



## History of Portland Youth & Elders Council

The Youth and Elders Council began as part of a regional effort to reduce poverty in urban Indian communities. The Council works to energize local communities to join in a “community of interest” of off-reservation tribal peoples. Together this community of interest used community-based research and inclusive community input to develop greater community ties and improve the quality of life for Native Americans in urban areas.

Through the practice of traditional values, the Youth and Elders Council continues to address poverty and other community issues by focusing on community solutions to housing, employment, education, health, and racism while building on community strengths.

### Research and Planning

In 2004, the Youth and Elders Council hired four young adults from the local Native community to conduct a community-based research project. The overwhelming success of this project demanded that this process continue into the future as a tool for gaging community strengths and barriers. This research employed young adults to build the skills of the next generation of leadership while informing the current one. A Native American consultant led the project and helped to insure that community information stayed confidential and was used by the community for the community.

The research, as well as community meetings and forums helped the community of interest to develop a Strategic Plan for Poverty Reduction. This plan is helping to usher in a new era of thriving Native American communities in Northwest urban centers.



NAYA Family Center  
5135 NE Columbia Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97218  
(503) 288-8177  
[www.nayapdx.org](http://www.nayapdx.org)

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# Meeting together to shape our own future.

**Join us for our  
monthly  
meetings.**

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# WHAT IS THE PORTLAND YOUTH AND ELDERS COUNCIL?

# Community

The Portland Youth and Elders Council is our children, youth, families, elders, veterans, two-spirit community, teachers, artists, musicians, entrepreneurs, and elected officials meeting together to shape our own future.



## Our Mission:

...Strengthening the quality of life for the Portland American Indian and Alaskan Native community by encouraging local leadership, and the practice of culture, values, and traditions.



## Our Purpose:

- **Unity:** Bringing Native American community, families, and organizations together;
- **Cross-generational conversation:** Strengthening ties between youth, adults, and Elders.
- **Advocacy:** Making Native American issues a priority in our community.



## Our Primary Function:

- Educate
- Organize
- Prioritize issues
- Plan for action
- Advocate



## Our Values:

1. Respect
2. Balance
3. Pride
4. Giving
5. Community
6. Tradition
7. Kindness
8. Accountability
9. Diversity
10. Leadership



## Our Priorities:

- Housing
- Employment
- Community Development
- Civic Engagement
- Community Center

