

# APANO, Latino Network, African Coalition and Slavic Coalition discussion

**Citywide Public Involvement Standards Taskforce  
June 11, 2003 Constituency meeting notes**

**Facilitator:** Amalia Alarcon-Gaddie

**Attendees:** Linda Kue, Hmong; Amy Hwang, Korean; Nathan Thuan Nguyen, Vietnamese/APANO; Don MacGillivray, Buckman Community Association & Southeast Uplift; Maria Lisa Johnson, Latino Network; Teresa Rios, MCHD-Community Capacitation Center; Rey Espana, Latino Network; Volodymyr Golovan, Slavic Coalition; Rebecca Black, Tapestry Project; Noel Wiggins, Community Capacitation Center; Pavai Yuzko, Slavic Coalition; Raquel Bourahonesque, Immigrant Refugee Community Organization/Tapestry Project; Dapo Soboheim, African Coalition; Emile Combe; Latino Coalition; Anne Valsamakis, Slavic Coalition

**Hosts:** Asian-Pacific American Network of Oregon  
Latino Network  
African Coalition  
Immigrant Refugee Coalition of Oregon  
Slavic Coalition

## What factors would make it easier for you to participate in a public involvement process?

Factors identified include:

- Native language presentation and dialog
- Time of the event-evenings and or weekends
- Meetings are organized Clear understanding for the purpose of the public involvement (PI) process. How will the community understand it's stake and impact re the PI process?
- Is the opinion (participation) valued by the city. What will you do with the information?
- The PI process was a proactive rather than a reactive process. The City (e.g. organization, structure and or authority) should value the participation of communities as an extension of representative government.
- Issues that are interesting.
- Knowing decision has not already been made, change is possible.
- Social setting, chance to build community.
- Children present, childcare available.
- Place where community already is, utilize existing gathering places.
- Time and location.
- Limited transportation options.

- Depends on issue, how it relates to needs of community.
- If language and culture are taken into account.
- Providing adequate resources to fund culturally specific communities to do community involvement.
- Defining qualifications for public involvement contracting opportunities so our community organizations can receive funding. Threshold is too high for small community groups to meet existing contracting requirements.
- Being honest about how will results of participation be used by government agency; what benefit will community receive from the participation.
- Understanding of the history of involvement of a specific community in previous involvement efforts.
- Be clear upfront about parameters for decision-making.
- Recognize minority stakeholders need to have a stake in project, city needs to tell people how it affects them, what's the hook.
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### **What methods of receiving info work for you (e.g. your community)?**

Methods identified included:

- City organize small group meetings for community members to learn/study the relevant issue(s)
- Use established personal relationships and lines of communications (word of mouth) to promote event (meeting)
- Use multimedia approaches graphs, pictures and or charts, limit the length of written texts...keep it simple for easy understanding.
- Use popular education approaches including "socio-drama's" to illustrate impact of PI process.
- Word of mouth, personal contact
- Spend time on ongoing relationships.
- Outreach that involves community.
- Latino radio.
- Government workers developing personal relationships with community leaders, meet with community leaders.
- Know key community leaders and ask them to assist with distributing information.
- Use popular education methods and use County Capacitation Center to train staff in using these techniques.
- Churches are a significant vehicle for engaging the Slavic community. Talk to pastors. Have meetings at churches. Slavic newspapers are distributed through churches.
- Use Slavic/Russian stores as locations to distribute information and poster fliers.
- Utilize small group meetings.
- Utilize graphics and pictures vs. words.

- Use theater to convey messages and complex issues.

## **What kinds of activities and processes for public involvement do you think the taskforce needs to create standards for?**

Create standard(s) for:

- Policy intent for public involvement, including resources to support PI activities
- City staff competencies; staff should be able to receive training and staff development to acquire and or improve skills, knowledge and abilities to implement PI.
- Culturally competent PI, including role of culturally specific organization to support PI.
- Awareness of change in city demographics that drive use of different approaches for culturally competent outreach and PI.
- Community education, provide financial support to build the civic capacity (e.g. social capital) of cultural and non-English and limited English speaking communities to effectively participate in processes,
- Develop standard for contracting with culturally specific communities to qualify and conduct PI.
- Staff having a basic knowledge of community.
- To be flexible in outreaching.
- Identify the communities that may have a stake.
- Involve communities from the beginning.
- Provide resources to the community.
- Be honest how the information will impact communities.
- Contact leaders of communities.
- Citizen involvement funding requirements should be defined to allow our community to receive funding. Eliminate barriers.
- Culturally specific staff hired by City bureaus in collaboration with culturally specific community leaders involved in hiring process.
- Define culturally specific methods for:
  - Outreach
  - Running Meetings
  - Recording input
  - Getting feedback on input
- City would contract with representatives from culturally specific communities to help City staff develop effective community involvement approaches.
- Culturally specific training would be provided to government agencies to learn what works in culturally specific communities.

## **Large group Brainstorm notes on**

### **What does public involvement mean to you, questions, concerns and ideas**

- ❑ Present things in a way people can understand and relate to.
- ❑ Happens in advance, early notice.
- ❑ Time and place of meetings is important.
- ❑ Presenter must understand and have trust of the community.
- ❑ Topic needs to be relevant and important.
- ❑ Understanding language/cultural norms important.
- ❑ Identify community leaders early on.
- ❑ Ensure that decision wasn't already made.
- ❑ Involvement at earliest possible time in process.
- ❑ Comfortable meeting place.
- ❑ Provide Child care.
- ❑ Provide transportation.
- ❑ Provide food.
- ❑ Find out if participation from community is really wanted.
- ❑ Is there a willingness to shift how participation is done on the part of the city?
- ❑ Make issue understandable to lay people and keep presentation brief.
- ❑ Does the city have a history of taking action/responding to feedback?
- ❑ Use culturally specific outreach approaches.
- ❑ Availability of resources to support culturally-specific communities to do that work.
- ❑ Ideally, everyone would agree with result at the end of the process.
- ❑ No "one size fits all" process – Need flexibility in timeliness/process.
- ❑ Tokenism – make sure everyone involved/invited is a full participation member.
- ❑ Make process timeline fit participation effort. Not too short – not too drawn out.
- ❑ Allow time for work that has to happen to legitimate the process. Time to bring community along on issue and build city credibility.
- ❑ Know best methods to outreach to the community.
- ❑ Allow participants to be proactive vs. reactive – flexibility.
- ❑ Recognizing the diversity within specific communities.
- ❑ Clarity i.e. parameters/boundaries of decision. Don't make it appear that there's more room for input than there is.
- ❑ Expectation from the city that public involvement will be done – outreach staff must find "hook" for community.