The City of Portland is nationally recognized for its long tradition of community participation and citizen activism. In 1974, the Office of Neighborhood Associations (ONA) was designated as the vehicle for communication between City Hall and the citizens of Portland. Over 90 neighborhood associations involve hundreds of citizens in public decision-making activities. These hard-working volunteers are the heartbeat and the conscience of Portland.
NEIGHBORHOODS:

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE . . .

- Monitor and appeal land use decisions affecting neighborhood livability.
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch to make your neighborhood a safer place to live.
- Create new parks in your community.
- Improve neighborhood traffic patterns.
- Work with schools, community groups, churches and synagogues to confront social concerns in your area.
- Organize block parties, neighborhood fairs or community fundraisers.
- Create historic districts or preserve historical landmarks.
- Promote local business districts.

Portlanders have already contributed to their neighborhoods in these and many other ways. The history of these past accomplishments proves that citizen participation MAKES a difference. So can YOU.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS . . .

The OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (ONA) is a City bureau, funded by general fund dollars. It promotes citizen participation and communication among the neighborhoods throughout the city.

DISTRICT OFFICES provide direct support and services to the numerous neighborhood associations located within its borders. Each of the seven offices is staffed with a coordinator, crime prevention specialist and other support staff who assist citizens with information and resources.

A NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION BOARD supervises each office and contracts with ONA for funding. Representatives from local neighborhood associations are elected to each board. Like the independent neighborhood associations, each board and local office determines its own procedures and standards for operation.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS are the heart of all neighborhood activities. A legal entity, each association is governed by citizen-written bylaws that determine boundaries, the election and function of officers, and the frequency of meetings. Every association reflects the issues and needs of its members.

However, it is the dedication of many hardworking and caring INDIVIDUALS that gives life to the success of citizen participation throughout the city.

Where The Spirit of Portland Comes Alive!

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE services to neighborhood associations and individuals include information and referral, training programs, organizational development, media relations, and liaison activities with other city bureaus and community groups. ONA also provides ongoing program information and consultation to other cities and agencies, both nationally and internationally.

BUREAU ADVISORY COMMITTEES (BACs) place citizens and the City bureaus in a partnership throughout the City's budgetary process. Through ONA, interested residents apply for appointments to advisory committees and are selected by members of the City Council. Over a thousand dedicated citizens have assisted City officials in creating fiscal and program policies that are responsive to the needs of all Portland citizens.

CITY REFUGEE COORDINATOR works to build understanding between the refugee and American community, particularly in the area of public safety.

The PORTLAND/MULTNOMAH COMMISSION ON AGING advocates for services for the elderly and disabled in our community. The volunteer members work on transportation and health issues, and on developing resources to meet the needs of aging citizens.

The Future of Portland is in the Hands of Her Citizens Today.