding goals, priorities, policies and budgets.

BAC Role

- To recommend policy direction for ONI and the city council by:
 - identifying and discussing ONI policies, as well as citywide issues;
 - identifying and discussing activities and projects in which ONI is involved;
 - review of current service levels to determine if they should be continued or changed, including the allocation of limited resources and program cuts.
- To contribute to the presentation of a budget that is responsive to community needs by:
 - identifying ONI's goals and objectives and prioritizing budget items that need funding;
 - obtaining community input about budget and policy items through review of community surveys and meetings;
 - reviewing the current budget to determine if expenses and income levels are over or under the budgeted amounts.
- To increase community access to the budget process by:
 - increasing community participation in the management of city resources;
 - providing a strong communication link between the community and elected officials and their staffs.