

# Diversity and Civic Leadership Program

## Year-end performance summary

FY 2008-09

July 2008 through June 2009

Organization: Latino Network

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

1. Provide short narratives describing examples of how two to three individual participants in the training program are contributing to building the organizational capacity of their organizations and/or expanding their personal leadership skills.
  - Cyan Solis-Sichel, PSU student and M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) leader. Goal with Academy to evaluate her leadership skills, weaknesses and capacities, and to develop her role as a leader in the community. Worked with VOZ: Worker's Rights Education Project and CAUSA to organize May Day March. Also organized a march in honor of Cesar Chavez. In celebration of MLK day she organized with VOZ day laborers and PSU students to work together to clean up sidewalks and graffiti in the NE Portland neighborhood. Worked with Jobs with Justice on unjust Arizona anti-immigration legislation allowing local and state police to enforce federal immigration law.
  - Evelyn Salazar – Youth team with Catholic Charities, El Programa Hispano. Developing fun and engaging summer activities for middle school students. Workshops inspired Evelyn Salazar to start a session on the DREAM Act with students at Lane Middle School.
2. 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 Council candidates forums:** Culturally specific for the African American, Native American, Latino and immigrant/refugee communities, which historically have had minimal participation in local candidate forum efforts.
  - **City budget forum:** Jointly hosted a city budget forum with other DCL groups turning out over 375 residents from their communities.
  - **Thomas Cully Park Master Plan:** Collected surveys and invited Spanish speaking residents into this Parks bureau project. Previous to their involvement in the process only 4 participants out of the 25 that participated had any knowledge of the plan.
  - **Vecino's de Alerta (VEA), Puentes de Union/Bridges of Unity:** "Neighborhoods on Alert" – Facilitated 2-3 small meetings per month building

trust with residents at Aero Vista apartments and then one large community meeting for all tenants. Completed 20 environmental health assessments via home visits and interviews documenting 100% showed environmental health hazards – mold, cockroaches, rats, lack of ventilation, missing or broken smoke alarms, children with asthma, etc. Tenants identified top priorities as pest control and improved laundry facilities as well as community projects to work on – building a playground, cleaning the grounds, creating green space. Opened up dialogue with complex manager to address livability concerns who in the end did not work with them. Organized spring neighborhood cleanup called “barre tu lugarcito” or “sweep your little place” when each resident swept the area in front of their apartment.

- **Presented to Mayor Potter** - the issues in their community and worked to build stronger more effective relationships with the Mayor’s office and ONI’s Office of Crime Prevention.
- **Cully Green Street:** Project with PBOT and BES. Designed and distributed community questionnaire with 70 responses with a primary focus on community education needs, how they receive information, participation on the cully Green Street project and information about job skills and experience. Survey responses guided them to identify 3 focus areas: Food vending, landscaping and traffic control. Organized community meeting to discuss typical jobs involved in construction of green street projects and requirements for becoming eligible for those jobs. Organized one training for 10 people to take Multnomah County Food Handlers exam. Organized second training helped people learn how to get landscaping work. Verde hired four community members to work on bioswale projects. Researched examples of other publicly funded projects that create employment opportunities for community members. Made presentation to Cully Association of Neighbors about project and working with CAN to organize advocacy with PBOT about jobs on the project.
- **Puentes de Paz con Policia/Building Bridges of Peace with Police:** Met with participants to gain lessons learned from pervious year. Started conversations with NE Precinct Commander and Human Relations Director to discuss the next phase. Next phase will include peer facilitators so police are more actively engaged.
- **Puentes de Paz/Building Bridges of Peace Immigration Dialogues:** Three dialogues held at St. Michael’s and All Angels Church sharing personal histories and experiences with immigration. 24 participants made personal commitments to work for human rights.
- Approximate leveraged volunteer value: \$78,116.

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

- Held 60 gatherings, meetings and community events engaging 350 people.

- Over 150 people had an interaction with a City of Portland bureau or elected official. Previous to this 15 people had ever had an interaction with a City employee.

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

### **Communications**

4. Describe the methods of communication currently used to outreach to your group.
  - face to face
  - surveys
  - After school program dialogues
  - Project is bi-lingual
5. How many people are receiving these communications on a regular basis?
  - 250 received regular communications from this project.
6. 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?
7. Are there plans to develop/implement any new communications strategies?

### **Leadership development**

8. 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? (Leadership Academy question): Provide a short narrative on how one or two trainings provided contributes to building the organizational capacity of participants' organizations and/or are building leadership skills of the participants?)

Workshops on:

- Oppression
- Power imbalance
- Introduction to leadership

Good quotes in Latino Network's January to April 2009 report.

### **Partnerships and Collaborations**

9. 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?

- OMF – city budget forums
- PBOT – Cully Green Streets
- BES – Cully Green Streets
- Police – Bridges of Unity
- Aero Vista apartment manager
- Community Alliance of Tenants
- St. Michael's and All Angels Church

Student projects:

- VOZ
- MECHA
- Jobs with Justice
- CAUSA

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

### **Representation on City advisory committees**

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

NA

### **Culturally appropriate public involvement models**

11. 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?

NA