

Diversity and Civic Leadership Program

Year-end performance summary

FY 2007-08

July 2007 through June 2008

Organization: Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO)

NOTE: This is from DCL Leadership Academy with Latino Network and Oregon Action. CIO was still using older reporting form so some categories NA.

GOAL: Community Involvement, Increase the number and diversity of people who are involved and volunteer in their communities and neighborhoods.

1. Examples of developing culturally appropriate strategies to bring constituency together to build community identity, understanding of existing City governance structures, and/or skills to analyze City power dynamics.
 - **City budget process** – PILOT participant Theresa Lugano, refugee Democratic Republic of Congo, testified before Council to support DCL budget. Later five PILOT participants advocated for their communities at City budget forums.
 - **Beyond War: Immigrant and Refugee Voices for Peace** – Panel presentation organized by CIO. PILOT participant Waddah Sofan spoke.
 - **PSU Conflict Resolution program** – PILOT participant Waddah Sofan, Palestinian refugee, decided to enter PSU program as a result of PILOT.
 - **Vision Into Action Coalition, Steering Committee, and Transition Team** – Taking community vision developed by Vision PDX and turning it into action. PILOT participants Rolia Monyongia-Jones (Liberia) and Daniel Amine (Ethiopia) met with Commissioner Saltzman and Mayor Potter. Lisa Reed Guarnero and Murad Nuryagdiev helped develop grant program, evaluated 50 applications.
 - **Executive Directors of Color Network** – Collaborating with Oregon Action director to join a socializing and relationship building event.
 - **Education campaign about anti-immigration efforts** – Active in efforts to educate how two initiatives would target immigrant and refugee communities by cutting ESL funding, limiting access to civic participation, and allowing state/local cooperation and resources for immigrant enforcement. If passed the measures would heighten fear and division for many Portland communities. PILOT participants organized community forum, 130 attended. 25 co-sponsor organizations. CIO active in Immigrant and Refugee Coalition organized in opposition.
 - **Statewide grassroots immigrant and refugee table** – CIO leader took part in statewide coalition of 240 immigrant and refugee-led organizations and leaders who meet monthly to strategize and organizer around immigrant/refugee issues, especially initiative petitions #112 and #19. Leaders receiving training on

organizing skills, running public education workshops, messaging in the media, meeting facilitation, nonpartisan voter registration/education, public speaking.

- **Oregon Action board of directors** – CIO director Kayse Jama serving as vice-chair of Oregon Action’s statewide board.
- **Cultural awareness training** – To bring more understanding of both African and Latino communities in Portland. Organized by PILOT participant Lul Abdulle, refugee from Somalia and director of Somali Women’s Association, with SEUL.
- **Spirit of Portland award** – CIO leader, Lul Abdulle, won award for her work to provide cultural awareness trainings to neighborhood associations and creating opportunities for Somali and Latino families to interact with neighbors.
- **CIO board development and staff development** – PILOT participants have joined CIO’s board, Waddah Sofan and Alicia Lopez. Later Murad Nuryagdiev (Turkmenistan) and Lisa Reed Guarnero (Korea) joined CIO staff.
- **Immigrant and Refugee Task Force report** – CIO is developing report outlining policy recommendations for State and local elected officials to consider. PILOT participants organized turnout for City Council hearing on report at Jefferson High School. Two PILOT participants testified for first time before Council to adopt report. Council adopted report and created Office of Human Relations.
- **National Immigrant and Refugee Rights Conference** – PILOT participant attended national conference as CIO representative. Reported back with PILOT.
- **Multicultural community center** – PILOT participants, Murad Nuryagdiev, Theresa Lugano, Rolia Manyongai, and Lul Abdulle representing CIO with Vision into Action’s Community Gathering Center Leadership Group. Goal is to create a space for cross cultural collaboration, community organizing, and leadership development.
- **Oregon Voices Community Dialogue Project** – CIO member Yonas Buraka (Oromo from Ethiopia) helping organize effort to debunk common immigration myths and build a deeper understanding of the issues. Using interactive exercises and group conversation, participants examine their families’ immigrant story, the roots of migration and the implications of current policies in our communities. Participants gain tools and support to host a future dialogue with family and friends.
- **Southeast Uplift** – CIO staff met with SEUL director to discuss future collaborations between neighborhood associations and immigrants/refugees.
- **Western States Center’s VOTE Project** – PILOT participant represents CIO in regional civic engagement technical assistance program. Lisa Reed Guarnero (Korea) helps organize organizing and base building activities for CIO.
- **Progressive Technology Project conference** – PILOT participant Waddah Sofan (Palestine) attended conference supporting social change community-led organizing in low income and communities of color.
- **Congolese Community of Oregon** – PILOT participant Theresa Lugano became president of this group, contributing success to PILOT program.
- **Mayoral candidates forum** – PILOT participants organized and collaborated with APANO, developed questions, organized turnout, conducted the event. 50 attended. SEE LESSONS LEARNED, QUESTION 10.

- **Portland Plan, Public Engagement Advisory Team (PEAT) – PILOT** participant Lisa Reed Guarnero helped develop community engagement strategy.

2. Have you convened any gatherings/meetings or events to accomplish this goal/program function? If so, how many gatherings/meetings? Attendance?

