

Bureau Advisory Committee Office of Neighborhood Involvement City of Portland

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Mission Statement

Promote a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Portlanders working together and with government to build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities.

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Goals:

Community Involvement

- Increase the number and diversity of people who are involved and volunteer in their communities and neighborhoods.

Capacity Building

- Strengthen neighborhood and community capacity to build identity, skills, relationships and partnerships.

Public Impact

- Increase community and neighborhood impact on public decisions.

Livability and Safety

- Provide tools and resources to improve neighborhood and community livability and safety.

Services

- Provide accurate information and responsive and effective services to community members and organizations.

Office of Neighborhood Involvement Values:

PREAMBLE

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) works towards a future where the community is a full and equal decision-making partner in all aspects of the City of Portland. We serve our increasingly diverse community through promoting collective civic engagement for all people in Portland, with a commitment to transparency, compassion, and relationship building. We strive to recognize and repair the disparities that exclude and harm the people of Portland. We strive to be authentic, accessible and accountable within government and the community. The values put forth here are intended as a guide and foundation for all our work.

VALUES

- **Inclusion - No one gets left out**
 - We are committed to equal participation and the continuous development of organized and meaningful inter-cultural relationships.
 - Our neighborhood system strives to fully engage residents of Portland from all cultural, social and economic walks of life.
 - We aspire to understand and honor the diversity of ways in which our communities communicate and participate, and ensure that our processes and opportunities reflect that understanding.
- **Shared Power and Governance**
 - We continuously strive to level the playing field for those that want to participate.

- We seek the most effective ways to include and respond to the community and eliminate attitudes and behaviors that exclude or isolate community voices.
 - We work for equal access, equal opportunity, and equity in our work, in ways that are culturally-diverse, culturally-specific, and multicultural.
 - We incorporate the flexibility to adjust whenever necessary in order to eliminate barriers to genuine collaboration with community.
 - There is always room for those who want to participate.
- **Relationships - the cornerstone of our work**
 - The foundation of our work is a belief in effective, equitable and collaborative relationships with government and community partners.
 - We seek to maintain the highest community trust through accountability and transparency in our processes and decisions.
 - We value our community relationships and show it by being flexible and listening - ensuring timely, accurate and helpful responses to those who work with us or seek our services.
 - We approach our work with humility and the understanding that we learn together. We embrace and encourage youth input and involvement.
- **Social Sustainability – people are our most important resource**
 - We use an equity lens to make decisions collaboratively with community partners.
 - We strive to provide more choices for people who may have fewer choices.
 - We recognize that involving and connecting people with government and with each other results in the most sustainable efforts for the City.

ONI's mission, goals and values above were adopted April 12, 2010. For more detailed information about the Bureau and our programs, please visit the web site: www.portlandonline.com/oni.

BAC Goal

- To increase community involvement in the management of the City's resources.
- To gain an understanding of ONI and the relationship between ONI and the needs of the individuals and organizations who access its services. Also to gain understanding of the other city bureaus – most importantly where those bureaus' needs and opportunities intersect with ONI.
- To provide recommendations to ONI regarding goals, priorities, policies and budgets.

BAC Role

- To recommend policy direction for ONI and the city council by:
 - identifying and discussing ONI policies, as well as citywide issues;
 - identifying and discussing activities and projects in which ONI is involved;
 - review of current service levels to determine if they should be continued or changed, including the allocation of limited resources and program cuts.
- To contribute to the presentation of a budget that is responsive to community needs by:
 - identifying ONI's goals and objectives and prioritizing budget items that need funding;
 - obtaining community input about budget and policy items through review of community surveys and meetings;
 - reviewing the current budget to determine if expenses and income levels are over or under the budgeted amounts.
- To increase community access to the budget process by:
 - increasing community participation in the management of city resources;
 - providing a strong communication link between the community and elected officials and their staffs.