

Full Name	Nominee's Bureau/Office	Describe how the nominee stands out as a role model, mentor or generally exceptional City employee.	Nominator Name	Joint Nominatio n Names	Nominator Bureau/Office
Barbara Hart	Bureau of Parks & Recreation	<p>Mentor. Collaborator. Peacemaker. Feminist. Friend. A relentless champion for social justice and peacemaking, Barbara Hart's service to the City of Portland – her talents and passions – will inspire us as long as we hold her memory. From 1998-2000, Barbara directed the City-funded Neighborhood Mediation Center, where she led a team of staff and volunteers in mediating contentious disputes, grounded in her belief in the ability to resolve issues through compassion and understanding. At the Planning Bureau (2000-06), Barbara was the Community Affairs Manager for River Renaissance – a collaboration initiative to celebrate the Willamette River. Whether wrangling project partners or taking children on boat tours, Barbara channeled her passion for the river and applied her talents to inspire hundreds of others to do more to heal and celebrate the river. Barbara brought her tenacity, intelligence, compassion, calmness, and strong listening skills to her work at Portland Parks & Recreation (2007-09, 2017-21). She generously shared her expertise and encouragement with others. Barbara left her mark on countless parks including Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Luuwit View, and the South Park Blocks. Her dedication to equity and social justice can be tangibly traced through the voices she brought forward in those efforts, particularly those who were historically left behind. We can do better was Barbara's unofficial motto. This sometimes sparked Barbara's fiery, feminism, whether robustly educating her colleagues about sexist news coverage of women's sports or reminding staff not to use signage that read Men at Work. During COVID lockdowns and amidst the renewed calls for racial justice, Barbara envisioned and helped create a space for the work she was most passionate about. With Lorraine Wilson and Touk Keo, she cohosted Community Engagement and Equity Forums for City staff. During these popular events, practitioners shared their struggles and aspirations to support, inspire, and reenergize their efforts to meaningfully engage communities of color, immigrant communities, and other underrepresented Portlanders in collective decision making. This spoke to who Barbara was, taking every opportunity to ensure that those most impacted are centered in their engagement with bureaucracy. Barbara's influence on peacemaking started as a student activist, continued through her leadership with mediation associations, and in the 2010s she earned a PhD at Trinity College at Belfast, bringing to light the transforming (and overlooked) power of women's leadership in peacemaking and the Irish Troubles. Fiercely kind and kindly fierce. Portland is a better city because of who Barbara was and what she did. Although her body has passed, she is not gone. We continue to be inspired, guided, and comforted in asking ourselves, What would Barbara do?</p>	Marie Walkiewicz	Maija Spencer, PP&R Ken Rumbaugh, PP&R Judith Mowry, OEHR Lorraine Wilson, former City of Portland employee Elizabeth Kennedy Wong, former PP&R employee	Bureau of Parks & Recreation
Deborah "Ms. Debbie" Harris	Bureau of Parks & Recreation	<p>Ms. Debbie Harris as everyone call her is not only a fabulous park employee, but more amazing human being as she is loved by all whom work has with her, as well as the numerous participating patrons of the Peninsula Park community area she has served for many years. In her long career with Park & Recreation (I don't know how many years for sure) Ms. Debbie has mentored and inspired so many, teaching and motivating young people with a smile and warm heart, always given her all to her community.....NEP from Irving Park, Matt Dishman to Peninsula Park she has been the center piece to family fun and backbone to Park and Recreation on how to serve our community!! A religious faithful servant, never ever heard her say no and always prideful in her work environment. Not only have I had the opportunity to have worked by her side during the pandemic, I was a young child that was taught gimp by Ms. Debbie when she was a high school teenager working summers at Irving and Unthank Park. Yes she was inspirational to me early on as well in my life decisions and options.</p>	Tyler West Sr.		Bureau of Parks & Recreation