GOAL: Capacity Building, Strengthen neighborhood and community capacity to build identity, skills, relationships and partnerships.

Communications

3. Describe the methods of communication currently used to outreach to your group. Note – CIO has done a lot of social media and message development but the old reporting format did not ask for details on this subject.
4. How many people are receiving these communications on a regular basis?
5. Describe one example of how one of these communication strategies is supporting your community building and livability efforts, fostering dialogue on policy issues, or publicizing opportunities for involvement with the City?
6. Are there plans to develop/implement any new communications strategies?

Leadership development

7. As a result of this project describe one method to develop leadership opportunities for your constituents to become effective advocates on City public involvement initiatives and/or initiatives by your organization to achieve economic and social equity? How many people have participated?
 - **PILOT** – Year-long series of multiple 2-3 day/weekend retreats with about two dozen immigrant and refugee community leaders representing numerous mutual assistance organizations and individuals active with CIO. Outcome is PILOT participants are increasing participation in CIO, community issues, and overall civic life of Portland. Participants self-select community projects to work on. Training calendar and overview of July 2007 convening included in performance report file.
 - **Quotes:** “Within my own community it has taken me a long time. I have become strong and patient and now I see it is time to work with other communities and learn from them.” There are several more quotes in Sept. – Dec. 07 report.
 - **Community Based Leadership** – Basic principles of community-based leadership, difference between community-based vs. solo/self-selected leadership.

- **Organizing terminology** – Basic organizing terms to build a shared vocabulary in PILOT and their community organizing work. How to articulate collectively about their community issues within a multi-ethnic movement building context.
- **Cultural awareness training** – To bring more understanding of both African and Latino communities in Portland. Organized by PILOT participant Lul Abdulle, refugee from Somalia and director of Somali Women’s Association, with SEUL.
- **Government 101: How City Government Works** – To increase participants’ knowledge on City of Portland’s government structure and how decisions are made and the role residents can play during deliberative democratic process.
- **Review/discuss policy recommendations** – Group collectively reviewed and discussed ONI’s Community Connect and CIO’s draft Immigrant and Refugee Task Force report and possible advocacy efforts.
- **What’s Happening Today** – Take newly learned tools and apply them to our everyday lives as well as critical issues that our community is facing.
- **Non-partisan electoral organizing** – advocacy during election cycles allowed by 501-c-3 nonprofits.
- **Leadership assessment**
- **Holistic social justice movement building**
- **City Hall Exposed** – How city government works, such as the public budgeting process, how City Council governs, branches of city government and how immigrant and refugee leaders can participate in public life.
- **City Hall 201** – More details about how city hall works, how many bureaus exist, what commissioner is responsible for each, how City budget is developed, how power works in City hall, how to testify at public hearings/Council meetings where they prepared real live skits and presented in front of a mock City Council meeting.
- **Women’s Leadership in Immigrant and Refugee Communities** – Leadership challenges that immigrant and refugee women face both within their own community and within larger society, how to make space for women to support their leadership. Theresa Lugano became president of Congoloese Community of Oregon.
- **Global Movement Building**
- **Public Speaking**
- **How to Plan a Candidates Forum** – As a result of workshop several PILOT participants organized Mayoral Candidates Forum as final project.
- **Statewide grassroots immigrant and refugee coalition/table** – Coalition of 240 immigrant and refugee organizations. Leaders receiving training on organizing skills, running public education workshops, messaging in the media, meeting facilitation, nonpartisan voter registration/education, public speaking.

Partnerships and Collaborations

8. Describe a new or update on a collaboration or partnership developed as a result of this project with other community organization(s), neighborhood and/or business association(s) where there may be opportunities to work on common community and neighborhood livability issues?

- African Women's Coalition
- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
- Associated Students of Portland Community College
- Basic Rights Oregon
- Bureau of Planning
- Bus Project
- Congolese Community of Oregon
- Executive Directors of Color Network
- Kurdish Community Center of Oregon
- Latino Network
- Northwest Somali Association
- Oregon Action
- Oregon Voices Dialogue Project ?
- Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition ACLU of Oregon
- Slavic Coalition
- Somali Women's Association
- Southeast Uplift
- Vision Into Action Coalition, VisionPDX Transition Team
- Western States Center – Vote Project

GOAL: Public Impact, Increase community and neighborhood impact on public decisions.

Representation on City advisory committees

9. How many people have participated on city advisory committees, boards, commissions?

Culturally appropriate public involvement models

10. Please describe any opportunities this quarter you have had to engage with City public involvement efforts. What have been some of the successes or challenges in engaging in this process?

- **Candidates Forum lessons learned** – CIO had initially planned a collective candidates forum with all three Leadership Academy organizations, where our participants could plan a citywide forum as their community project. However, one group invited many other organizations and CIO's participants felt uncomfortable/did not have the space to make decisions on how the forum would be planned. So, organized a Mayoral Candidates Forum only collaborating with

APANO. PILOT participants learned hands-on skills of how to plan and implement a candidates forum. Empowering experience, developing relationships with other groups through the DCL Leadership Academy. Forum organizing led to relationships to engage on anti-immigration ballot initiatives.