



Dear Portlander,

Our vision is that Portland is prosperous, healthy, equitable, and resilient. We believe that all Portlanders must share in these positive outcomes and help shape the decisions that affect their lives. We also realize this vision is far from the current lived experience of communities of color in Portland. To achieve this vision, we must define and advance equitable outcomes, dismantle institutional racism, and correct past harms.

As we seek to create a more inclusive city and address long-standing disparities, we need to understand our history and how past City decisions have created the inequitable landscape and opportunities that is Portland today. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) recognizes that we must lead with racial equity to ensure that all residents participate in and benefit from new growth and wealth in all forms. We also understand this will require the whole City to confront the historical, structural, and institutional racism that has created deep racial inequities that continue to harm Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other communities of color. A historical review of harm and disparities caused by the City's zoning and land-use policies is one more step in that reckoning.

Especially for BPS, it is important to understand how past decisions on zoning and land use patterns have contributed to market-driven displacement and exclusionary neighborhood patterns with significant and deleterious consequences for communities of color. [This research paper](#), the Historical Context of Racist Planning in Portland, documents past zoning decisions that predominantly favored affluent, white owners of single-family homes and that marginalized many Portlanders.

Looking forward, as outlined in [our BPS Strategic Plan](#), we will advance plans, programs, and investments that will help Portlanders now, and for future generations, based on the following principles:

- We will establish equitable outcomes to eliminate racial disparities in all our work.
- We will identify who benefits and who may be harmed by our decisions.
- We will take risks and use new approaches, tools and technologies.
- We will create new partnerships and leverage resources to invest in under-represented and under-served communities.
- We will rely on science, quality research and facts as we develop solutions.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is committed to providing meaningful access. For accommodations, modifications, translation, interpretation or other services, please contact at 503-823-7700 or use City TTY 503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service 711.

Traducción o interpretación	Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch	翻译或传译	Письменный или устный перевод	Traducere sau Interpretare
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We will listen to all Portlanders and rely on the wisdom of the entire community. And most importantly, we seek new decision-making and planning processes that go beyond simply informing communities to truly address the challenges we face through collaboration and co-creation.

We look forward to the dialogue that results from this research and how it informs and shapes the City's decision-making in the future.



Andrea Durbin  
Director