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Deborah "Ms. Debbie" Harris	Bureau of Parks & Recreation	Deborah Harris, lovingly known to all of Portland Parks & Recreation as Ms. Debbie, started her career in public service back in 1978 and she continued to serve the people of our city with her whole heart for 44 years, during much of which, her contributions went un-noticed. Her soft voice and big heart gave much needed support to all those lucky enough to work near her as co-worker, supervisor, employee or member of the community in which she served. When you felt low, or invisible, a short conversation with Ms Debbie brought you back to light. Every conversation ended with her acknowledging you - "I'm proud of you", "I appreciate you" and most often of all "I love you", and you knew she meant it. Her sincere love for all people made her capable of great things. Co-workers talk of how in the 1990's Ms Debbie was able to convert a group of young men who showed up to a park with guns visibly displayed in their waist-bands from gang-affiliated youth into volunteers who served lunches to younger kids and were the first on the field for a kickball game with no weapons for entire rest of the summer. Her warmth radiated in the eyes of program participants when she managed to stretch a \$500 event budget into thousands of dollars' worth of Halloween candy through her skillful soliciting of donations from business owners around the community. While the bureau around her changed from a social service model to a business model, Ms. Debbie held firm that the care of the people, especially the children, was first priority – sometimes to the dismay of a supervisor or manager, but always for the good of the people she served. On March 18, 2022 Ms Debbie left this world unexpectedly. If ever there was a Wonder Woman in our great city, it was Ms Debbie Harris. Her light was brighter than she ever knew. And this award in her honor, would help us all express how much we appreciated our time with her, how proud of her we all are for all the lives she touched, and how much she is loved and will continue to be in every corner of our bureau, and every corner of her life.		Karen Birt and Jennie Birt	Bureau of Parks & Recreation
Teresa Solano	Office of Management & Finance	Teresa was kind, generous and empathetic towards others pain, I only wish she was able to extend that kind of empathy toward herself. I always appreciated her humor especially on the harder days. She loved to feed and care for people, she was always up for a gathering. She loved being with people and she never missed an opportunity to tell others how much they meant to her. Her family and friends were always her number one. She always extended so much kindness to my children, Kateri and Ben. They were always so excited to see her when they came to pick me up when we were still working at the HUB! They were especially happy when on several occasions she would give them McDonalds gift certificates, It was especially exciting because we hardly ever are willing to take them to McDonalds, but if Teresa gave them a gift card they knew we would 😊 I will always miss Teresa as a work colleague and friend. The City and 311 has lost a special person.	Christina Wienholz		Office of Management & Finance
Teresa Solano	Office of Management & Finance	Teresa brought so much love and laughter to our workplace which we already miss. She was an amazing public servant and served the City of Portland as a customer service professional for 18 years. She really loved to help people and showed great compassion to community members contacting our Information and Referral/311 Program over those years of service. I often say that we can teach new employees all the intricacies of how local government functions and how to help people navigate the bureaucracy but we can't teach them to care and be compassionate. Teresa was a perfect example of someone who's nature was to care and love all she came in contact with. Our callers aren't always easy to love but I on many occasions heard her express her unconditional love and acceptance to community members going through challenging times. I've heard from many employees that said they so appreciated how Teresa would welcome them with a smile at the front desk or the smile in her voice when she answered the phone. She was nurturing by nature and wanted to help everyone. In addition to her desire to help, she also brought to our team a fun-loving and often silly spirit that was infectious and made everyone feel welcomed and loved. She never hesitated to express this through her words, deeds and often song! I particularly was fond of how she would sing songs that I knew the tune but not the words, at least not Teresa's words 😊 I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Teresa for 18 years and she was truly one of the most delightful people I've known. She really was selfless and generous. She often brought me treats – Egg McMuffins in the morning, candies and other treats that I had never before seen. When my kids were small and would come into the office in City Hall to visit she was always rummaging her drawers to find a treat or a trinket that she could bestow upon them. I have many memories of my times with Teresa both at work and outside of the office. She loved the office social gatherings and had been asking me when we could go bowling again and I assured her we would as soon as the pandemic subsided. So in her honor, on April 15th, her birthday, we will have an annual bowling party to celebrate Teresa. Teresa is missed and will be missed, but I take solace in knowing she has found peace. Life is challenging and I know Teresa experienced a lot of tough times but she was a warrior and fought hard for the people she loved and that was many – her family, her friends, the communities she served and her work family as well.	John Dutt		Office of Management & Finance